

/I will now begin the seventh lecture on the book of Joshua. / And I will examine Joshua chapter 7. / The Israelites have successfully entered the land of Canaan / and conquered Jericho.

/But in chapter 7, the Israelites are defeated by the men of Ai. / Even though they were victorious in Jericho, they were defeated by the people of Ai. The reason is stated here. / What is the reason of their defeat?

/Read verse 1. / But the Israelites acted unfaithfully in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel.

/The Israelites have been defeated by men of Ai due to Achan's sin. / During the conquest of Jericho, God ordered them to devote every possession to Him. / But greed entered in the heart of Achan.

/Due to fleshly greed, he disobeyed the command of God and plundered. / In verse 1, even the names of Achan's ancestors are recorded. / One man's sin /caused dishonor to the entire family.

/It also caused pain to the other Israelites. / Also, Joshua failed because he listened to the words of the spies. / It is recorded in verses 2-5. / In verse 2, Joshua sent spies to the town of Ai.

/He did it because he has to know the opponent to be victorious. / Then the spies reported / that only two or three thousand men would be necessary to conquer the town of Ai because it was small.

/Verse 3. / When they returned to Joshua, they said, "not all the people will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary all the people, for only a few men are there."

/They became arrogant because they have defeated Jericho. / They thought that two or three thousand men are necessary to defeat this small town since they have defeated Jericho. / But the result was terrible.

/Verse 5. / who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

/Not only did they run away from the men of Ai, / but thirty-six of them were also killed. /What could be the reasons for their defeat? / First, they were arrogant. /They thought that they could easily conquer this small town.

/Unlike them, we must seek God's help no matter how small the task seems like. / Next, they were defeated because Joshua did not pray to God. / They need the help of God because the war belongs to Him.

/No matter how small the task seems to be, God helps us only when we pray. / We all need the help of God regardless of the significance of the task. / There are

numerous people who failed because they tried to accomplish the tasks on their own.

/Furthermore, Joshua sent spies. / It was a grave mistake of Joshua to rely on the report of the spies and send three thousand men. / If he had sought the will of God and did according to His command, he would not have miserably failed.

/Fourth reason of defeat was Achan's sin. / Sin causes misery to men / and God refuses to help us if we are in sin. / Many people suffered because of one man's sin.

/Likewise, we must daily triumph in spiritual battle against sin. / Next, the prayer of Joshua is recorded in verses 6-9.

/Verse 6. / Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads.

/He tore his clothes and prayed in a mournful heart. / He prayed to God with a grieving heart. / He acknowledged his mistakes and repented before God.

/Even today, God listens to the prayers of mourners. / Moreover, Joshua prayed for a long time. / He sprinkled dust on his head. / We must do the same and pray for a long time.

/We need patience when praying to God. / It is important how much time we devote to pray to God. / Also, Joshua prayed for the glory of God. / From verse 7, he was concerned about the name of God if His people were destroyed by the hands of the Amorites.

/Verse 9. / The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?"

/"The Canaanites and the other people of this country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. / What then will you do for your own great name?" / Joshua was concerned that the great name of God might be dishonored.

/God listens to our prayers if we pray for His glory. / What is the proper mindset of Christians? / No matter what we do, we must do it for the glory of God.

/Our prayers are answered when we pray for the glory of God / instead of our greed. / What is the purpose of Christians? / It is to glorify God whether we eat or drink, and in everything we do.

/Whatever we do, we must do it for the glory of God, / to benefit others / and our faith. / The prayer of Joshua was accepted by God.

/Verse 10. / The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?"

/It is written, "The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?" / Then He stated the reasons for their defeat. / It is stated in verses 11-12.

/Verse 11. / Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.

/It is written, the Israelites have sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. / And He pointed out that they stole the devoted things. / We are doomed to fail if we commit sin today. / And God punished them because He loved them.

/Thus, if there are sufferings in our life, / we must pray and inquire the cause of these sufferings. / God even punishes in love / when redeemed saints sin before Him.

/And He does not desire His people to perish forever. / He wants us to repent and turn back through these kinds of punishments. / In the text today, He gave a solution to Joshua. / How can a failure turn into success? / It is written in verses 13-15.

/Verse 13. / "Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: That which is devoted is among you, O Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove it.

/The first solution is to / consecrate themselves. /God gave them a chance to repent. / We would fail if we sin before God but if we repent, He restores everything. / Our sufferings would end if we search for our sins and repent.

/Second, they have to remove the devoted things from themselves to defeat their enemies. / This means to remove their entire sin. / God does not work in a place where sin exists.

/They can triumph through God's help only if they remove their sins. / It is a chance for Achan to repent / while God is speaking to Joshua.

