

“SIN IN THE CAMP (THE FALL OF ACHAN)”

Joshua 1:2 Fellowship

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Monthly Newsletter

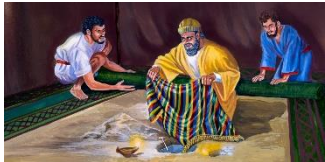
JANUARY 2020

Joshua 7:20-21 The sin of Achan caused pain, defeat, death and the anger of God upon His people. The life and disaster of Achan is a warning to all Christians who do not respond to the warnings of God when they continue to sin and to play with secret sins. God commands us to walk in the Light because we are children of Light.

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

HE VALUED HIS SECRET SIN MORE THAN GOD

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” (v. 20-21).

Achan is a type of Christian that walks with God with one foot in the kingdom of Light and the other foot in the kingdom of Darkness. These Christians are the ones that play with ‘Hidden Sin’ and enjoy the pleasure of that sin. Achan’s sin of desire and greed led him to his secret sin of stealing and in this case, he stole from God. **He already had a habit of stealing!**

“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” (verse 11).

Achan valued a beautiful robe, shekels of silver, and a bar of gold more than God. He loved material things and money more than God. Many Christians today love the world, material things and money more than God. The spirit of Achan is upon them. Achan had lost his convictions because he compromised with sin. I believe the Holy Spirit convicted Achan in his journey with God but he refused to repent of his sins. Achan was like Samson, playing with sin. He no longer had convictions that what he was doing was wrong in the eyes of God. Achan’s refusal to repent from Sin eventually killed the life of God in his heart. Show me a Christian that continues to play with sin and I will show you a Christian that is dead spiritually and separated from God.

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2).

The Bible does not show us that Achan ever repented!

HE DID NOT COUNT THE COST

“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” (vv 24-25).**

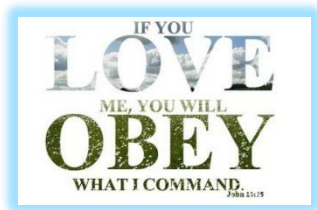
Sin blinds the eyes and heart of the Christian who does not repent. Achan's sin of greed and stealing blinded him that he could not see the consequences it would bring to him, his family, and innocent victims. The sin of Achan cost the lives of about 36 soldiers of Israel's army. The devil lies to you to go ahead and sin and does not tell you of the consequences.

The Bible tells us of the penalties of sin:

- Adam and Eve
- Samson
- King Saul and King David
- Noah's generation

“So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, **who killed about thirty-six of them**” (Josh. 7:4-5b).

Achan paid a big price for his sins. When he took the beautiful robe, silver and gold, Achan could not see that his disobedience to God's Word would cost him big time. In reality he did not love God, his family and God's people. He was in love with Self.



If you love God then you will obey and practice His Word.

- Husbands love your wives!
- Wives submit to your husbands in everything!
- Children obey your parents!
- Christians obey God's Word!

Achan and his family were stone to death!

“Then **all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them.**”

Your sins will not only affect you but your family, and friends will also suffer.

HE DID NOT RESPECT GOD ANYMORE

“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 (Josh. 7:19-20a).



The main reason Achan disobeyed God's Word and sinned was because he had no fear of God in his heart. He did not respect God anymore. Somewhere in his walk with God he lost his convictions and his fear of God. God commands us to fear, respect, and love Him.

“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but **to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul**” (Deut. 10:12).

Achan said, “...It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel (Josh. 7:20).

But he never repented! He never asked God for forgiveness! He was never sorry for his sins. He had a hard heart! Achan played with sin, died spiritually and continued to reject the dealings of God for years that his heart became hard as a rock. The Holy Spirit could no longer convict him of sin. This is the danger of Christians that play with sin or have secret sins in their hearts that they will not let go. Today the penalty for us will be the blessings of God removed from you and your family, spiritual death and His favor lifted. It cost Achan his life and the lives of his family.

THE CURE FOR A FALLEN CHRISTIAN: REPENT AND GO TO YOUR TENT AND DIG UP THE HIDDEN SIN AND GIVE IT TO GOD

Achan could have repented with all his heart and I believe that God would have forgiven him. But for some reason he did not and it cost him and his family their lives. God is a merciful God and will forgive you of any sin or sins!

“**For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more**” (Hebrews 8:12 KJV).

When God deals with you to repent of sin do not resist or reject His dealings because you will become like Achan. His heart became hard as stone! Hidden sin and secret sin

in the life of a Christian will stop the blessings of God upon his life.

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).

Whatever sin that you have hidden in your heart like Achan had hidden in his tent, you must repent and allow God to destroy it before it destroys you. God exposed to Joshua who had sinned. He knows your heart because He sees your heart. The pastor cannot see your heart! Your spouse cannot see your heart, but God can.

“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” (Joshua 7:10-11).

If you are living in sin, or you have fallen into sin or you are playing with hidden sin, repent and God will forgive you. The Bible reveals to us a **‘Gold Nugget’** that many Christians overlook.

“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!’ (Joshua 7:13-15)

In these verses we see the mercy and grace of God. I believe that if Achan would have come forward at that moment and confessed his sins, God would have forgiven him. But Achan kept quiet because he thought he could get away with his secret sin. The following morning the grace of God was lifted and Achan was exposed and he paid a big price.

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** (Joshua 7:16-18).



Achan rejected the mercy of God and was stoned to death as God had said would happen!

CONCLUSION:

If you have sinned or have been playing with hidden sin repent and God will forgive you. He is a merciful and a forgiving God. Don't let the devil fool you like he did with Achan.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).