

# HIDDEN in the Camp

**Main Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 9: 1; Joshua 6:15; Joshua 7

**Supporting Scriptures: [Don't trust in Self confidence]:** Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 8:2; Galatians 6:3; 1 Corinthians 10:12; Proverbs 26:12; Matthew 5:44

Joshua and the army of Israel had experienced a glorious victory over Jericho and its city walls. Being obedient to the word of God they witnessed God's mighty hand and saw the walls of Jericho falling to pieces, Joy was flooding their hearts for they had witnessed the power of God acting on their behalf. The future looked bright and it seemed that God would be with them as they marched to conquer the Promised Land. In Joshua 7 following this victory, there was a defeat that the army did not see coming. They launched an attack against Ai and Joshua's army was soundly defeated. It's in this chapter that we recognize while the defeat was staring them in the face the army of Israel, who previously was overwhelmed with an astounding victory was suddenly deflated and lost hope. Why? Because something had taken place in the camp prior to them going against Ai. It's in the story of Chapter 7 we recognize how crippling sin can be on a community, a nation and an individual. Sin will always lead to a defeat in spiritual warfare. The Bible tells us in Joshua 7:1 - having ended 27 of chapter 6 that the Lord was with Joshua and his reputation spread ... Chapter 7 starts with a BUT. Israel violated the instructions of the Lord and so the Lord was very angry with the Israelites because of Achan from the tribe of Judah.

As we observed the text, we recognize in verse 1 speaks to the cause of the failed assault against Ai. Look in verses 2-5 we see the consequences of sin to the God's people and the rest of the verses is the victory.

Better to have wisdom over weapons of war but one sinner can destroy what is good.

Achan - means trouble.

He stole the dedicated things to the Lord and the Lord was very angry with Israel. One soldier sin affected the entire community. All Israel was charged with the crime not just Achan. It was a corporate responsibility and thus cooperate guilt. God looked at them as One Body of people that should love e one another and look out for each other. This is not a new concept as we notice from the story of Cain that the Christians should be their brother's keeper. When God looks at his church he sees one church. Yes, there are many assemblies but God sees one church because by one spirit were we all baptized. Every member was to look out for the greater interest of his brother. One man had sinned, one man was unfaithful and broke trust but that man did not live in isolation and so from God's perspective the entire community was responsible. One man caused God's presence to be angry with the entire community hidden in the camp.

Here we recognize that sin ultimately leads to defeat, always in any area of our life and the end result is always death. Disease, accidents, sickness, sometimes financial problems. Sin has a way of leading us downhill. There is something for us to understand that even in the assembly there is a responsibility as believers in how we live our lives. I am not living just for me and I know the theology messes our thinking because we come to God to live to make heaven, ignoring what is happening around us.

Scripture tells us that righteousness will build up a nation but sin is a reproach.

Matthew 5:44 - thou shalt love your neighbor as yourself.

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Without being aware of what was happening Joshua sends out spies and they returned and said they only needed 2-3000 men to attack Ai but they were soundly defeated. It was sin that caused the defeat in the battle.

But in Joshua 6:2 - the Lord said I have given you Jericho its king and all the strong warrior and in Joshua 7:2 Joshua sends out spies

What we recognize in this verse is the silence of the Lord. They were going in the strength of the previous battle but God was silent. We call this self-confidence or a miscalculation and we know if we trust in the arms of flesh it will certainly fail. No man can conquer any enemy with self-confidence. It was Peter who said though all men were offended yet will I never be offended and then the rest is history

**Don't trust in Self confidence:** Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 8:2; Galatians 6:3; 1 Corinthians 10:12; Proverbs 26:12

God disciplined the children of Israel by allowing so few men of Ai to defeat 3000 Israeli soldiers. They went into battle and the presence of the Lord was not there.

When we sin against God, God will chastise us. Sin in a believer's life must be corrected and be chastised of God. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he takes away.

The elders tore their Clothes when they saw this defeat and had an act of repentance seeking the lord before the Ark.

