

# 33 Achan, The Troubler of Israel

## Chapter Joshua 7:1–26

### Today's Lesson:



1. To understand that the Israelites were defeated in war because of one person's sin.
2. To understand that in order to win the spiritual warfare, we must remove the sins inside of us.
3. To understand that sin will always be revealed.

### Open Your Heart



"Don't worry! The CCTV will reveal everything!"

On July 7, 2005, when a terrorist bomb in London killed 52 people and injured 80, the police famously said the words above. London is famous for having more CCTVs than anywhere else in the world, and the CCTV cameras do not simply cover the roads, but also the buses, subways—pretty much everywhere in the city, filming 24–7. That is why many people say that to live in London is to live in the shadow of "Big Brother" (Big Brother is a metaphor to describe the Invisible Hand).

According to a 2014 presentation, there are 6.6 million CCTVs installed in the U.K. So, on average, one person living in Britain is caught 300 times on CCTV per day. There really is nowhere you can hide.

However, there is a place where there are even more CCTVs than that of London and are even more precise. Where could this place be?



## Understanding Today's Lesson

After crossing the Jordan River, the people of Israel easily conquered the first city, Jericho, without much sacrifice. However, in their second battle to a much smaller and weaker city, Ai, they were defeated and 36 of their men perished in the battle. Upon this, Joshua and the elders tore their robes, fell to the earth on their faces before the ark of the Lord, and put dust on their heads. However, in the midst of their prayer, they came to know that they had been defeated because of the sin of one person. As commanded by God, the next morning, Joshua brought Israel by their tribes and cast lots in order to reveal who had done these deeds. Eventually, lots were cast in each tribe, clan, and family, and after lots were cast among the men in a specific household, Achan was chosen.

During the battle of Jericho, Achan disobeyed the Word of God and committed a sin. Although it had been commanded that all the spoils of Jericho would be given to God, Achan saw a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels and hid them in the midst of his tent. Moreover, Achan did not confess his trespasses until he was finally chosen after casting lots. The Israelites took Achan, his family, and all that he had, and brought them to the Valley of Achor, where the Israelites stoned, burned, and buried Achan and his family under a great heap of stones. Only after purging this sin from the camp of the Israelites could the nation of Israel be victorious in the battle against the city of Ai. In order for God to work through the Israelites, He first needed them to be separated from sin. The same is true today. Due to the hidden sins of one person, the work of God that is accomplished through the Church can be limited, and the opportunity to save souls may be lost. If I am this person, how much rebuke do you think I will receive from God?

Notes:



## Memorizing Bible Verses

Get up, sanctify the people, and say, 'Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the Lord God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you."

(Joshua 7:13)



Meditate

## On These Verses

1. After you have meditated on the following verses, give a title of the verse or write a short summary of the verse. Also, write down things you have felt about the verse, or other verses that it has reminded you of.

(Joshua 7:16–19)

(Job 20:12–16)

(Proverbs 28:13–14)



Changing

## Directions

In Joshua 6 and Joshua 7, when it mentions the "accursed" things, the word "accursed" comes from the Hebrew word "Haram", which means "to separate something so that no one can use it or misuse it before it is wholly devoted to God." However, this also has two meanings, being (1) dedication, to offer up things up to God, and (2) annihilation, which means to destroy completely and utterly. Answer the following questions regarding this topic.

1. Read Leviticus 27:28 and try to summarize the meaning of the chapter to the best of your ability.

2. Read Joshua 6:18. What did God say would happen to the Israelites if they took of the accursed things?

3. Are there any possessions that I have that ought to be completely destroyed and cursed? What do you think will happen to me if I continue to keep this possession?

4. If there were times that your mistake not only harmed you but also the Church, write them down.



Applying

## The Word to My Life

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.  
(James 2:26)

1. Please write down how you will apply what you learned today throughout this week.

1.)

2.)

3.)

2. Look back and reflect on how successful you were at applying last week's lesson.



Praying

## To Live According to the Word

Let us pray so that we can live in fear and trembling, remember that my faults and sins may limit the work of God and damage the entire church.



# Our Story

## Human Value



This is a five-dollar bill.



Let us crumple it up.  
Even though it is crumpled up, you  
cannot throw it away.  
It still has the value of a five-dollar  
bill.



Let us step on it.  
It is stepped on several times.  
Although it is now very dirty, it still has the value  
of a five-dollar bill.



Yay!  
Five  
bucks!

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27)

## The Monkey's Clenched Fist

There is a way North African hunters can easily catch monkeys. A box with a tiny hole the size of a monkey's hand is filled with fruits and tied to a branch in the evening. In the middle of the night, the monkey smells the fruits inside the box, and sticks his hand inside the box and grabs a big handful of fruits. However, the hole is so small that the monkey cannot pull out his hand out of the box while he is holding onto the fruit. The monkey knows that all he must do is give up on the fruit, and then he can pull his hand and escape. But because the monkey is unable to give up on the fruit, he tries all night in vain to take his hand out of the box. When the morning comes, the monkey is found by the hunter with his hand still in the box, and easily tied up and caught.

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Timothy 6:9–10)





# Wednesday

Sermon

Date.

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Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage:



# Sunday

Sermon

Date.

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Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage: