

Winning Life's Battles!

Lessons in Defeat

1. The making of the defeat
 - A. Dependence on our own strength and strategy – Joshua 7:2-5 (212)
 - 1) The events of Joshua 7 & 8 immediately follow the victory in Jericho
 - 2) Joshua's spies minimize the threat posed by Ai – vs. 2-3
 - 3) 3,000 men attack Ai and are defeated – vs. 4-5
 - 4) The defeat was demoralizing and discouraging – vs. 8-9
 - B. Corruption and sin in the ranks
 - 1) God had specifically commanded that the plunder from Jericho was to be dedicated to the Lord – Joshua 6:17-19 (211)
 - 2) Achan took some of the devoted items – Joshua 7:1, 10-12, 20-21 (212)
 - 3) It is because of this sin, that God did not bless Israel
2. Corrective action taken
 - A. Sin is exposed and purged
 - 1) Achan is exposed and confesses – Joshua 7:16-21 (212)
 - 2) Achan and his family are punished – Joshua 7:22-26
 - B. Joshua consults with God – Joshua 8:1-2 (213)
 - C. Joshua develops a strategy in obedience to God
 - 1) Joshua's strategy was in obedience to God's instruction to set an ambush – Joshua 8:3-8 (213)
 - 2) Joshua takes an army of 30,000 men to Ai – vs. 3
 - 3) 5,000 of the men set an ambush west of Ai – vs. 12
 - 4) The main army remained north of the city – vs. 13
 - D. Joshua renews the covenant – Joshua 8:30-35 (214)
 - 1) Joshua built an altar to God – vs. 30-31
 - 2) Joshua copied the law of Moses on stones – vs. 32
 - 3) Joshua read the whole law to all of Israel – vs. 34-35
3. Lessons Learned:
 - A. Be cautious of overconfidence – 1 Corinthians 10:12 (1112)
 - B. Don't minimize sin. All sin is rebellion against God. – John 14:15 (1046); 1 John 3:4-6 (1184); James 2:10 (1173)
 - C. Our sin often affects other innocent people
 - D. Sin must be dealt with to enjoy the blessing of God – 1 John 1:6-10 (1183)
 - E. God's blessing does not preclude our responsibility to do the right things

How can I know I am a Christian?

All people are guilty of sin and are under the penalty of sin – death.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

- Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Romans 6:23

Jesus Christ died in our place that we might be forgiven.

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8

God asks us to believe in Him to receive this free gift

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

If you have any questions about your relationship with God, we encourage you to talk to the Pastor or any church member.
