

2017: Week 12

Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 2017

*"The Lethality of Sin"*

### Numbers 32:23

<sup>23</sup> But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure **your sin will find you out**" (NASB)<sup>1</sup>.

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This past Sunday Johnnie preached from **Joshua 7**, reminding us of the deadliness of sin by observing how seriously God treated the sin of Israel. As Christians we can sometimes forget how seriously God takes sin. In light of eternity we appreciate how Jesus died for our sins on the cross, but sometimes we forget how serious our sin is in light of our present. God is hurt every time any person sins, but He is especially grieved when His children do so. The Bible teaches that all men have a conscience (**Romans 2**) and therefore know the difference between right and wrong. The believer not only has a conscience but also possesses the indwelling Holy Spirit and has access to God's instructions in Scripture. When a believer sins, he not only violates his conscience, but he also chooses to live in opposition the Spirit and the Scriptures. Of all people who should "know better," it is the believer. May this passage remind us all of the devastating consequences of sin. May it also lead us towards a more consistent fear of God and diligence to obey His commands.

### 1. "THE TEXT"

#### READ Joshua 7

- **Joshua 7:1** says "the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully in regard to the things under the ban." What is that verse referencing? (Hint: see **Joshua 6:17-18**)
- What was Israel's initial battle plan regarding the city of Ai? How did that go for them?
- What was the reason God gave to Joshua regarding Israel's defeat against Ai?
- When Achan was revealed as the offender and was confronted by Joshua, how did he respond?
- What sins was Achan guilty of committing?
- What were the overall consequences of Achan's sin?

### 2. "YOU"

- Who reaped the consequences of Achan's sin? What does this tell you about the "ripple effects" of a person's sins?
- Achan's initial sin of "coveting" (**7:21**) led him to "taking" the forbidden items. Coveting led to stealing which led to concealment and further deception (lying), and all of that eventually led to the death of many people. Sin usually has a way of "snow-balling," further compounding and leading to even more sins and further destruction.

**What are good ways to prevent your sin from "snow-balling"?**

- What has this passage taught you in regards to the effects of one person's sin? What has this passage taught you in regards to God's feelings toward one person's sin?
- Why do you think the Israelites set up a memorial (**7:26**) to remember the sins of Achan? How can the Bible itself act as a similar memorial for you?

### 3. "REMEMBER"

- **Galatians 6:7** "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."

**FAMILY PRAYER:** Dear Father God, Thank You for loving me so much in spite of my sin. Thank You for sending Jesus to die because of my sin. Help me to depend upon the help of Your Spirit to resist sin. I want to follow You better! Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> All Scripture notations taken from the **New American Standard Bible (NASB)** unless otherwise noted.