



Sunday, November 10, 2019
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Joshua 7

The corporate nature of sin is something that is often lost on us as people living in the West in the 21st century. We like to think in individualistic terms. We resonate with Paul's admonition to the Galatians that "each one must bear his own load" (Gal. 6:5) more than his admonition a few verses prior that we must "bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2). How much more so is this the case when dealing with sin and its consequences!

Yet the Bible is clear: sin affects the whole community. We cannot simply wash our hands of one another or pretend we are not our brother's keeper. That is why there are provisions for church discipline in the New Testament (see 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 for an example). This passage in Joshua 7 demonstrates full well how sin affects an entire community and how seriously the LORD takes it. We must consider how we can be diligent in spurring one another on to resist temptation, but also to confess sin that has taken place and seeking reconciliation and restoration.

Context

It seems as though there is a pattern in Scripture of God creating something new and good which is quickly destroyed or tarnished by the sinful acts of human beings. In Genesis 1-2, God creates a good world with very good humans that reflect His image. By chapter 3, very quickly-paced in the narrative, sin has entered in and ruined the good that God made. In the same way in Exodus 19-20, God had brought the people of Israel out of Egypt in order to be His treasured possession—a people who would love and obey Him. Within forty days, they are steeped in sin, culminating in the incident with the golden calf (Ex. 32). Here again, on the heels of an overwhelming and supernatural victory at Jericho (Josh. 6), the fly once again finds its way into the proverbial ointment.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Joshua 7:1-26

“Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out”

- Humiliation: because of sin
 - o Battle lost
 - o Go to prayer

“Complaining to God in prayer is not the same as complaining about God outside of prayer.”

- Communication: uncovers the sin
 - o Corporate sin
 - o God’s warning – no presence!
- Investigation: discover the sinner
 - o Process
 - o Confession

The Conception and Birth of Sin

- I see occasion
 - I want genesis
 - I take act
 - I hide cover up
 - I die result
- Eradication: of the sin
 - o Two memorial stones
 - Marks God’s miracle for His people
 - Marks God’s wrath against the sin of God’s people

Discuss

- 1) Which do you tend to treat more seriously: other people's sins or your own? Why do you think that is?
- 2) Can you think of a contemporary example of the sin of one (or some) in the church being covered up and the corporate consequences once it was made known?
- 3) Read 1 John 2:15-17. According to this passage, why should we resist temptation?
- 4) If a person has a low view of sin, what impact will that have on their view of Christ's work on the cross?
- 5) How does this passage inform the way you would counsel a professing Christian who is living in unrepentant sin?