

# ALL THE PEOPLE

## JOSHUA 7 & 8

Text: Joshua 7:3, 8:1

Introduction:

(Joshua 7:3) "And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few."

(Joshua 8:1) "And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:"

Notice

### **1. CURSE (7:1)**

(Joshua 6:18-19) "And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. {19} But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron,

are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

(Joshua 7:1) "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."

#### A. God expects obedience

(1 Samuel 15:22) "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

#### B. God cannot overlook sin

(Romans 1:18) "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"

#### C. Achan disobeyed, and because of disobedience a curse resulted.

1. Often we preach concerning the world and its affect on the church and society, but too often the enemy is not without but rather the enemy is within.

2. People inside of the walls of the church need to get right before God will bless the effort outside the walls.

D. Israel was not aware of the curse.

1. Too often spiritual things are entered into unaware of a cures, resulting in discouragement & defeat.

## **2. COUNSEL (7:3)**

(Joshua 7:3) "And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few."

A. Often we heed the counsel of those who are not qualified to be offering it.

1. Peers
2. Co-workers
3. Difference in doctrine

### **3. CONFIDENCE (7:3)**

A. Success often has a negative result.

1. Jericho had been defeated without the use of one weapon.
2. We must realize apart from God we can know no success.

Illustration: Getting over confident.

(5 shutouts during senior year)

### **4. CALAMITY (7:5)**

(Joshua 7:5) "And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water."

A. Sin unforgiven will certainly result in defeat.

B. Pride in one's ability will certainly result in destruction.

C. The results of this calamity

1. People's hearts became soft

2. Joshua got on his face before the Lord

a. Wasn't sincere, but felt sorry for himself and Israel

b. God said get up Joshua and quit acting like a baby

3. Sin was dealt with.

a. The intensity of God's hatred for sin is seen

i. Stoned Achan

ii. Burned him and his family to death.

b. We need to be reminded that often those around us must pay for the sins that we commit.

(Numbers 14:18) "The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation."

## 5. COMMAND (8:1)

(Joshua 8:1) "And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:"

A. We must all go to war.

1. There is no time to set or stand idly by.

a. Idleness often leads to dissatisfaction and quarrelsomeness.

b. When was the time when David fell in regards to Bathsheba? A time of idleness.

c. When was it that Samson was captured? It was a time of idleness

d. Many churches are suffering from unsound teaching, but many more are suffering from idleness.

e. We have many today who are not inconsistent in moral character, but are cumberers of the ground.

f. It ought to bring sorrow to our hearts concerning members of churches including this one who are branches not bearing fruit of whom the Master has said they shall be cut down with the ax and taken away

(Luke 13:6-9) "He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. {7} Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? {8} And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: {9} And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."

(John 15:1-2) "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. {2} Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." Close:

God help us all to deal with sin in our lives, and then all go forth to battle.