As they talked to the Lord, Joshua is concerned about the name of the Lord. Not many people living this Christian life is concerned about the name of the Lord and keeping his name Holy. Remember when Jesus showed us to pray... our Father in heaven Holy is your name. But here is Joshua concerned about the honor for the names of the Lord.

Intercession is an answer to sin and defeat.

God now is about to speak and this is the second remedy is hearing what God has to say. A lot of folks are not interested in hearing a divine word being spoken. We live in a time when the words of the Lord are being spoken and it cuts us we despise it and reject it but the word said despise not prophesying. How can a man cleanse his way except he takes heed to the word of the Lord? [Psalm 119:9]

The Lord said get up! Time to act. Why are you on your face? When I sent you against Jericho I gave you my word and you didn't have to pull a sword for the walls to come down. And now a small town and your men are defeated. Get up Israel has sinned and that's why you are defeated. There was a charge against the nation of Israel not against Achan listen how God builds up the charges against Israel

1. They stole things that are set apart for the tabernacle
2. They lied about the theft
3. They have hidden it among their own belongings

There is sin in the camp!

Better to have wisdom than weapons of war but one sinner can destroy much that is good. Get up Joshua Israel has broken the covenant and stolen the things that are set apart for me and lied about it and buried it. I will not remain among you unless you destroy what is set apart for destruction.

I will not remain in the camp when sin is prevalent and any man that will stand against God I will withdraw my presence unless you destroy the sin.

FDIM God is saying, I will not dwell where sin is unless it is destroyed and repented of I can't stay. I will withhold my presence.

What does the presence of the Lord mean to us?

What is the value of the presence of the Lord?

The presence of the Lord meant surviving 40 years in the wilderness and defeating the nine gods of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea. The presence of the Lord meant victory. And to the believer it means life.

What kind of value do we place on the presence of the Lord?

I don't speak only from Joshua 7 but I speak to the community of the Lord. God is up to something in FDIM. God has something to say to the body of believers the bible tells us of the faithful community in the heights of victory after the outpouring of the Holy Ghost that convict many hearts and the church was experiencing such oneness and went from house to house breaking bread in prayer and continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and we see how they are acting out the doctrine and men being brother's keeper and the name of the Lord is kept Holy and they sold their possessions but Ananias and Sapphires sold and pretended in the house of God pretending— this was not buried in the tent but buried in their hearts but God dwells in our bodies. It is the temple of the Living God. And they went before the man of God just like in Joshua 7:14

Joshua, you will never defeat your enemies until action is taken according to the word of God. Joshua unless you heed the word Israel will be trapped in a cycle of defeat.

Joshua all I am asking is to let them come tribe by tribe and I will find it and show it to you. I will show who the guilty family, and man is I will show it to you.

We take note of this in the book of acts Ananias came forward lying about what he was doing but he didn't recognize he was passing before the presence of the Lord.

Ananias why has Satan filled your heart and caused you to lie to the Holy Ghost there are men here who will take you out and he fell dead in the presence of the Lord.

We don't want to talk about a church like that. But God gave me this word to speak to FDIM and as I sat there praying before the Lord, the Lord spoke about the fasting and told me to listen back to the statements - I don't hear any brokenness before the people. I don't hear anyone confessing the brokenness of overcoming sin. Allow the people to pass by one more time for something is hidden in the camp God is saying when they pass by I will show it to you. I hear a sound but it's not the sound of brokenness. We are trapped in a cycle of defeat and God is about to set us ablaze in victory. One man sin paralyzes the entire nation of Israel. I hear the Holy Ghost talking - buried in the camp of FDIM 1,2,3,4.5

many years. Hidden and being lied about deceit. Sin in the camp but I hear the Lord say it's a time now to clean up cause them to pass by. God says I will reveal it. This coming Saturday is a day of fasting it is a Solemn fast. We will pass by the presence of the Lord one more time. Apply the same principle to all the Elders on their face from morning till evening.