

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 (213)
 - 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