

## Facts And Truth We need To Face *(Part 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. 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. 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.” So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, 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. 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. 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! Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? 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?” The LORD said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? 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. 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. “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. “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. Whoever is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the LORD and has done an outrageous thing in Israel!” Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was chosen. 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. 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. 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.” Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: 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.” So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath. They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the LORD. 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. 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. 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.” (Joshua 7:1-26)*

Great is the love of God for each and every one of us. God is compassionate, merciful and forgiven. He accepts us when we repent and come back to Him through faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life. But our God is a God of Justice and He is bound with His Word. In the book of Joshua God gave the Israelites a great victory by giving them the city of Jericho without any shedding of blood. They marched around the city and shouted and the walls collapsed and they devoted the city to the Lord as he commanding them, **“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.”** <sup>19</sup> **All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury.”** (Joshua 6:18-19) Therefore this is what they did when they took the city: **“They burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD’s house.”** (Joshua 6:24) But one of them, Achan, did not obey the instruction carefully and sinned against the Lord by taking one of the devoted things and kept it in his tent. God seems silent at the beginning, but later on failure and defeat came upon the people when they try to get the second city. Therefore we learn lessons from Joshua 7 as we read below.

**1- We have more battle to fight so we need to be faithful toward God today so He will be with us tomorrow:** We need to think when God would give us victory and when He answers our prayer and delivers us and defeats our enemies we ought to be faithful and obedient toward Him. If you behave unfaithfully toward God today, then in the future He will leave you alone and He will not fight your battles; you will face failures and defeat in the future due to your unfaithfulness with God today.

**2- Even small problem we cannot solve if God is not with us:** The Israelites got defeated in the next battle; even the city was small and less power needed to conquer it. That had happened because God was not with them.

**3- When There is no answer prayer then there is hidden sin:** Joshua chapter 7 it teaches us an important lesson that when there is no answer prayer, no progress and stagnation then there is hidden sin among the people.

**4- For each battle there is a strategy and a plan God would give you if you are obedient to Him:** God left the Israelites as they went to get the next city Ai. God allowed them to be defeated by their enemies because they disobeyed the Lord. For each and every problem there is a solution and a certain approach, and God would teach us how to handle it. But if you are not faithful to God He will leave you in a confusion that even you will not know how to start. That is why we find many Christians in defeat because of their disobedient and their unfaithfulness toward God.

**5- For each battle there is a period of preparation:** God honours and blesses good preparation for each and every project we need to do. An important step for good preparation is a period of prayer. Most likely God would reveal to us His will while we pray. As well as when we pray God will give us the plan and the steps of how to do the project. Also as we pray God will show us the hidden sin that still in our mid and the sins that we need to repent before we go to the next battle.

**My Dear and Beloved:** Sin can bring troubles and disasters more than what you expect or imagine, therefore avoid it at all cost. Sin will always affect more than the person who did it. The sin that you do will not only affects you, but it will affect your immediate family as you read in Joshua 7, as well as the people who surround you and extend to the whole community of believers that is the church including the elders and the leader of the church. Therefore be aware, understand all these things and be earnest and repent as you pray.

**My Prayer:** Father God I thank you for your Son the Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from my sin \_\_\_\_\_. Lord I commit myself to be fully devoted to you and to the matter that you entrusted to me. Lord I really want to be faithful to you from this day on, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.