

GOD'S PROMISES FULFILLED

A Study in the Books of Joshua and Ruth

The Effects of One Man's Sin

Joshua 7

Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and give him the praise. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me." Joshua 7:19

Read Joshua 7:1–5.

1. Why does the Lord get angry with Israel? (v. 1; 6:18-19)
2. What is different in what the spies have to say in verse 3 compared to previous spies such as those in Joshua 2:24 and Numbers 14:6–9? Why is this significant?
3. Take a tough look at this situation and list Israel's failings.

Are there some ways in which you have acted like Israel and find yourself failing in similar ways?

Read Joshua 7:6–9.

4. What do Joshua and the elders do upon Israel's defeat? (v. 6)

What do you think they are expressing by their actions?

5. Is Joshua blaming God for Israel's defeat? Explain your answer.
6. How does his reaction echo the Israelites' complaint to Moses? (Ex. 14:11-12)

Read Joshua 7:10–15.

7. What reason does God give for Israel's defeat? (v. 11)
8. What is the result of Israel's sin? (v. 12)
9. If only one man has disobeyed (v. 1), why is God angry with all Israel? (6:17–19)

10. What does God tell Joshua to do to set matters right?

Read Joshua 7:16–26.

11. What impresses you about the way Joshua speaks to Achan in verse 19?

What impresses you about Achan's response? (vv. 20-21)

12. Look at the way Achan describes what he has done.

- a. Write down the three verbs he uses in verse 21a.
- b. List three similar aspects of what happened with Eve in Genesis 3:6a.
- c. What does this teach you about your sin? (Jas. 1:13-15)

13. Achan is not the only one to suffer the consequences of his disobedience. What other individuals or groups are affected by his sin? Include not only those mentioned in today's passage, but those mentioned earlier in the chapter as well.

Review Joshua 7:1–26.

14. This chapter is a sober reminder of the seriousness of sin and how our sin, including hidden or secret sin, affects others. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your heart as you take time to:

- a. Read and pray through Psalm 51;
- b. Confess your sin, particularly that which may not be obvious; and
- c. Consider confessing your sin to someone you trust (Jas. 5:16).
- d. Thank the Lord for the forgiveness he extends to you through Jesus who took your penalty on himself.