

Compromise, Consequences, and the God Who Redeems

Joshua 7:1-9:27 || Lesson 4 Review Outline

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I. Introduction

"The most important question we can ask when we open God's Word is not, 'What does this mean to me?' but, 'What does this reveal about God?'"

- Welcome and introduction to the session.
- Key question for Bible study: What does this passage reveal about God?
- Understanding Israel as a covenant people and how that applies to believers today.
- Theme: God's holiness, justice, sovereignty, faithfulness, and mercy.

II. The Aftermath of Jericho and Israel's Compromise (Joshua 7)

"God's presence will not dwell where sin is tolerated."

A. The Scene Set: From Triumph to Tragedy

- The spiritual high after Jericho's fall.
- The ominous transition to "But the people of Israel broke faith..." (Josh. 7:1).
- Achan's Sin: Taking what was devoted to God.
- Sin is corporate, not just individual.

B. Israel's Defeat at Ai

"The greatest danger we face isn't the enemy in front of us—it's the sin within us that separates us from God's power."

- Overconfidence and lack of prayer.
- Joshua sends spies; they underestimate Ai.
- Israel is routed; 36 men die.
- Their hearts melt—paralleling the fear the Canaanites once had.

C. Joshua's Response & God's Rebuke

"When everything falls apart, don't ask, 'What is happening to me?' Ask, 'How will God get the glory in this?'"

- Joshua falls in mourning before the Ark.

- "What about Your great name?"—Joshua's concern for God's glory.
- God's response: "Get up! Deal with the sin."
- Lesson: Prayer without obedience is just delay.

III. The Exposure and Judgment of Achan (Joshua 7:10-26)

"Sometimes the problem isn't that we need to pray more—it's that we need to obey more."

A. The Corporate Nature of Sin

- Achan's sin affects all Israel.
- Key words: Ma'al (treachery), Avar (crossing a boundary).
- God's warning: "I will be with you no more unless..."

B. The Process of Judgment

"Sin never stays small. It always demands more territory in your heart."

- The casting of lots: Tribe → Clan → Family → Achan.
- Joshua urges Achan to confess.
- Achan admits: "I saw, I coveted, I took, I hid."
- Parallels to Eve in Eden.

C. Consequences of Sin

"You don't just sin—you make room for it, justify it, and protect it. But God calls us to remove it completely."

- Achan and his entire household executed.
- The Valley of Achor: "Trouble" becomes a lesson.
- Key Takeaway: Sin never stays private; it impacts the whole body.

IV. Restoration and Victory at Ai (Joshua 8)

"God's mercy gives second chances, but His justice demands holiness."

A. God's Mercy and Second Chances

- God gives Joshua a new battle strategy.
- Israel ambushes Ai, leading to victory.
- This time, plunder is allowed—Achan's sin was needless.

B. Renewal of Covenant

"The altar of unhewn stones reminds us: Our salvation is built on God's work, not ours."

- Joshua leads Israel in reaffirming their covenant with God.
- Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim: Blessings and curses read.
- The altar of unhewn stones—pointing to God's perfect work.

V. The Deception of the Gibeonites (Joshua 9)

"Failure to seek the Lord leads to compromise, but even in our failures, God remains sovereign."

A. Israel's Compromise

- Gibeonites trick Israel into a peace treaty.
- Key mistake: "They did not seek the Lord."
- Israel's oath-bound commitment despite deception.

B. The Consequences & Redemption

"God can turn even our worst failures into part of His sovereign plan."

- Gibeonites become servants, not destroyed.
- God's sovereignty: He works even through human failure.

VI. Key Lessons & Application

1. Prayer Without Obedience is Delay

"Sometimes we use prayer as an excuse to delay what we already know God has commanded us to do."

- Joshua mourned, but God called for action.
- We must deal with sin, not just pray about it.

2. Sin Affects the Whole Body

"There is no such thing as 'private' sin. What we tolerate in our lives affects the entire church."

- Achan's sin brought consequences to Israel.
- Personal holiness is a community responsibility.

3. God's Presence is More Important Than Any Victory

"If we have to choose between keeping sin and keeping God's presence, we better choose His presence every time."

- True victory is walking with God, not just external success.
- The real loss at Ai wasn't a battle—it was the loss of God's presence.

4. Seek the Lord in Every Decision

"The Gibeonite deception reminds us: Self-reliance leads to bad decisions. Always seek the Lord first."

- Israel failed to inquire of God before making a treaty.
- We must not rely on human wisdom alone.

VII. Conclusion

"Get up. Stop delaying. Remove what hinders you from fully following God."

- Call to consecration and repentance.
- Trust God's mercy and redemption.
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