



Lesson 47: Israel's sin

Scriptural Basis:



Joshua 6:18, Joshua 7

Overview:

Though the battle of Jericho has been won, **the war on sin is still raging**. The Israelites receive clear instructions to destroy everything “devoted for destruction,” yet one man, named Achan sees some things that he wants to keep for himself, so he steals them and hides them in his tent. The next war, that should have been won easily by the Israelites, turns out to be a failure, so Joshua pleads with God to tell him why God would bring them across the Jordan only to have them fail. God replies swiftly that it is Israel's sin that is the reason for the failure at Ai, then punishes Achan *and his family* for his sin.

Things to consider:

This is a hard story with many facets, that raise a lot of questions:

- ⤴ Why was God's anger kindled against *this* sin?
- ⤴ Why did all of Israel suffer for one man's sin?
- ⤴ How could a loving God deal so harshly with His children?

The short answer* to all of these questions is that God is King, and His purpose for defeating Jericho was to remove His enemies who worshiped false gods, and that He would be worshiped as the one true God. All the things devoted for destruction were specifically related to worship of idols.

*long answer is too large to be understood in this lifetime, but is worthy of continued meditation for the purpose of growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

The gospel in the story:



Remember that Israel's founding father (Abram), was rescued out of a society that worshiped false gods, so the Israelites really are no different than the city of Jericho, with the profoundly important distinction that they found favor (grace) in the eyes of God. God's wrath is not a bad thing, sin is. We owe our salvation and our hope to the work of God's wrath that was poured out on Jesus!

Bible Study for Preparation:



Here are some great verses that provide some back story on the concept of 'devoted things': Exodus 20:3; Exodus 22:20; Lev 27:28; Lev 27:29; Num 18:14; Deut 7:1-4; Deut 7:26; Deu 13:17; Josh 6:18.

Teaching the lesson:

- A: Review Last week: the fall of Jericho
- B: Bible verse memory activity
- C. Story
- D. Additional activity