



# Sermon Notes – February 2, 2020

[#9] *The Clear & Present Danger of High-Handed Sin*  
Joshua 7:1–26

## Children's Sermon: The Narrow Gate

How many people are going to die? Then what happens?

### Matthew 7:14

For *the gate is narrow* and *the way is hard* that leads to life, and those who find it are few. (Tree – Fruit)

- There are **two basic ways to live**: trusting our selves and trusting God.
- We trust ourselves in one of two ways:
  1. **Irreligious**: Reject God to go our own way.
  2. **Religious**: Try to be good enough for God.

To **Trust God** is to trust & obey the one he sent to save us... (Mt. 7:21–23, Lord, Lord)

### I. Are We Living a Life Worthy of the Gospel?

Notes:

#### Philippians 1:27–28

<sup>27</sup> Only *let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ*, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind *striving side by side for the faith of the gospel*,<sup>28</sup> and *not frightened in anything* by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

### II. The Danger of Sinning with a High Hand

#### Numbers 15:29–31

<sup>29</sup> You shall have one law for him who does anything unintentionally, for him who is native among the people of Israel and for the stranger who sojourns among them. <sup>30</sup> But the person who does anything with a **high hand**, whether he is native or a sojourner, *reviles the LORD*, and that person shall be cut off from among his people. <sup>31</sup> Because he has *despised the word of the LORD* and has *broken his commandment*, that person shall be utterly cut off; his iniquity shall be on him.”

## Joshua 7

### I. The Setting: This 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation of Israelites...

- A. Yahweh Miraculously Preserved in the Wilderness
- B. Utterly Defeated Sihon & Og
- C. Miraculously Crossed the Jordan River

- D. Miraculously Defeated Jericho
- E. Received Clear Instructions & Warnings

## Joshua 6:18–19

<sup>18</sup> But you, keep yourselves from the things *devoted to destruction*, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the *devoted things* and make the camp of Israel a *thing for destruction* and bring **trouble** upon it. <sup>19</sup> But **all silver and gold**, and every vessel of *bronze* and *iron*, are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD.”

## II. Rebellion & Wrath

### A. The High-Handed Rebellion of Achan/Israel

<sup>1</sup> But the people of Israel *broke faith* in regard to the *devoted things*, for **Achan** the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things.

### B. The Burning Anger of Yahweh

And *the anger of the Lord* **burned** against the people of Israel. ...

<sup>26</sup> ...Then the LORD turned from his *burning anger*.

## III. Fighting Ai Without Yahweh (2-5; 36 Dead)

## IV. Joshua's Lament (Complaint with Faith) (6-9)

<sup>6</sup> Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until the evening, he and the elders of Israel. And they put dust on their heads. <sup>7</sup> And Joshua said, “Alas, O Lord GOD, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan!” <sup>8</sup> O Lord, what can I say, when Israel has turned their backs before their enemies! <sup>9</sup> For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will you do for your great name?”

## V. Yahweh's Burning Anger & Mercy Revealed (10-15)

### A. Israel Has become Herem (10-12a)

<sup>11</sup> *Israel has sinned*; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings. <sup>12</sup> *Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies*. They turn their backs before their enemies, because *they have become devoted for destruction*.

B. A Path to Purification for Israel (Israel must Destroy the *Herem* in their Midst)

I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you. <sup>13</sup> Get up! *Consecrate the people and say*, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the LORD, God of Israel, “There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you.” <sup>14</sup> In the morning therefore you shall be brought near by your tribes. And the tribe that the LORD *takes by lot* (capture, seize, take) shall come near by clans. And the clan that the LORD *takes* shall come near by households. And the household that the LORD *takes* shall come near man by man. <sup>15</sup> And he who is *taken* with the devoted things shall be *burned with fire*, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has done an outrageous thing (disgraceful folly)<sup>1</sup> in Israel.”

C. Joshua’s Obedience (16-27)

1. The Capture of Achan (16-21) (by lot? by Urim and Thummim?)

<sup>16</sup> So Joshua rose early in the morning...

<sup>19</sup> Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise to him. And *tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.*” <sup>20</sup> And Achan answered Joshua, “Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did: <sup>21</sup> when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then *I coveted them and took them*. And see, they are hidden...”

2. Yahweh Turns from His Burning Anger (22-27)

<sup>23</sup> ...And *they laid them down before the LORD*. <sup>24</sup> And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. <sup>25</sup> And Joshua said, “Why did you bring trouble on us? *The LORD brings trouble on you today.*” And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones. <sup>26</sup> And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his burning anger.

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid. (p. 615). “...especially of sins of unchastity” (Cf. Gen. 34:7 Dinah & Hamor)

## Main Point

Who or what did Achan love?  
Who did Joshua love?



## Is Our Marriage Bond with Jesus First in Our Hearts?



**We have a better Joshua!**

### A. Jesus Died for Our Sins to Lead Us Out of Sin

#### Hebrews 10:19–27

<sup>26</sup> For *if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth*, *there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins*, <sup>27</sup> *but a fearful expectation of judgment*, and *a fury of fire* that will consume the adversaries.

### B. Jesus Leads Us to Corporate Holiness

(1 Cori. 5:6–8, 11 - Sexual Immorality; Gal. 5:4–10 - Law-Keeping instead of Faith)

### C. Jesus Leads Us to Keep Our First Love

#### Revelation 2:4–5 (Ephesus)

<sup>4</sup> But I have this against you, that *you have abandoned the love you had at first*. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

### D. Continue to Give Yourself to These 3 Things:

1. Seek God with God (Word & Prayer)
2. Please God with God (Word & Prayer)
3. Love People with God (Word & Prayer)

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<sup>i</sup> Brown, F., Driver, S. R., & Briggs, C. A. (1977). *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (p. 539). Oxford: Clarendon Press.