

Intro: One of the wisest men I know shared something with me about sin I have never forgotten. He asked me: "Dennis, do you know how Satan works?" Whispers a half lie in your ear, you believe it! Then, you start to live like it is true, "Thou shalt NOT surely die" After a while, everything falls apart, Why God???? You were living on a lie!

That is what is taking place in Joshua 7. Achan is living on a lie...and just like always happens...It all came apart! When it did...it cost him EVERYTHING! This morning we continue our series on Joshua, "Pursing The Promises" and we are going to talk about : "The Consequences of Sin!" Turn with me in your bible to Joshua 7:1-12

1. Price of Sin: Or "4 Lies Satan Wants You To Believe."

7:1-12

- **#1: This Sin Only Affects You:** It's ok, this is something that only you are going to have to deal with. Achan believed that...but just like with us...it wasn't true!
~Leaders of Israel were affected: (Joshua and the Elders) Vs 6
~Entire nation was held accountable: (Families for Parents/or For Sin of Children) Everyone affected Vs 1
~Men who went to battle at Ai: 36 men lost their lives...All of their wives and children affected / Parents vs 5
~Achan's family: Wife, Children, Sons and Daughters All Lost their lives! Vs 24
~Achan himself: Forfeited his life because of his sin Vs 24
- **No One Will Ever Know:** Don't worry, Achan tells himself. I'll take it and hide it. (Tent/Family sees?) Many would say THAT is why they were held accountable. They knew...had to have known...didn't say. Have many times have you seen that in families. Family members drawn in and enabling someone's sin? How many families pay an awful price for hiding and enabling the sin of a family member?
- **It Will Be OK, Consequences Will Not Be Too Bad:** If Achan had a single clue how awful the price would have been, I doubt he would have walked down that path. But, one of the lies that Satan must have whispered in his ear was, don't worry...It will be OK. Its not going to be so bad! NOT TRUE!
~Rom 6:23 "Wages of sin is DEATH" Something Always DIES! Relationship; Trust; Testimony; Intimacy You may not be able to identify ahead of time what it is...but God's word is true. Something dies!
- **I Can Have God's Presence and Blessing AND My Sin!:** Achan must have been convinced that he could stay with God's people, receive the promised Land, Walk with God, Enjoy every blessing God offered...AND hold on to the things he stole. But he couldn't. God wouldn't allow that to happen. When we sin, one of the things that happens is we lose that FELLOWSHIP with God. INTIMACY with Him DIES:
1 Jn 1:5-6: "If I say I'm walking with Him, but I'm walking in darkness...I'm lying and the truth is not in me!"

NT: 1Co 10:6 "Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did." One of the reasons we have a record of events like this is to TEACH us! What is the line from Cool Hand Luke: We can do this the EASY way...or we can do this the HARD way! Learn EASY! Read the accounts...learn from them. Not repeat

2. Process Of Sin: Or "Stop It Before It Starts!"

6:17-19; 7:20

What Achan DID:

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| • Achan Knew the Truth: | Know the truth: What does God say? | 6:17-19 |
| • Didn't guard his eyes | Saw it... | 7: 20 |
| • Didn't protect his heart | Desired it/Coveted it | |
| • Didn't control his hands | Took it | |
| • Didn't stop when he could | Didn't turn it in to treasury | |
| • Hid it: Lived with it...until he couldn't! | Put it under the floor of his tent! | |

Achan is just like you and I: Nothing has changed! From Garden of Eden until now, the process is same

Adam and Eve David and Bathsheba Achan and Gold You and I Nothing has changed

James 1:14-15 "each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

3. Plan To Deal With Sin One Of Two Ways!

ONCE IT HAS TAKEN HOLD (Achan)

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| • Consecrate Yourself To God | Vs 12-13 | Fully Commit and Devote, Nothing held back |
| • Present Yourself To God | Vs 12-14 | Go before Him By Tribe, Clan, Family... |
| • Remove the Sin: | Vs 19 | Do not hide it any longer (repentance) |
| • Confess the Sin | Vs 20 | I saw, I coveted, I took, I hid |
| • Pay the Price for Sin | Vs 24 | Wages of Sin is death |
- Here is the GREAT NEWS OF GRACE
~We CAN Pay for our sin ourselves: God is just...The sinner must die
~We CAN Bring it to the CROSS: Let Jesus pay for our sin: Just for Unjust!

Listen to me: If you have never received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior...Do it today! Bring your sin to Him!

And if you know Him...and there is sin you need to Repent of and Forsake...Do it today...Don't wait! Bring it to Him!

But listen...There is another Path! There is a way to address sin in our lives...Before it takes hold!

BEFORE IT TAKES HOLD

We Short Circuit the process AS SOON AS WE CAN! Don't wait...the longer you're in process Harder it is to stop

What Achan SHOULD have done! And, What you and I should do in order to avoid sin in our life!

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| • Listen to word of God | <i>It was spelled out for him completely 6:17-19</i> |
| • Control your eyes: | <i>Turn your eyes away: Job 31:7 "if my heart has been led by my eyes."</i> |
| • Protect your heart: | <i>Commit your heart fully to God 1Ch 22:19 Devote heart to seeking God</i> |
| • Control your actions: | <i>Tit 1:16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him.</i> |
| • Stop before it is too late | <i>1Pet 3:11 Turn from evil and do good!</i> |
| • Don't hide it...Confess it! | <i>1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins...</i> |

CONCLUSION:

- This morning...WHATEVER Sin you are struggling with...Whether it has taken hold or is just dangling in front of you...Deal with it today! Don't hid it...Don't believe the lies
~You aren't the only one affected
~Never stays hidden
~It WILL Kill you...and others...if it is left unaddressed
~You are sacrificing the best God has to offer...for a cheap substitute

Today, here at the altar...you have the opportunity to deal with sin...

Confess it....Repent....Bring it to the Cross

Ask God to help you resist...to turn your heart from temptation...and toward Him