

# Disobedience

11-6-22

Joshua 7:1 (NIV)

But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel.

**The lesson this morning is after powerful victories, living in the OT land and NT kingdom, we must continually keep our eyes on our source of life, Jesus Christ. After Joshua experienced the great victory at Jericho, everything seems to fall apart. Israel is defeated by a much weaker foe in the city of Ai. Joshua is stunned. He goes to the tabernacle and falls face down before the LORD. However, not only is the LORD fully aware of the issue, HE insinuates that Joshua should have been aware of the problem.**

Joshua 7:10-12 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup>The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? <sup>11</sup>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.

**The LORD is saying stand up and take care of the problem. These people have a covenant relationship with God. Instead of honoring God, they have they have stolen and lied. They have taken some of the devoted things. To understand the depth of their sin, we need to pay attention to the word Devoted Things! This word is used here and throughout the entire OT. It literally means Devoted to Destruction.**

**God commanded the people to destroy everything connected to this pagan civilization. These things were Devoted to Destruction.**

Joshua 6:18 (NIV)

But keep away from the things devoted things (Devoted to Destruction), so that you will not bring about your own destruction.

**Literally stay away from those things Devoted to Destruction because you will “bring about your own destruction”! **This worth repeating, “By taking the things Devoted to Destruction, we would bring the related destruction on ourselves.”** The things that God “Devotes to Destruction” are unredeemable, infinitely evil, and contagious!**

Deut.20:17-18 (NIV)

Completely destroy them—the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—as the LORD your God has commanded you. Otherwise, they will teach you to follow all the detestable things they do in worshiping their gods.

**This explains why the Israelite lost the battle. Now they must remove the things Devoted to Destruction.**

Joshua 7:12 (NIV)

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.

**Israel must repent and cleanse the camp.**

Joshua 7:18-21 **NO O/H**

Achan was chosen. Joshua said to Achan, "Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me." Achan replied, "It is true! This is what I have done:" When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, silver and a bar of gold, I coveted them and took them. I hid them.

**Path to disobedience: O/H**

**I saw, I coveted, I took, I hid**

**From the very beginning the path to disobedience remains the same for all of mankind.**

Gen.3:6 **NO O/H**

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.

**Path to disobedience: O/H**

**The woman saw, She coveted, She took, She and Adam hid**

**The NT confirms the path to disobedience.**

James 1:14-15 **NO/OH**

<sup>14</sup>Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

**Nothing has changed from the beginning of creation.**

**Path to disobedience: O/H**

**You see – Tempted**

**You covet – Desire**

**You take – Desire Conceived**

**You hide – Birth of Sin**

**There OT penalty was harsh.**

Joshua 7:25-26 **NO/OH**

Then all Israel stoned Achan ... .. Then the LORD turned from his fierce anger.

**The penalty of the sin was paid and God turned from HIS anger. Now God is able to continue with HIS work.**

Joshua 8:1 **NO/OH**

Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. For I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land.

**The OT give a clear physical picture about the consequences of disobedience to God. Praise God for NT spiritual reality of Jesus who paid for our disobedience.**

1John 1:9 (NIV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**Unlike Achan, we will not be stoned for our disobedience. As we confess our sin, God forgives us, cleanses us, and turns from HIS fierce anger. Confess means agree. Agree with God!**

**This lesson is not for us to go around and judge others or other organizations. God in HIS time will correctly move without bias. This lesson is for us individually to fix our eyes on Jesus. We must be occupied with the Holy Spirit to keep off the path to disobedience.**

**In a sense Jesus was stoned to death in our place. We are washed, cleansed, empowered, made as right as God with our eternal home in heaven. In this we rejoice and walk in the Spirit.**

2Cor.5:21 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.