

## ACHAN'S SIN

Defeat at Ai was due to the violation of the cherem war ban of Josh.6:18: “But as for you, **keep** yourselves from the things under the ban, **lest** you covet them and take some of the things under the ban, so you would make **the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it.**”

As a rookie leader, Joshua is faced with the enormous task of treating everyone as innocent while proving someone guilty.

The Lord was faithful to His promise to this leadership: “No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.” (Josh.1:5).

“God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our lord.” (1 Cor.1:9)

The Lord came to the aid of Joshua and instructed him on how to treat everyone as innocent while proving someone guilty: “In the morning you shall come near by your tribes. And it shall be that **the tribe** which the Lord takes **by lot** shall come near by families, and **the family** which the Lord takes shall come near by households, and **the household** which the Lord takes shall come near by man. And it shall be that **the one who is taken with the things under the ban** shall be burned with fire, he and all that belongs to him, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he has committed a disgraceful thing in Israel.” (Josh.7:14-15) [Theocracy]

We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

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|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| • Josh.7:16-18 | Investigation | Accountability |
| • Josh.7:19-23 | Individual    | Achan          |
| • Josh.7:24-26 | Incrimination | Achor          |

**This lesson will study FIVE aspects of Achan's Sin that brought divine discipline on Israel.**

### **1. In this story, we learn the principle that divine forewarning is divine forearming to avoid divine trouble.**

The Lord had specifically forewarned the Israelites that violation of the cherem war ban would make Israel accursed and bring trouble upon it (Josh.6:18).

Let me give you a specific warning for Christians: “**Flee immorality.** Every other sin that a man commits is outside his own body, but the immoral man **sins against his own body.**” (1 Cor.6:18)

“The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; he who would **destroy himself** does it. **Wounds and disgrace** he will find, and his **reproach** will not be blotted out.” (Prov.6:32-33)

“Lest you give **your vigor** to others, and **your years** to the cruel one; lest strangers be filled with **your strength**, and **your hard-earned goods** go to the house of an alien; and **your groan at your latter end**, when **your flesh and your body are consumed.**” (Prov.5:9-11)

### **2. They were warned against the danger of covetousness: “lest you covet them and take some of the things under the ban.” (Josh.6:18).**

**Achan's confession of sin:** "When **I saw among the spoils** a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, **then I coveted them and took them;** and behold, they are **concealed in the earth inside my tent** with the silver underneath it." (Josh.7:21)

**Same old patter of sin:** "When the **woman saw** that the tree was good for food (Gen.2:16) [obedience], **and that** it was a delight to the eyes, **and that** the tree was desirable to make one wise (Gen.3:5) [lie] [cosmos diabolicus], she took from its fruit and **ate; and she gave also** to her husband with her, and he **ate.**" (Gen.3:6)

"But from the tree of knowledge of good and evil **you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat** from it you **shall surely die** (Gen.3:4) [lie] [cosmos diabolicus]." (Gen.2:17)

**3. Achan's sin was recorded to give us a Scriptural warning about the consequences regarding craving or lusting after forbidden things.**

Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) was in a frantic search for something from the details of life that only god can give. He did it at the cost of disobedience to the word of God.

**Same old patter of sin:** "Now these things (OT believers) happened as examples for us (NT believers), that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved." (1 Cor.10:6) [All dispensations]

"Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." (1 Cor.10:11-12)

"But **put** (enduo / a.m.impv 2pl) on the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor.2:14-16), and **make** (poieo / p.m.impv.2pl) no provision (pronoia) [forethought] for the flesh in regard to its lust." (Rom.13:14; Gal.5:16)

"I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about **coveting** if the Law had not said, '**You shall not covet.**' But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me **coveting of every kind**; for apart from the Law sin is dead." (Rom.7:7-8; 3:20)

**4. Achan's sin followed the same old pattern (series of when):**

**James 1:14-15** "But each one (hekastos) [no matter who] **is tempted** (peirazo / p.p.ind) **when** he is carried away (exelko / p.p.ptc) and enticed (deleazo / p.p.ptc) by (hupo+abl. of means) his own lust (epithumia) [OSN]. **Then when** lust has conceived (sullambano / a.a.ptc) [volition], it gives birth (tikto / p.a.ind) to sin; **and when** sin is accomplished (apoteleo / a.p.ptc), it brings forth (apokueo / p.a.ind) death (thanatos) [temporal death / out of fellowship]." Temptation is not sin. Being carried away and enticed is not sin. Lust conceived gives birth to **sin**.

**5. Achan's sin was like the example in the parable of Sower where the thorns choked out the fruitfulness of the word of God.**

"And others are the ones on whom the **seed was sown among the thorns**; these are the ones who have heard the word, and the **worries of the world**, and the **deceitfulness of riches**, and the **desires for other things** enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. (Mark 4:18-19)

Note the three types of thorns that hinder divine production of the word of God in CWL. Circle the one that choked out divine production in Achan and in you?

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