

EQUIP4:12

RESOURCES FOR SERVANTS

Called To Live a Life of Repentance

Joshua 7

Introduction:

While we were on vacation, we visited an amusement park with a 3-D movie. The technology has the ability to change reality into an illusion. When you put on the glasses you were sucked into a world that was not really what it seemed.

Sin has the power to do the same thing in our lives. Sin's enticement has the power to mislead us into seeing sin as something it really isn't. The end result of sin is devastating.

Israel goes into a battle that should have been an easy victory for them but they lose the battle and 36 men of Israel unnecessarily lose their lives.

Achan is a clear warning about the destiny that awaits those who choose not to repent of sin and turn their back on God.

TT - Four aspects we need to know about sin.

Ill - when you are lactose intolerant but everyone is eating ice cream. You could sit away w/ it but you know you'll be feeling it later.

1. The Committing of Sin

[Joshua 7:1](#) (KJV 1900)

¹ But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against the children of Israel.

...committed a trespass... - means to act unfaithfully.

For us to say, "God, do not overreact," would be akin to telling a woman who caught her husband's infidelity, "It's not a big deal."¹

All the devil needed was one thing to destroy Achan
Ephesians 4:27 - neither give place to the devil

Adrian Rogers said,

If you have a 500 acre field the devil doesn't need it all, he is content with just a small spot in the middle.

What is the one thing you are struggling with as a Christian?

The progression of the committed sin

[Joshua 7:21](#) (KJV 1900)

²¹ When **I saw** among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then **I coveted them**, and **took them**; and, behold, they *are hid* in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

I saw, I coveted, I took, I hid

[James 1:15](#) (KJV 1900)

¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Ill of walking dogs

ILL- When my wife and I walk our dogs, dozens of dogs invariably bark at us. Sometimes these dogs get out. Most of the time, they harmlessly investigate us, but it sometimes worries us. So, my wife, cleverly, recommended we feed them treats. This worked marvelously well; the same dogs who, I assume, thirsted for my blood, wagged their tails at the sight of us. One dog, in particular, regularly got out. Once he came up and played with our dogs as we threw tennis balls. This was cute. Next time, he followed us down the street when we went home. The last time he followed us, he followed us all the way home and waited at our door to come inside. This is what sin does. We feed it a little treat, throwing out a little reward for it here and there, thinking it will not cause harm. Then it comes out and sniffs us, familiarizing itself with us, and plays with us. We think it harmless and cute. Then it follows us home and wants to come inside; we are its people. When you feed sin a little, it does not stop there.²

2. The Covering of Sin

Achan is terrified to confess his sin so he covers it up.

[Joshua 7:21](#) (KJV 1900)

²¹ When **I saw** among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then **I coveted them**, and **took them**; and, behold, they *are* **hid** in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

Can you imagine being Achan in this situation?

We spend so much of our life afraid of people finding out. So we either cover it up or make seem not to be as bad as it is.

We try to excuse our sin

Like him, we either minimize sin or aggrandize ourselves. We either make sin into something less than it is—dishonesty becomes a “white lie,” pride becomes “what we deserve,” sin becomes “something everyone does.” Or, we make ourselves out to be better than we are—“I’m not really that bad,” “You would have done the same thing,” “This is reasonable.”³

Adam and Eve tried to cover their sin

David tried to cover his sin

3. The Consequences of Sin

Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you far more than you want to pay.

Grace will take you further than you can imagine going

1 Corinthians 2:9 (KJV 1900)

⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Keep you longer than you could imagine

Ephesians 1:13 (KJV 1900)

¹³ In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Cost a price far greater than you could ever pay

1 Peter 1:18–19 (KJV 1900)

¹⁸ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

The anger of the LORD was kindled - Joshua 7:1

[John 3:36](#) (KJV 1900)

³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

lost the battle at Ai

Joshua 7:5

Affects others in our lives

The kid whose parents divorce

The wife who wonders if she can trust her husband who was unfaithful

The college student who discovers his roommate has stolen from him

One Sin leads to more sin

Snowball Effect -

Sin begets sin. David's son, Amnon, raped his half-sister Tamar, David's daughter.

In turn, Tamar's brother Absalom killed Amnon and fled the country.

Eventually Absalom came back and usurps the throne, setting the nation ablaze in civil war.

To consolidate his power, Absalom rapes his father's concubines in public.

Yet, in [Psalm 51](#), written afterward, David says, “Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight...” Wait. David’s sin defiled Bathsheba, killed Uriah, deceived Nathan, led to his own child’s death, begat Amnon’s lust, shamed Tamar, enraged Absalom, split the nation, and exposed his wives. David’s sin was catastrophic and traumatic;⁴

Leads to death

[Romans 6:23](#) (KJV 1900)

²³ For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Numbers 32:23](#) (KJV 1900)

²³ But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out.

The devil wants you to forfeit what God has for you - look at chapter 8

[Joshua 8:2](#) (KJV 1900)

² And thou shalt do to Ai and her king as thou didst unto Jericho and her king: only the spoil thereof, and the cattle thereof, shall ye take for a prey unto yourselves: lay thee an ambush for the city behind it.

[Joshua 8:27](#) (KJV 1900)

²⁷ Only the cattle and the spoil of that city Israel took for a prey unto themselves, according unto the word of the Lord which he commanded Joshua.

4. The Confession of Sin

[Joshua 7:20](#) (KJV 1900)

²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed **I have sinned** against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:

**three hardest words for man to say,
I have sinned.**

Agreeing with God concerning sin -

God expects genuine repentance

[2 Corinthians 7:9–11](#) (KJV 1900)

⁹ Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. ¹⁰ For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. ¹¹ For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea, *what* revenge! In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Misconception that people have is repentance is something someone does at salvation and it is not necessary thereafter. Repentance is a part of discipleship.

We can't hide our sin in the dark. It is when the sin is brought to light that it can be met with grace.

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 (KJV 1900)

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is*
the whole *duty* of man. ¹⁴ For God shall bring every
work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether
it be good, or whether *it be* evil.

Closing:

As a christian we are called to live a life of continual
repentance

If you've never repented and trusted Christ as Savior
do that today.

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1. LaMaster, Matthew. Of Guilt And Grace: Ten Lessons from Achan about Sin and Salvation (p. 29). Kharis Publishing (imprint of Kharis Media LLC). Kindle Edition.

² LaMaster, Matthew. Of Guilt And Grace: Ten Lessons from Achan about Sin and Salvation (p. 22). Kharis Publishing (imprint of Kharis Media LLC). Kindle Edition.

³ - [LaMaster, Matthew. Of Guilt And Grace: Ten Lessons from Achan about Sin and Salvation (p. 18). Kharis Publishing (imprint of Kharis Media LLC). Kindle Edition.]

⁴ LaMaster, Matthew. Of Guilt And Grace: Ten Lessons from Achan about Sin and Salvation (p. 32-33). Kharis Publishing (imprint of Kharis Media LLC). Kindle Edition.