

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*

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Joshua - Lesson 14

Achan

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Let's continue in Joshua Chapters 7 and 8. If you recall, we have been studying this book of Joshua considering the difference between the spiritually minded and the carnally minded, between serving God from the heart or just going through the motions. In our last lesson we saw the great victory at Jericho as the people, in perfect obedience to the word of God, marched around that city in silence. On the seventh day they shouted, and the walls came tumbling down. God gave the people great victory an ensample to us on how live our lives closer to God.

The Bible says in Joshua 6:26, *And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the Lord, that riseth up and builded this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it. 27 So the Lord was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country.* God gave them a great victory along with a warning in the victory - look at verse 18, Joshua 6. *And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing,* The city being accursed meant that everything as pertaining to the city are accursed. He says... *lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. 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.*

In the seventh chapter of Joshua, we begin to move from our individual responsibility to be spiritually minded and spirit controlled for the Lord into our corporate group responsibility to be the same. This is important because my actions do not only affect my life and walk with God; they also affect the life and walk with God of those who are associated with me. In the Old Testament times, every citizen of the nation of Israel was affected by the good deeds or misdeeds of every other citizen or every other member of the nation of Israel. In this New Testament age, every saved born again believer is affected by the good deeds or misdeeds of every other born again believer.

The Bible says Romans 12:15-16, *Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. 16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.* The joy and sorrows of others, we should partake of. Please do not ever think that Christianity is all about you and your exclusive walk with God. You are part of a body. Your deeds or lack of deeds, your good actions or bad actions affect every single one of us.

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In 1 Corinthians 12:25-27, the Bible says, *That there should be no schism in the body* (No division of any kind); *but that the members should have the same care one for another.* 1 Corinthians 12:26 *And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.* 27 *Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

If I am rejoicing in the Lord, led by and guided by the Holy Spirit of God that has a positive effect upon you. If I am carnally minded, wrapped up in the flesh and living a self-centered life, pursuing the things of the world that has a negative effect upon you. Our example is our physical body, if one member is in disarray, it will affect every other member of your physical body. If you have ever had a sore toe, you understand this principal completely. The Lord gives us that picture to help us understand our relationship one to another in Christ; it **does** matter how you live. **Not** just to you – but to every other person that is saved.

People say, “Well you know, just as long as it doesn’t hurt anybody else...” It does hurt somebody else. Everybody else is hurt by it, even if they are not aware. If you are not praying for me, though I do not know, my ministry and walk with God is affected. If I am not praying for you, your service and walk with God is affected. When I have devoted myself to the service of God, you were benefited by that sacrifice without even being aware of it – that is what the Bible teaches!

In Joshua chapter 7:1 *But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.*

One man disobeyed the Lord and took something that did not belong to him; and yet the Holy Spirit says the children of Israel did that thing. Why? Because he is not an individual separate from the nation. He is a member of a national entity that stands or falls together; his sin – God identified as the sin of the nation. Do you see that in the verse? Do you understand that if I am sinning this afternoon, as opposed to living righteously, it is not just me sinning, it is a member of the body of Christ who is sinning, therefore bringing the body of Christ into a sinful condition.

We are a long way from thinking like members of a body. If I’m spiritually minded, that helps you; if I’m carnally minded, that hurts you. Last part of verse 1 says, *and the anger of the Lord was kindled against the children of Israel.* Joshua and the other 1.5 million people have no knowledge of Achan’s theft; they do not know that God is angry with them. Verse 2. *And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, (the next city to conquer) which is beside Bethaven, on the east side of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and*

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viewed Ai. 3 And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; Someone from the scouting party came back with a bright idea, thinking with their eyes instead of what God said. They thought that Ai was going to be a push over, telling Joshua, *"We do not need to take everyone; just a few of us can wipe them out."* They had already forgotten who conquered Jericho it was not them it was God. Joshua 7:3b *but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few.* Sounds like they were leaning to their own understanding...(Proverbs 3:5) God said, that everybody had to go for them to conquer Jericho, Ai, or any other strongholds. The same is true for Christians in the battles they face in life. When you start thinking you can handle it by yourself, the end of your battle is defeat. (Proverbs 14:12) The safe way is to find out what the Bible says and follow God's instruction.

Joshua and the men are going to act based upon that report – they do not consult the Lord.

Joshua 7:4-5 *So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai. 5 And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.* Ai whipped them and wrecked their confidence. Verse 6-7. *And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the Lord until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads 7 And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to destroy us?* It does not matter how old you are in the faith, we all can go from a mountain top victory in our lives to the ditch of defeat in a matter of seconds. Our minds control our victory or defeat. The moment we take our thoughts off trusting in the Lord and put them on trusting ourselves or someone else, we're heading for the ditch of defeat.

