

Hidden Sins

Scripture Reading: Joshua 6:17-19, 7:1-26

At school, when you receive the question paper during exams, what will you do if you don't know the answer of some of the questions? Do you know the fatal result of a sin that was considered to be small?

Everything in Jericho had to be burnt. Nothing was to be left undestroyed. All the golden, silver and iron vessels were supposed to be taken to the temple of God. None should take any portion of these things. If someone disobeys these commandments, they were to be severely punished according to the commandment of God.

In spite of these instructions, Achan tried to take a few of these things. No one knew about it. After the 'Jericho' project, the Israelites were supposed to capture the land of Ai. The spies reported that just a group of 2000 soldiers were sufficient to capture that land. Joshua sent a group of 3000 warriors. The people of Ai killed 36 Israeli warriors and thus the Israelites returned defeated. The reason for the defeat was the sin of Achan. God said that Achan and all that belonged to him should be destroyed with fire. Joshua did likewise.

Since Achan worked against the commandment of God:

1) Many people lost their lives. 2) These many days, all the nations were afraid of the Israelites; but now the Israelites were afraid of their enemies. 3) God said that He would leave them. 4) Achan and his family were destroyed.

All this happened just because one man disobeyed God and hid some things by stealing it. Others might not notice the sins you do, but you cannot hide things from God. He even knows your thoughts.

How do you behave when no one is watching over you? Are there any hidden sins in your life?

Questions:

- 1) What did God command concerning the things of Jericho?
- 2) Why was Achan punished?
- 3) Can you hide anything from God? Why?