

JOSHUA STUDY

CHAPTER 7:1-26

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-328 APRIL 11, 1999

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Five Steps that Lead to Defeat” – Part 1

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

Joshua 1:6

“Be strong and of good courage”

INTRODUCTION: The Reviewing of Our Previous Message

The Lord had Brought Israel Out of a “Law Relationship” between Them and Moses Into a New Relationship of “Faith Alone”

And it was through Faith that they were Rooted in God’s Promise

It was through faith that crossed over the Jordan River

It was through Faith that they Offered themselves at Gilgal

And it was through Faith that they “Watched” God perform a Battle at Jericho

Galatians 3:1-3

22 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.

22 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?

22 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

Well, Chapter 7 opens with an Ominous Word, a Declaration really, “But” – the children of Israel committed a trespass...

A Sin is Bad Enough, One Single Sin stood up in the Garden and Demanded Attention !!!

One Single Sin Caused the whole of Humanity to Be Sold into a Universal Condition that Has Stolen our Awareness of God, Murdered our Innocence, and Destroyed our Understanding of Life...

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as through one man's disobedience, sin entered the world, and death came through sin, death has spread to all men, because all are in sin—

John 10:10

"The thief (satan) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

So Powerful is this Promise & Truth of God's, Paul says;

Romans 6:12-14

12 don't let sin be in control of your physical body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Stop offering your body to sin, like an instrument to be played by wickedness, but rather do this, offer yourselves to God, like a man who has been resurrected from death to life; and offer your body to God as an instrument of righteousness. 14 Because sin is no longer your master.

The Five Steps that lead to Defeat

If you're not advancing as a Christian, in the things of Christianity, then you're in fact in a "static state" as a believer! – sliding backward,

2 Timothy 3:14

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of...

1 Timothy 4:16

Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

(Can You Give Arguments and Reasons for Why You Believe What You Believe?)

Colossians 1:23

if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached...

The Moment The Christian Stops at "Continuing" in the Faith

They enter a dangerous area that renders them vulnerable
to defeat

The First Step that leads to Defeat

1.) Self Confidence – Failing to walk by faith	vv. 1-5
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1 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. 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.

When You're Self Confident, You're not living Humbly before God
Self Confidence – Leads to a Lack of **Spiritual Discipline**

Verse 1

1 **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.

“But”

Indicating a great change in what has been the normal Practice of Events

Trespass heb 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.

When You're Self Confident, You're Not Prayerful about the Decisions you Make
Self Confidence –Leads us towards **Human Resources**

Verse 2-3

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."

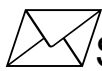
Setting the Topography

Beth-el
(The House of God)

Beth-aven
(The House of Evil)

They're Next Door to each other, and that will always be the case, I hope!

When You're Self Confident, You're Living in a False World of Security



Self Confidence – Will Always Deceive You, then Empty You

Verse 4-5

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.



Hearts

heb 3824 lebab (lay-bawb');
their courage, their mind, their awareness, their understanding.



melted

heb 4549 macac (maw-sas');
to liquefy, loosen, weary by disease. To infect with discouragement



became like water

heb 4325 mayim (mah'-yim);
water; figuratively, juice; by euphemism, urine, semen: piss, waste-water.

Self Confidence Deceives Us – Just ask Peter

Matthew 16:13-23

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, (a very evil place, the temple of Pan was there) He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” 14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ. 21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” 23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

The Second Step that leads to Defeat

2.) Ignorance – Failing to trust in the Word of the Lord vv. 6-9

6 Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until evening, both he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. 7 And Joshua said, “Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! 8 “O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? 9 “For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?”

Ignorance – Forgetting What We Have Come to Know

Verse 6-7

6 Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until evening, both he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. 7 And Joshua said, “Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!

Remember the Promise

Joshua 1:6-8

6 “Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 “Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

“Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!

The Fear was that God had Somehow Changed

Malachi 3:6

“For I am the LORD, I do not change;

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Ignorance – Joshua Remembered the Real Reason, it’s “Who”

Verse 8-9

“O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? 9 “For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?”

A Christian Life of Unbroken Victory over Sin is God’s Will For his people.

He has given us every power necessary NOT to go out and sin

UNBROKEN VICTORY - Is a Continuous Walk With God

Joshua’s Heart of Fellowship

He stood out in front, he went forth in battle, he prayed, he fought, he sought God’s heart as to what to do, he was a man of God

The Third Step that leads to Defeat

3.) Disobedience – Failing to do the right thing

vv. 10-15

So the LORD said to Joshua: “**Get up!** Why do you lie thus on your face? “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. “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. “**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.” ‘In the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the LORD takes shall come according to families; and the family which the LORD takes shall come by households; and the household which the LORD takes shall come man by man. 15 Then it shall be that he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.’ “

Disobedience – Is Not Always Obvious to Men’s Eyes

Verse 10-12a

So the LORD said to Joshua: “**Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?** 11 “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. “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....