Joshua 7:7-9 *And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! 8 O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! 9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?* (Look at the punctuation in these 3 verses, the explanation points (!) are like an email written in all caps and bold type - Joshua is shouting. Then verse 9 ends in a question mark as Joshua is questions God) Not a response Joshua or we should ever have to our troubles. It is better that we humble ourselves before the Lord and politely ask Him to reveal why this trouble has come upon

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us. The same principle should have been followed by Joshua and the children of Israel.

Verse 10-11. *And the Lord said unto Joshua, Get thee up;* (Now God responds with no sympathy or compassion to Joshua's complaint. "Get up... get up! What are you doing? You did not ask me about Ai or what to do.")

...wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? 11 Israel hath sinned (Did Israel sin or did Achan sin? They are a nation, a whole. It does matter, young man/lady, how you live! It matters to me – it affects my family.) *11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.*

We must **STOP PRETENDING** everything's okay! Let's **GET RIGHT WITH GOD!** We are hurting the body of Christ. The example is Achan – why pretend? **Get right!**

When Jesus sat in that upper room at the last supper, He said, "One of you sitting here will betray me." **Nobody** pointed at Judas. Do you know why? Because Judas was perfectly capable of convincing the others he was just as right with God as they were. What did he **gain** by pretending to be something he wasn't? Wouldn't he have been better off to just get right? We need to repent of our attempts to keep up an appearance, and instead go ahead and be who we are and let God help us get right.

Joshua 7:12 *Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies,* (Why? Because one man committed this trespass.) *but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.* 2 Corinthians 6:15-18 *What concord hath Christ with Belial? (two different Gods) or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (two different ways of living.) 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? (two different ways of worshipping.) for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.* Born again believers are all part of a holy nation, a royal priesthood, the New Testament church; but He says if you want to enjoy the benefit of the relationship, let go of the accursed thing. Saved people want to get close enough to God to have a decent life, but they do not want to let go of the world and the god that controls their life. The Lord said that instead you are hindering everybody, you are hurting everybody else.

Joshua 7:13-15 *"Up, sanctify the people, and say"* It looks like Joshua did not get up when the Lord told him to. At this point he probably was a bit shaken

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after having been reprimanded by God. *Up, sanctify the people and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the Lord God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel; thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you. 14 In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which the Lord taketh shall come according to the families thereof: and the family which the Lord shall take shall come by households; and the household which the Lord shall take shall come man by man. 15 And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel.*

This book of Joshua is about getting away from being carnally minded and becoming spiritually minded. Most saved people have no joy in the Lord, no peace in their heart, no desire to witness. Sometimes it is a burden for them to come to church; they think all is okay because they still have material things (even though their spiritual life stinks.) We have to quit pointing to our material blessings as proof that we are right with God, because that is not necessarily true.

Your spiritual life could be a wreck, and nobody else would know it because materially you are still doing pretty well. I'll bet when the news went out through children of Israel that God was going to point out the man who stole the accursed thing, Achan was probably very nervous and ashamed as the lot fell upon him as being the one who caused the defeat and death of some. (Numbers 32: 23b, *be sure your sin will find you out.*) Joshua 7:19 *And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me.* It would bring glory to God if we would quit hiding our transgression. The scripture says in Proverbs 28:13a, *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper* Joshua 7:20 *And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: 21 when I saw...* (Genesis 3:6 – this is how the whole mess started. *And when the woman saw...*) Hebrews 12:2a, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith... Hebrews 12:1b *let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,* Do you know what the world wants from you? They just want you to look at it. *“Hey, look over here...at this commercial...at this billboard... at this advertisement... at my body... my play toys... see what I have that you do not.”* Thou shalt not covet another man's wife! Thou shalt not covet another's man property! Thou shalt not covet another man's goods! – You know what all that is? That's looking at something you don't have and wanting it!

We have to be serious about living for the Lord.

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Joshua - Lesson 14**Achan**

Name _____

(*) if asterisk is shown in question, scripture is required along with answer in your own words.

1. What are we trying to learn in the book of Joshua?
2. Compare Achan to the carnally minded.
3. How did Achan's small theft affect the Children of Israel?*
4. What is the world trying to make you do?
5. What tempted Achan to do what he did?
6. What do we learn about Judas Iscariot?
7. What is Christianity all about?
8. Why did the small army of Ai whip the children of Israel?*

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9. How can we relate with the children of Israel and their battle with Ai?
10. Why is it that your secret sins hurt others?
11. What happens when you lean to your own understanding?
12. When should we ask the Lord for His guidance?
13. Why is it that material wealth is not necessarily a proof that you are right with God?

True/false

- My spiritual life or lack thereof does not affect anyone else.
- God wants us to get serious about worshipping Him.
- If your desire is more focused on obtaining the things of the world, then your life is dictated by the god of this world.
- There should be no schism in the body? (explain on back)*



Scripture Memorization; (write these on the back on the sheet, Must be in KJV) 1 Corinthians 12:26; Proverbs 14:12; Romans 12:15-16

any questions?