/However, it is a great mistake for him not to repent and stay passive. / God sometimes gives opportunities or time to repent/ though He sometimes punishes us. / Since Achan stayed silent, God instructed how to reveal the sinner among the people.

/Verse 14. / In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe that the LORD takes shall come forward clan by clan; the clan that the LORD takes shall come forward family by family; and the family that the LORD takes shall come forward man by man.

/God knew who sinned against Him. / But He commanded Joshua to cast lots to find the sinner. / Why did He not directly address Achan that he has sinned / but ordered Joshua to cast lots?

/He gave Achan an opportunity to repent through this. / It is easy for people to not acknowledge such an opportunity and waste it. / When the sinners are not found, / God finds them by casting lots. / Only when the sinner is found and punished / will He restore us.

/Verse 15. / He who is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the LORD and has done a disgraceful thing in Israel!' "

/God ordered them to destroy the sinner by fire. / It was a punishment because the sinner violated the covenant of God / and has done a disgraceful thing to God. / Although God is loving, He is just as well.

/In all times, God justly judges against sin. / But He sometimes orders to cast lots to grant a chance to repent. / There is no way to escape from God's judgment if this kind of opportunity is neglected. /Who was selected after they have casted the lot?

/In verses 16-21, / Achan was selected as a sinner. / Even though he stayed silent, / God found him through casting lots. / So no sin can be hidden before God. / To hide sin is to deceive oneself and God.

/In verses 16-18, / Joshua got up early in the morning and started to search the sinner. /As he searched, a sinner was selected from the tribe of Judah, / and from the Zerahites, / and Achan was selected. / Actually, he should not have stayed silent at that moment.

/When the tribe of Judah was selected, he should have confessed his sins before God. / No man's sin can be hidden before God. / In verse 18, / it is stated that Achan the son of Carmi was selected.

/Though he was not aware that he would be selected, / God exposed his sin. / Only then he confessed his sins before God and the people.

/Verse 19. / Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and give him the praise. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me."

/Joshua urged Achan to confess his sin. / He urged him to glorify the name of God, / confess his sins / and expose what he has done. / We must not hide our sins before God. / There is no person without mistake or fault.

/And if we confess our sins, God surely forgives us. / There is nothing that can be hidden today. / But people foolishly try to hide their sins. / Nothing can be hidden before God. / Then what caused Achan to sin?

/In verse 20, / Achan is confessing that he has sinned against God. / Then what were the things that he has stolen?

/Verse 21. / When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and

took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

/Achan, out of greed, plundered a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels. / Why did he commit this sin? / He had a greedy and avaricious heart.

/After greed has conceived, it gives birth to sin; /and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. / Satan makes us fall through our fleshly desires. / Therefore, we must let go of our worldly desires.

/We must live a satisfied life like the Apostle Paul. / We are prone to corruption if we love money. / So many people today become corrupt and sinful because of their worldly desires. / We must always depend on God and be satisfied in every environment.

/We must serve God in poverty / and prosperity. / Thus, a person who serves God regardless of environment has the most commendable faith. / One of the commands in the Ten Commandments is not to covet other's possessions.

/God ordered us not to steal. / We must not envy other's possession. / We must acknowledge that He is the sovereign master of all creation / and be satisfied with what God has given to us.

/All men after Adam have failed because of greed. / In order to let go of our greed, / we must live a generous life. / When we serve like Jesus and/ not covet other's possessions, greed in our heart gradually disappears from our heart.

/Moreover, a person does not prosper out of greed. / God said that greed is an idolatry. / Since people commit sin out of greed, we must surrender and be satisfied with our life. / And one important fact we can learn from this is that every sin will eventually be revealed.

/Sin can never be hidden from God. /Even though people foolishly try to hide it, /God knows everything. / He is omnipotent and omniscience.

/Furthermore, men do not prosper if they are greedy. / We can prosper when God pours His grace and blessing to us. / In verses 22-26, God turned from His wrath when Achan was executed.

/Verse 22. / So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath.

/When messengers have been sent and when they ran to the tent, they found the devoted things in the tent. /God reveals everything / that men have stolen and hidden / because God is omniscience. / We must not try to hide sin but repent before God about it.

/Everything will be clearly revealed before God. / He knows our heart and mind. / That is why it is written in Proverbs 28:13, / "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, / but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy."

/We will receive mercy from God if we search for our sins and confess them before Him. / Disobeying the Word of God is sin, / lacking obedience is sin, / and going against our conscience is sin.

/Also, in the sight of God, it is sin to not act in faith. / Righteous person does not stand in the path of a sinner. / We can receive blessings of God when we daily confess our sin and repent.

