

Midway Family Church

01-15-18

**Theme:** "Setbacks"

**Reading:** Joshua Chapter 6.25 - 7

**Key Thoughts** Sin Defeat Perspective Grace Judgement Intervention

**People of Interest**

Joshua Rahab Israel Amorites Surrounding Nations Achan God

**Comments for Perspective**

Setbacks can be small and taken in stride or they can be devastating and overwhelming. This incident came from one individual's action impacting a missionary's nations wellbeing. We must remember that the Amorites were unsalvageable totally corrupted beyond help from God's perspective. Achan's actions setup Israel's God given tasks for failure. The LORD is concerned about method, intent and actions as well as outcomes. He would not let them win this battle except HIS WAY. Joshua pursues God and a solution. The process and Judgement are brutal, but God shows that it is necessary.

I have several responses which I have witnessed from others when they study this area. One is that people are appalled at the brutality of the happenings. Others feel a need of repentance. Some see harshness. If we remember God "is love" and use that truth as the filter it clarifies the impact of the decisions and events. This was God's solution for a major breach of the ten commandments in a missionary nation that represented Him. This was the best way to deal with the problem...sobering!

**Outline**

Rahab

Achan

Reconnaissance and war plan

Defeat with 36 killed

Appalled and failure and Guidance

Failure Reasons Revealed

Solution

The Process

**Scriptural Quotes**

The work of Grace

### **Joshua 6:25 (AMP)**

<sup>25</sup> So Joshua saved Rahab the harlot, with her father's household and all that she had; and she lives in Israel even to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

The Problem

### **Joshua 7:1 (AMP)**

<sup>1</sup> BUT THE Israelites committed a trespass in regard to the devoted things; for Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the things devoted [for destruction]. And the anger of the Lord burned against Israel.

The God given Mission

### **Joshua 7:4-5 (AMP)**

<sup>4</sup> So about three thousand Israelites went up there, but they fled before the men of Ai.

<sup>5</sup> And the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of them, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and slew them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

The Effect and Process of Solution

### **Joshua 7:10-11 (AMP)**

<sup>10</sup> The Lord said to Joshua, Get up! Why do you lie thus upon your face?

<sup>11</sup> Israel has sinned; they have transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. They have taken some of the things devoted [for destruction]; they **have stolen, and lied,** and put them among their own baggage.

Solution

### **Joshua 7:15 (AMP)**

<sup>15</sup> And he who is taken with the devoted things shall be [killed and his body] burned with fire, he and all he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord and because he has done a shameful *and* wicked thing in Israel.

### **Making Sense of the Failure and Setback**

What makes God angry? Why?

Are there absolutes?

Does God mean what He says?

Is God right in His decisions?

What happened to Achan? Why did he process and conclude his decisions differently from others?

Why the judgement of a family and tribe?

What are the effects of setbacks?

### **Application**

How could this have been avoided?

What do you need to be careful about?

What should you do if you sin?

Do you need to know how God thinks and what He expects?

How committed are you to preventing major setbacks?