

## Facts And Truth We need To Face (Part 2)

*“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.<sup>24</sup> 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.<sup>26</sup> 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)*

God is interested more with the quality of your life and how you practice your conduct with Him and with the people around you. God wants holiness in life as His word dictates, *“Without holiness no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12: 14b)* The bible is written so we can learn more about God and how He wants us to live our lives for Him. *“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)* The story of Achan and what he did and how God dealt with that sin is something shocking but that is the way that God wanted. *“Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.” (1 Corinthians 10:6)* We learn from this story further lessons.

**6- “For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open.” (Luke 8:17):** Achan when he disobeyed God by taking one of the devoted things to His house he thought he can hide it from God. He tried to hide what he did from the people but finally God expose all what he did in a public way. This thing should be clear to you as well; if you are doing something wrong and you are trying to hide what wrong you are doing, then be sure of this fact: How much you are smart finally God will expose your sin. Sooner or later this shall be happening. Therefore be earnest and repent today before it is exposed, *“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)* Therefore before your sin is exposed repent, correct the wrong that you had done and give your life fully to God.

**7- Sin is the main reason to destroy many families:** Achan is the head of one family and there were good number of people under his care. When he sinned his sin affected and destroyed all his family members. We find now a day’s many Christian families are affected and in ruin because the head of the family or the parents who are responsible on the family are in sin. Therefore God is warning you today that your sin will affect the rest of your family members and those around you if you will not repent.

**8- God’s patience is leading you to repentance:** *“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)* God gave Achan a good period of time to repent, from the fall of the Jericho city to the next city Ai, but he did not take warning; even when the army failed in the battle because of his sin he did not take warning and repented. In the same way for you, the Lord had given you a good period of time to repent and turn away from your sins, therefore take this warning by heart and take the opportunity today to repent and renounce your sins before God will rise up and act, for *“It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Hebrews 10: 31)*

**9- The link of Achan sin with the lack of tithing:** For good reason it had been linked and it is parallel to what Achan did with failure of tithing. God commanded that all the metal in the form of gold, silver and the others should go to the treasury, *“All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury.” (Joshua 6:19)* And what are the things that should go to the treasury (the store house of God)? The tithes and offering as we can read here, *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” (Malachi 3:10)* Failure to bring our full tithes and our offerings to the church is stealing because these are the devoted things and should be brought to God.

**My Dear and Beloved:** Sin destroys but repentance and turn toward God brings life and life to the full. Sin will only brings you troubles and makes your heart harder. Therefore repent and commit yourselves to God as you agree to 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 sins \_\_\_\_\_ . Lord I commit myself to be fully devoted to you in bringing to you the sacred portion of my tithes, my time, the talents and all what you gave to me in Jesus name I pray, Amen.*