Numbers 32:23

“But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.

Disobedience – Separates God from Christian Fellowship

Verse 12b-13

12b. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.

Joshua 6:27

So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

SALVATION WASN'T LOST, BUT FELLOWSHIP HAD BEEN BROKEN

1 John 1:5-7

5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

13 “**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.”

You Pray all you Want
You Attend Church All you Want
You Hit the Mission Field with All Your Desire

...And God be Not in it at All

“But I’m Being Used by God”

Romans 11:29

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Revelation 3:19-20

19 “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.
20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Isaiah 59:1-2

1 Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

Defeat Doesn’t Have to Happen to Us,
But when it does we need to hurry to find out why

Disobedience – Always has its Consequences

Verse 14-15

'In the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the LORD takes shall come according to families; and the family which the LORD takes shall come by households; and the household which the LORD takes shall come man by man. 15 Then it shall be that he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.' "

a disgraceful thing

Galatians 6:7-8

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

The Fourth Step that leads to Defeat

4.) Selfishness – Failing to consider others

vv. 16-21

So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken. He brought the clan of Judah, and he took the family of the Zarhites; and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man, and Zabdi was taken. Then he brought his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. 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." And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done: "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."

If there is any thing that you have to hide,
just know it isn't from the Lord

Selfishness –

Verse 16-19

So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken. He brought the clan of Judah, and he took the family of the Zarhites; and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man, and Zabdi was taken. Then he brought his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. 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.”

Selfishness – Indulgence Upon the Flesh

Verse 20-21

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.”

Does this sound familiar at all ?

Genesis 3:4-6

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 “For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.

What was achan thinkin’

“I deserve a break today”

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Selfishness – Leads to Guilt and Secrecy

What was achan thinkin’

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....

The spoils ?

(the cool stuff)

Joshua 6:17&19

And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein...19 But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

The Accursed Stuff wasn’t Cool,
it was Pagan Religious Cancer – It was Toxic to Israels Heart

... And there they are, (**Where ?**)

Well You Cant Really See it From Here. But it’s all over There
hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.”

O’ Boy – Can I Have Some to Hide Too

The Fifth Step that leads to Defeat

5.) Complacency – Failing to View things like God does vv. 22-26

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.

a.) Complacency – Must be Confronted with a Decisiveness v.22-23

There is No Broken Heartedness Noted of Regarding Achan - There is No Sign of Repentance

Only Remorse...

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.

Matthew 7:21

If You're Complacent You'll be Careless about Holiness

b.) Complacency – Must be Eliminated with a Passion v.24

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.

Remember, Achan and his house had committed Murder
36 Israeli Soldiers were Killed by their Actions

If You're Complacent You'll be Ineffective in Your "Christianity"

c.) Complacency – Must be Repented of Before Victory Returns v.26

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.



Achan heb 5917 `Akar (aw-kawr');
a troublesome man. A man that causes problems.

Achan is a Type of Our Flesh - The old man

It wasn't the flesh that followed God through the wilderness
It wasn't the flesh that crossed over the Jordan river
It wasn't the flesh

Does God Still Judge Like this Today Among His Children?

The answer is "Yes" He does...

Ananias and Saphira is a new testament type today

1 Corinthians 11:28-30

- 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.
30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

(NKJ)

"sexual sinning" can lead to premature death...

1 Corinthians 5:1-6

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles-- that a man has his father's wife! 2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. 3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?
(just ask Joshua and the children of Israel)

Steps that lead to Defeat

1.) Self Confidence - Failing to walk by faith vv. 1-5

2.) Ignorance - Failing to trust in the Word of the Lord vv. 6-9

3.) Disobedience - Failing to do the right thing vv. 10-15

4.) Selfishness - Failing to consider others vv. 16-21

As I Considered My Life in Light of These 5 Steps to Defeat
I Came Face to Face with My Own “Accursed Things”

Then I was Impressed With the Fact That God Judged the Nation of Israel as a Whole, and that He
must Judge My Nation is Guilty of Worse,

And I must tell you that I believe that God at this Hour has Begun to Judge America

There Will Be a Final Chapter Written About America.

And will it also begin, “But the Children of America Committed a trespass regarding the things
dedicated to God...

Joshua 7:21

For I saw a beautiful robe, and some silver worth \$200, and a bar of gold worth \$500. I wanted them
so much that I took them, and they are hidden in the ground beneath my house,"