

Scripture Reading: Joshua 7:1-15

Be Not Like Achan...!

When God gave the city of Jericho into the hands of the Israelites, He had clearly commanded that nothing from the city should be taken because all of it was defiled and accursed. In spite of the warning, a man by the name Achan took a Babylonian garment and some gold and silver pieces and hid it in his tent. Joshua wasn't aware of this sin. He sent just 3000 soldiers into the city of Ai to capture it. The city was next to the city of Jericho. But the Israelites returned being defeated by that small group. Then Joshua went into the presence of God and wept. God said to Joshua, "Israel has sinned by not keeping my commandments. They have taken of the accursed thing, stole it and have put it among their own things. You've turned your backs to your enemies and were defeated because I am not in your midst. I will not be with you until you have destroyed the accursed from among you."

Joshua immediately gathered up all the Israelites and found Achan in their midst. Achan was stoned to death before the people.

Question:

Why did all the Israelites face defeat because of the sin of this one man Achan?

Answer:

There is no direct connection between the defeat of the Israelites and the sin of Achan. Even before and after the sin of Achan, the strength of the Israelites did not differ. But God departed from the Israelites because of the defilement caused by the accursed thing taken by Achan. God not being in their midst is what made the difference. If God would've stayed in the camp of the Israelites along with the accursed thing in their midst, his righteous anger would've consumed and destroyed all the Israelites. He is not a God who punishes all because of the sin of a single person. Whenever we face a sudden loss or unexpected problems in our family or church, when we take it to God's presence in prayer, He will enable us to see the hidden sin that has moved his presence away. We too can set things right immediately and receive our victory.

Samuel said, "Why do you consult me, now that the LORD has departed from you and become your enemy?" 1 Samuel 28:16

Prayer

Loving heavenly father, we will never desire for anything that is unholy. We will gladly accept what You have given us. Amen