

From Defeat to Destiny

Read: Joshua 7:1-26

Main Idea: The path to restoration requires confronting sin, understanding its consequences, and embracing God's mercy, leading us back into fellowship and purpose with Him.

Key Verses: You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you." (**Joshua 7:13**) ... "Then the LORD turned from his burning anger." (**Joshua 7:26**)

Key Principles

- Because no sin is ever truly private, the hidden compromise we excuse in ourselves can quietly weaken the whole family of God around us.
- When we presume on past victories and move forward without seeking God, we set ourselves up for defeat in the very battles we assume will be easy.
- The same pattern that ruined Achan still works in us, as a lingering look becomes desire and desire becomes grasping, yet patience trusts that what God withholds today He may give freely tomorrow.
- Real prayer is less about persuading God to change His plans and more about letting Him change us until we see and embrace what He is actually doing.
- Confession is not the opposite of worship but a form of it, since honestly naming our sin before God gives Him the glory that pretending never can.
- Because Jesus, the true Son of Judah, became devoted to destruction in our place, the valley of our deepest trouble can become for us a gateway of hope.

Discussion

1. Where in your own life have you been tempted to treat a small or hidden sin as something that affects only you? How does Achan's story challenge that assumption?
2. Why do you think Israel marched against Ai so confidently without seeking the Lord? Where are you most prone to lean on past success rather than present dependence on Him?
3. How can we tell the difference between sorrow that only mourns over sin's consequences and sorrow that actually rises to confront and remove the sin itself?
4. Why might the loss of God's presence have been a greater tragedy at Ai than the loss of the thirty-six men? What does that teach us to fear most about unconfessed sin?
5. How is honest confession of sin actually a way of giving glory to God rather than only a moment of shame?
6. What is one concealed sin or compromise the Holy Spirit is bringing to light? What specific step will you take this week to confess it and walk again in fellowship with God?

Prayer

- Pray that we are quick to confront hidden sin and to return to God in honest confession.
- Pray for:
 - Our church, to pursue holiness together and never grow indifferent to sin.
 - Each of us, to confess what we conceal and turn from it in repentance.
 - Our neighbors, to find in Christ their way out of the valley of trouble.

From Defeat to Destiny
Joshua 7

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| I. | Confront any <u>concealed sin</u>. | 7:1-5 |
| 1. | <u>Recognize</u> sin's <u>offense</u> . | 7:1 |
| 2. | <u>Refuse</u> sin's <u>strategy</u> . | 7:2-3 |
| 3. | <u>Remember</u> sin's <u>defeat</u> . | 7:4-5 |
| II. | Consider God's <u>consuming holiness</u>. | 7:6-15 |
| 1. | <u>Seek</u> Him <u>humbly</u> . | 7:6-9 |
| 2. | <u>Submit</u> to Him <u>fully</u> . | 7:10-15 |
| III. | Confess for <u>cleansing restoration</u>. | 7:16-26 |
| 1. | <u>Come</u> clean <u>honestly</u> . | 7:16-21 |
| 2. | <u>Cling</u> to Him <u>hopefully</u> . | 7:22-26 |

NEXT WEEK:
Victory in the Valley
Joshua 8