

YOUTH WORSHIP

17 October 2026

Text : Joshua 7

Title : “Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God”

Introduction

1. Joshua and the people of Israel had just experienced a great victory in defeating the city of Jericho
2. All it took was the sin of one person who did not comply to cause a whole army to fall and fail
3. What are some vital lessons we want to learn from the sin of Achan?

Sin affects both the individual and the community

“But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel.”

Joshua 7:1

1. Sin is more than an individual problem
 - a) Achan committed sin when he took the accursed things
 - b) It was a grave sin against God and His word
 - c) Joshua had given a charge not to take the accursed things

¹⁸ And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. ¹⁹ But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, *are* consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

Joshua 6:18-19

2. Sin also affected the community of Israel
 - a) Israel had not learned its lesson
 - b) There were previous situations where the sins of some affected Israel as a community
 - c) Israel needed to think as a community, not just as individuals
 - d) The whole community was cursed as a result

Severe consequence of sin

² Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which *is* beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, “Go up and spy out the country.” So the men went up and spied out Ai. ³ And they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for *the people of Ai are few*. ⁴ So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai. ⁵ And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them *from* before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

Joshua 7:2-5

1. Israel suffered a terrible defeat
2. Spies reported that the people of Ai were few Joshua 7:3a
3. Joshua only sent 3000 men Joshua 7:3b
4. The men of Israel were defeated and fled from the men of Ai in disgrace Joshua 7:4
5. The defeat caused the death of 36 men Joshua 7:5

To deal with sin seriously and swiftly

1. This was not in the mind of Joshua initially Joshua 7:6-9
 - a) Joshua’s faith was shaken by the defeat
 - b) He became sorrowful and full of regret
2. God had to get Joshua to refocus on addressing the sin problem promptly
 - a) Not a time for sorrow and doubts

“So the LORD said to Joshua: “Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?””

Joshua 7:10

- b) Israel had broken the covenant

“Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put *it* among their own stuff.”

Joshua 7:11

c) In a state of doom

“Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, *but* turned *their* backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.”

Joshua 7:12

d) The urgent removal of the accursed thing

“Get up, sanctify the people, and say, ‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: “*There is* an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you.”’

Joshua 7:13

e) The LORD’s selection of the culprits

Joshua 7:14-18

i) He revealed the manner in which the culprits would be selected

ii) He selected those who were guilty

The secret sin of Achan confessed

¹⁹ Now Joshua said to Achan, “My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide *it* from me.”

²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua and said, “Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done: ²¹ When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.”

Joshua 7:19-21

1. Joshua called for Achan to confess his sin

Joshua 7:19

a) To give glory to God

b) To make full confession to Him

c) To not hide anymore

2. Achan confessed his secret sin

Joshua 7:20-21

a) He acknowledged his sin against the LORD God of Israel

b) He had coveted and taken the spoils of war...gold, silver and Babylonian garments

c) He hid them in his tent

The satisfaction of the anger of God

²² So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver under it. ²³ And they took them from the midst of the tent, brought them to Joshua and to all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD. ²⁴ Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor. ²⁵ And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. ²⁶ Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day.

Joshua 7:22-26

1. Joshua sent messengers to search for the hidden spoils and retrieve them Joshua 7:22-23
2. The LORD's judgment was pronounced on Achan, his family, his livestock and all his possessions Joshua 7:24-25
3. The fierceness of the anger of the LORD was satisfied, and He turned from it Joshua 7:26

Conclusion

1. To think as a community rather than just as individuals
 - a) Modern thinking...Many just think of self
 - b) If we sin as individuals, it will affect the community and its plans
 - i) Family
 - ii) Church
 - c) Learn to have a greater sense of solidarity and oneness
2. To take sin more seriously as young people
 - a) Not to take sin lightly but to take it seriously
 - b) Not to gloss over our sin
 - c) To address sin candidly, promptly and thoroughly
3. To have true repentance of our secret sins
 - a) To remove the secret sins and be sanctified
 - b) To rely on the Lord for His grace and mercy
 - c) To bear fruits of repentance