

Joshua 7: When Trouble Comes

Getting started: Sometimes one man's mistake can harm lots of people. Can you give an example from your own life or history when this happened?

Read vv. 1-9 Discovering Trouble

1. What does "trespass" mean? (v. 1) What is an "accursed thing" (see Joshua 6:17-18). What was the Lord's response to Israel's miscue?
2. What did the spies suggest to Joshua about Ai? (vv. 2-3) How many men were sent? (v. 4) What was the outcome? (vv. 4-5)
3. How did the people respond to defeat? (v. 5b) How did Joshua respond? (vv. 6-7) What alternative did Joshua suggest to the Lord after their surprising defeat? (v. 7) What did Joshua fear would happen when word of defeat got out? (vv. 8-9)

Read vv. 10-15 The Lord's Answer to the Trouble

4. How did God respond to Joshua's prayer? What did God reveal had happened? (vv.10-11)
5. What reason did God give for the defeat at Ai? (v. 12) What did God require before He would restore His presence and favor? (v. 12, 13)

6. Name the steps that God gave Joshua to rectify the injury that had been done. (vv. 13-15)

Read vv. 16-25 Removing the Troubler

7. What did Joshua do after receiving instruction from the Lord? (vv. 16-18) What did Joshua ask Achan to do? (v. 19) Name which commandments Achan broke and name his most serious offense, in your opinion (vv. 20-22).
8. After the spoils were found in Achan's tent (v. 23), what happened to Achan and to his family? (vv. 24-25) Why did Achan's sin result in capital punishment, not only for him but also for his family? (v. 25) Is capital punishment ever biblically justifiable today? (see Genesis 9:6; Rom. 13:4)
9. Why was a heap of stones raised over Achan and his things (v. 26, see also 4:6-7)? The chapter begins with God's anger (v. 1) and ends with God's anger (v. 26). What can that teach us about how to avoid God's anger? (see Psalm 51:3-4).