



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

### **Sermon Series // Joshua; Judges; Ruth**

**Supports Session 5:** Sin Revealed

**Sermon Title:** "Hidden Sins and God's Glory" (Joshua 7:10-23)

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#### **Connection to Session 5**

God desires all people come to repentance. He wants people to confess their sins and trust in the Lord Jesus for their salvation so that they can experience joy and oneness with Him. Confession and obedience are important parts of following God.

#### **Introduction/Opening**

After the miraculous victory at Jericho, Israel experienced an unexpected defeat at Ai. Joshua 7 reveals that the problem was not military strategy but spiritual compromise. This passage teaches that sin affects not only individuals but also the entire community of God's people. God will not be mocked. Those who disobey His commands will face the consequences if they do not repent.

#### **Outline**

- 1. God calls His people to deal with sin, not despair over defeat (vv. 10-12)**
  - a.** "Stand up" (v. 10) was a rebuke from God for being in a posture of mourning. The people were suffering because of Achan's disobedience, though Joshua was unaware of it at the time. God did not want mourning in that moment. Instead, He wanted repentance and justice.
  - b.** The real issue was that Achan's sin had affected the entire nation. Just like Rahab's confession saved her family (Josh. 2:8-21), so Achan's sin affected all the Israelites. God gave a specific and clear command. Achan chose to disobey, thus bringing guilt upon Israel. The phrase, "they have taken some of what was set apart," (v. 11) shows corporate responsibility. Even those who did not take any possessions were responsible. This shows the importance of accountability and speaking up when someone does something wrong. Everyone had the responsibility of keeping each other accountable to the covenant made with God, and everyone failed.
  - c.** God prioritizes holiness over success (Isa. 59:2). Spiritual defeat often results from moral compromise. Just like a sports team loses because one player breaks the

rules, others are affected by our disobedience. Sin does not happen in a vacuum—it has consequences for others. God’s people must take sin seriously and examine their hearts before blaming the circumstances on others.

## **2. God requires the removal of sin to restore His presence (vv. 13-15)**

- a.** Judgment was certain unless the sin was removed (v. 13). Before the people could move forward and experience God’s victory again, they had to deal with the sin and get rid of it. Achan had the opportunity to repent, yet he continued to try to hide his sin until he was called out. God gave ample opportunity to repent before judgment happened. The same is true today. God desires that all come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9), but there will be a day when there is no longer an opportunity. Instead, there will be judgment for those who have disobeyed Him and not repented.
- b.** God’s presence cannot coexist with unrepentant sin. Holiness is essential for fellowship with God (1 Pet. 1:15-16). No one is holy enough to commune with God. Jesus’s death and resurrection made it possible for us to experience forgiveness and salvation.
- c.** Confession is necessary for spiritual renewal. Without the confessions of sins, there is no forgiveness. God does not want partial obedience; he wants complete obedience. If people today want to experience the forgiveness of the Lord, then they must confess their sin.

## **3. God exposes hidden sin in His time and in His way (vv. 16-23)**

- a.** Achan’s confession reveals the progression of sin: he saw, he coveted, and he took (v. 21). He knew what he did was wrong, so he hid what he took. Sin always leads to shame and hiding (see Gen. 3:8). Sin is deceptive and personal, but it is never private. Sin affects others in ways that sometimes aren’t realized.
- b.** God sees what is hidden (Num. 32:23), and there is no way to hide sin from God. He sees everything at all times. Desire unchecked leads to disobedience (Jas. 1:14-15). It is important for Christians to have accountability in their lives so they may not fall into the temptation of sin.
- c.** Like termites in a wall, sin becomes visible once things begin falling apart. As Christians, we must constantly examine our hearts to reveal any hidden sin that needs to be confessed to God and to others. Don’t assume hidden sin will stay hidden. Examine desires before they turn destructive. Confession does not erase consequences, but it does restore truth.

## **Conclusion**

Joshua 7:10-23 reminds us that God's holiness cannot be ignored. Hidden sin brings communal harm, but exposure invites repentance. God confronts sin not to destroy His people, but to restore them.

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