# The Severity of Sin

#### A study into Joshua 7:16-26

**“Achan’s Sin”**

**Age group:** I feel this lesson would be best for a group of adults who want to learn more in-depth study of scripture. I feel this should be aimed towards Christians that have been in the faith for at-least a few years and are moving more towards becoming mature Christians.

**Objective:** The goal of this study is to demonstrate the severity of sin and that no matter how well we hide it all is visible to God. I also want to instill in the class that we all are accountable to each other. We read in this passage that even though it was Achan who committed the sin he was in fact accountable to Joshua and ultimately to God for his crimes.

**Hook**

Have you ever done anything that you knew to be a sin, but though well no one will know so went ahead and did it anyways? I know I am guilty of that and I am sure if we all think hard and true you all will admit to this as well. It doesn’t have to be anything serious; it could be something as simple as taking a pen from a waiting room or eating that grape out of the bag at the grocery store. On either account we all feel we got away with it, but as we read through Joshua 7:16-26 we will realize that even though no man may have seen us God sees everything.

**Book**

Lets set the scene. In Joshua chapter 6 we read of the Israelite’s being ordered to completely destroy the city of Jericho leaving nothing standing. This is where we read about the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant and the blowing of the trumpets which caused the walls of Jericho to fall. Chapter 7 focuses on the aftermath of this event and the disobedience of one such Israelite named Achan.

Achan seeing the plunder that was left behind after Jericho fell took not only a beautiful robe, but also helped himself to some of the silver and gold that was there. This being after strict instruction by God through Joshua that everything must be destroyed.

God shows us that no matter how we sin He has already seen it and will judge that sin. As we read in Joshua 7:16-18, “Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was chosen. The clans of Judah came forward, and the Zerahites were chosen. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was chosen. Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen.” God having Joshua take his time and go tribe by tribe, family by family really shows us how severe the offense of disobedience and sin really is to Him.

In verses 19-21 we read how Achan did confess to the sin and reading this section we can get an idea of his regret for doing so. He didn’t try to deny it and even was forth coming with where he had hidden all the items. We read in this section how Joshua even though he was judging Achan still referred to him as “my son” . This too me shows that Joshua still loved Achan even though he knew he would be judged by God for his disobedience.

The last section verses 22-26 tell us of Achan’s judgment not only on him, but his family and possessions. As we read the judgment we can be drawn into the feeling like the punishment didn’t fit the crime. But because of Achan’s disobedience we are shown how our sins and the consequences of those sins don’t just affect us, but can and most time do in-fact affect those around us. We do end this section with the knowledge that even a grave sin can be forgiven by God. Along with the judgment was the renewing of the strength of Israel and their ability to once more walk in the strength of the Lord. (“Enduring Word Bible Commentary Joshua Chapter 7” 2015)

**Look**

When reading through this section we naturally come to a lot of questions. Some questions we need to wrestle with are:

1. How do we come to hold each other accountable?

2. Knowing that we sinned and confessing such sins can be difficult, but how does it also bring healing or closure?

3. How do we as believers struggle with the severity of the sin versus the severity of the punishment?

**Took**

During our study of this passage we are addressed with three “themes”. Hidden sin and it’s severity towards not only us, but towards the community; the reason we all need accountability and how God’s judgment leads to renewal. I want us all to really wrestle with these themes and this passage. And don’t just wrestle with them in silence speak among other Christians about it and see what you all come up with. We all need each other and need to be able to be accountable to each other.

One last question for you guys and I want you to really think about this. How does this passage align with God’s nature and how can you use what you learned in this passage in your daily walk with Christ?

**Works Cited**

**“Enduring Word Bible Commentary Joshua Chapter 7.” 2015. Enduring Word. December 18, 2015. https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/joshua-7/.**