



Grow: INTO OUR
DESTINY IN **CHRIST**

A study of Joshua

OBSTACLES IN FULFILLING OUR DESTINY IN CHRIST

Joshua 7:1-26

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Joshua 6: 27

“So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.”



Joshua 7:1

“But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the Lord’s anger burned against Israel.”

Spoiler Alert

“So the Lord’s anger burned against Israel.” v.1

how God’s anger has been provoked through Achan’s sin (vv.2 -12)

how Joshua will lead Israel to resolve the problem before God (vv. 13-25)

“...Then the Lord turned from his fierce anger...” v. 26

Joshua 6:17-19

17 The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. 18 **But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. 19 All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury."**

Guard Against Complacency (v.2-v.5)

“2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, “Go up and spy out the region.” So the men went up and spied out Ai. 3 When they returned to Joshua, they said, “Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there.” 4 So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, 5 who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes.

At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water.”

Three Causes

- 1) The Israelites thought they were self-sufficient because Ai was small compared with Jericho
- 2) They failed to wait on God
- 3) Among them there is sin (unknown to them at this moment)

Confess rather than blame others (v.6-v.9)

6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the Lord, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. 7 And Joshua said, “Alas, Sovereign Lord, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! 8 Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? 9 The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth.

What then will you do for your own great name?”

Confess rather than blame others

- 1) We tend to find blame with others (including God).
- 2) We voice our disappointments. Where are you, God?
- 3) Perhaps, having a time away for reflection and confession, God may reveal something to us.

Sin breaks our relationship with God (v.10–v.15) →

10 The Lord said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? 11 Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.

12 That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.

13 “Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.

Sin breaks our relationship with God (v.10-v.15) →

“14 In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe the Lord chooses shall come forward clan by clan; the clan the Lord chooses shall come forward family by family; and the family the Lord chooses shall come forward man by man. 15 Whoever is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the Lord and has done an outrageous thing in Israel!”

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Blessings for Obedience and Curses for Disobedience

(Deut. 28)

28:1 "If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth."

28:15 "However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you"

28:25 "The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies"

Sin breaks our relationship with God (v.10-v.15) →

13 "Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: **There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.**"

Reflection

One person's sin can prevent the community from fulfilling its destiny in Christ.

What we want for ourselves belongs to someone or God.

- 1) Covet earthly treasures – money, significance, titles and neglecting our faith and forsaking our treasures in heaven.
- 2) Covet another relationship – when those married covet another relationship outside marriage.
- 3) Covet comfort and ease – forsake the growth God intends for us through refusing a life of discipline.

Penalty for sin is death but God provides a way out for us

(v.16-v.26)

16 Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was chosen. 17 The clans of Judah came forward, and the Zerahites were chosen. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was chosen. 18 Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen.

19 Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me."

20 Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done:

Penalty for sin is death but God provides a way out for us

(v.16-v.26)

21 When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.” 22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath.

23 They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the Lord. 24 Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold bar, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor.

Penalty for sin is death but God provides a way out for us

(v.16-v.26)

25 Joshua said, "Why have you brought this trouble on us? The Lord will bring trouble on you today." Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them. 26 Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor ever since.

Penalty for sin is death but God provides a way out for us (v.16-v.26)

- Achan's confession contains 3 verbs "I saw"... "I coveted"... "I took" v. 21
- Sin dulls our spiritual edge
- Sin has consequences



Penalty for sin is death but God provides a way out for us (v.16-v.26)

- God look at us (his people) not just individually but also as a community.
- 1 Cor. 12:12 "12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."
- God is serious with sin.
- Achan paid the price for his sin but Jesus paid the price for our sins.

