

Joshua 7 - Sin in the Camp

"They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you."

Anger of the LORD Burned (7:1)

"And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel." - Joshua 7:1

- God gave explicit instruction about not taking the plunder of Jericho. Instead they were to devote those things to destruction (Joshua 6:18-19).
- To "break faith" is to rely on something else apart from God and his promises (ie. our own understanding). This breaking of faith is a serious offense against God.

Evidence of the LORD's Wrath (7:2-5)

"And the hearts of the people melted and became as water." - Joshua 7:5

- The most important thing we need is God's abiding presence with us.
- Being in opposition to God is heart-melting.
- One man's sin can affect the entire congregation.

The Plea of a Perplexed Leader (7:6-9)

"Joshua fell to the earth on his face...what will you do for your great name?" - Joshua 7:6,9

- When we don't understand and are prone to despair, we are to bring your complaints to Him.
- Go to the LORD with a humble heart, a searching heart, and a concern for His name.

The LORD's Promised Path to Restoration (7:10-15)

"I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you." - Joshua 7:12

- The LORD is gracious to answer Joshua.
- A Distressing Diagnosis - Israel has done an outrageous thing in transgressing the covenant.
- A promised path to restoration - Destroy the devoted things and God will be with them.

Deceitfulness of Sin (7:16-21)

"I saw...then I coveted them and took them. And see they are hidden in the earth." - Joshua 7:21

- Pattern of sin: See→Covet→Take→Hide (Genesis 3:6, 2 Sam 11)
- Sin is deceitful. Sin is destructive. Sin must be destroyed.
- Sin promises but never delivers. God delivers on what he has promised.

Radical Removal (7:22-25)

"They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones." - Joshua 7:25

- Jesus instructs us to deal with sin swiftly and severely (Matt 5:29)
- "Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you." - John Owen
- "For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." - Heb 12:11

Anger of the LORD Turned (7:26)

"Then the LORD turned from His burning anger." - Joshua 7:26

- Two Monuments: 1) God's Saving Help, 2) God's Destroying Wrath (taken from Dale Ralph Davis)
- "I will...make the Valley of Achor a door of hope." - Hosea 2:15
- "The LORD has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death." - Psalm 118:18

All I Have Is Christ

VERSE 1

I once was lost in darkest night
Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that You would own
A rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first
I would refuse You still

VERSE 2

But as I ran my hell-bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me
Now all I know is grace

CHORUS

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life

VERSE 3

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands
Could never come from me
O Father, use my ransomed life
In any way You choose
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You