

How To Heal An Achan Heart
Joshua 7:1-26

Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN

1. God wants His people to never accept defeat.
 - a. The theme of this chapter is: “God will not grant victory at the expense of purity.”
 - b. When we follow God we are going to have to deal with trials and we are going to have some struggles. But we’re not supposed to know defeat.
2. Why was Israel experiencing defeat in a land where God said there was supposed to be one victory after another? Sometimes we are not as strong as we appear to be.
3. This chapter begins with the word, “But.” “But the Israelites acted unfaithfully...”
 - a. Israel was not defeated because God’s power was no longer sure. Israel was defeated because the camp was no longer pure.

1. We Can Be Vulnerable In Moments Of Success. Joshua 7: 1-6
 1. The next city on Israel’s conquering itinerary is a city by the name of Ai.
 2. How we can be victorious over some of the strongest and most powerful temptations, but then allow the weakest and smallest temptations to become our downfall.

2. The Sin Of One Will Effect The Whole Community. Joshua 7: 12-18
 1. After the defeat, Joshua asked God why they were defeated.
 2. God was set to reveal to the nation the one who had sinned. **(16-23)**
 3. Notice the sequence of events that led to Achan’s sin. **(v. 21)**
 4. A more pervasive truth about Achan’s sin is that disobedience to God affects the whole community of believers.

3. God’s Judgment Cannot Be Taken Lightly. Joshua 7: 24-26
 1. Achan’s story is one of the saddest in the Bible.
 2. Are you tolerating sin in your life?

4. God Can Turn Disaster Into Victory. Joshua 7: 26
 1. The place where Achan was stoned was called the Valley of Achor as a reminder of the disaster that came to Israel because of his sin.
 2. This story shows us how through humble repentance and dependence upon the Lord the defeat was turned into victory. **(Joshua 8:1)**