/In verse 23, all the plundered things of Achan were returned to the people of Israel. / God knew what was stolen. / But why did God order to cast a lot and be gradually discovered?

/He gave Achan time to repent. / No matter how evil people are, / God accepts and forgives those who ask for forgiveness.

/We must first understand that we are sinners / and repent daily before God. / "Oh, I have done wrong before God and men." / Only those who have discovered such a sin can repent.

/After they have discovered their sins, they must have a mournful heart regarding their sins. / "Why have I gone against the Word of God and committed sin!" / We need a mindset of Joshua who tear off his clothes in a mournful heart.

/And truly repented people completely cut off their sins. / They live a new life after they have cut off their sins. / People who repented return to God. / They obey the Word of God and loyally serve Him. / They are humble before God.

/In Luke 15, / the parable of the prodigal son is recorded. / The prodigal son took his inheritance and left his father / because he no longer wanted to be under his father. / But he wasted everything in a short time. / Then the famine came to the land.

/There was no one to give him food. / He became miserable. / Then he realized one thing. / "I am going to starve to death!" / "There are plenty of food in my father's house."

/So he set his heart and returned to the father. / "Let's return to my father!" / He confessed, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. / I am no longer worthy to be called your son;"

/When he returned to God after he has cut off his sins, / God accepted him / by holding a feast / with a fat calf / and He gave him good sandals / and clothes. / Truly a repented man leaves his life behind / and returns to God.

/Although the prodigal son sinned, God accepted him and did not abandon him. / Our life can be restored and we would receive blessings from God if we repent of our sins. / It is because sin destroys the relationship between God and humanity.

/When we repent of our sins, our relationships with God / and others are restored. / Then what happened to the family of Achan due to his sin?

/Verse 24. / Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold wedge, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor.

/Due to Achan's sin, his family suffered / and received punishments from God. / He then executed Achan in front of all people. / Why was it done publicly?

/It is to teach us that God is strict when it comes to sin. / That is why we do not own anything which we have unlawfully earned. / Although the things we have plundered / and taken through lies / seem to belong to us temporarily, / they cannot be ours because of the punishment of God.

/That is why it is written in Proverbs 16:8, / "better a little with righteousness / than much gain with injustice." / But if greed enters into our heart, / we desire to take it by all means.

/All things that is taken by injustice methods will eventually be lost. / If the purpose is good, the method must also be good. / People today desire to become rich immediately.

/But God never gave us that way to earn money. / He made us to sweat and labor to live prosperously. / Only things that are taken justly can become our possessions.

/We must not only defend our faith / but obey the Word of God and take possessions. / Believers were saved by faith in Jesus Christ. / Our needs are supplied by God when we obey God's Word.

/Achan in this story thought that he could prosper by stealing / instead of obeying God's Word. / But for the saved people, / all necessary things are supplied by God if they obey the Word of God.

/In Luke chapter 5, / Peter went on fishing all night but he was unable to catch any fish. / However, when he obeyed the words of Jesus and cast the net, he caught numerous fishes. / What does this teach us?

/It teaches us that people of God do not live by their strength / but by the grace and blessing given to them when they obey God's Word. / Even though Peter failed through his strength, / because he obeyed, Jesus let him catch numerous fishes.

/In such a way, the family of Achan faced the judgment of God. / In verse 25, / they have brought trouble as well.

/Verse 25. / Joshua said, "Why have you brought this trouble on us? The Lord will bring trouble on you today." Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them.

/Through the sin of Achan, his family not only received the judgment of God / but also was troubled as well. / Why are we afflicted with sufferings and fear? / It is because of our sins.

/In Proverbs 28:1, it is written, / “The wicked man flees though no one pursues, / but the righteous are as bold as a lion.” / And if we commit sin, our heart is in trouble and without peace. / We would receive all kinds of afflictions.

/Do we have peace and joy in our heart? / It is further written that the family of Achan was stoned to death and burned because of his sin. /His family was destroyed due to sin.

/Verse 26. / Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor ever since.

/His family received the judgment of God and people heaped a large pile of rocks. / Achan, out of greed, disobeyed the command of God and sinned. / His family failed and was destroyed.

/God, regardless of the era, punishes sin. / That is why the place where Achan was buried is called “Valley of Achor”

/In verse 26, / it is written that the fierce anger of God was turned / when the Israelite’s sin has been settled. / As it is evident in the “Valley of Achor”, the result of sin is death, / and there are suffering and affliction. / But if we repent of our sins to God, He would forgive us and we will be saved.

/This is the end of the seventh lecture on the book of Joshua. / Thank you.