

Biggest Losers in the Bible Achan

He looted from spoils belonging only to the Lord. 7:1

- ▶ The context here is a holy war which is to fulfill God's promise to Abraham at the expense of the evil Canaanites, Gen. 12:2, Lv. 18:24ff., Dt. 9:4-6.
- ▶ Warnings had been that Jericho was "under the ban" (*herem: dedicated to God for destruction/treasury use*), which means no looting, 6:17-19,24.

He lost a battle for his nation. 7:2-15

- ▶ Overconfidence leads Joshua to send a limited number of troops to Ai, but God explains the reason they lose the battle (36 die) is because of a looter.
- ▶ Because Israel is now cursed (12) the perpetrator and all he has must likewise be dedicated to destruction to free Israel from being under the ban, 15.

He lost his own life and those of his family. 7:16-26

- ▶ Lots are cast (16:10, Acts 1:26/Num. 27:21) to identify Achan.
- ▶ Achan comes clean only when fingered. His confession recalls Gen. 3:6.
- ▶ Consider the items stolen: What rationalization might Achan have bought into? Why take silver, gold, and a beautiful mantle from Shinar (Babylon)?
- ▶ Consider the cost of Achan's sin: 36 Israelites (families' pain), himself, and his entire family their lives.

What mistakes did Achan make that we today can easily make too?

What if Achan had not looted but had turned the items in for the Lord's treasury? Consider how he and Rahab's family traded places.

