

Achan, Ai, and a Terrible Tragedy **Joshua 7**

Defeat at Ai—How easy it is to fail after a great victory, 1-5

- ❖ Theft is the issue (7:1, 6:17-19), not overconfidence (although 8:1).
- ❖ Look whose heart is “melted” now (vs. 5); recall 2:9,5:1.

Demoralized Joshua—How easy it is to blame God, 6-9

- ❖ Joshua’s bewilderment turns a bit bitter--sounds like Num. 14:3.
- ❖ Joshua’s odd, questioning attitude is something we often do too!

Directions given—How easy it is to get right with God, 10-15

- ❖ God isn’t pleased with being blamed: “Rise up!” (2x) It’s Israel’s fault (as in 7:1)—concept of corporate solidarity (I Cor. 5:6,7).
- ❖ Instructions for catching the culprit will be a drama-filled process using lots (perhaps Urim and Thummim, Num.27:21). Why?

Determining guilt—How easy it is for God to catch you, 16-23

- ❖ God has no problem fingering Achan, whose sin recalls Gen. 3:6.
- ❖ What would we like to have heard Achan say to Joshua?

Death of Achan—How easy it is to hurt those you care for, 24-26

- ❖ This punishment sounds so severe. Why must all die?
- ❖ Yet another stone monument (4:9) “to this day”).



Note ironic tragedy—had Achan only been patient! See later in 8:2,27.

Clearly all the ink spilled on Rahab and Achan was to c / c their actions and the resulting consequences for them and their families. Can you see the vast difference their choices made for them and their family?

How are your decisions affecting your family?