

Facts and Truth we Need to Face

“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. 2 And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai. 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. 4 So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai. 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. 6 And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. 7 And Joshua said, Alas, O LORD God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! 8 O LORD, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! 9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name? 10 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? 11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. 12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you. 13 Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you. 14 In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which the LORD taketh shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which the LORD shall take shall come by households; and the household which the LORD shall take shall come man by man. 15 And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel. 16 So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken: 17 And he brought the family of Judah; and he took the family of the Zarahites: and he brought the family of the Zarahites man by man; and Zabdi was taken: 18 And he brought his household man by man; and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. 19 And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me. 20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: 21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it. 22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it. 23 And they took them

out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD. 24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. 26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.” (Joshua 7:1-26 KJV)

Great is the love of God for each and every one of us. God is compassionate, merciful and forgiven. He accepts us when we repent and come back to Him through faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life. But our God is a God of Justice and He is bound with His Word. In the book of Joshua God gave the Israelites a great victory by giving them the city of Jericho without any shedding of blood. They marched around the city and shouted and the walls collapsed and they devoted the city to the Lord as He commanding them, *“18 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 6:18-19 KJV) Therefore this is what they did when they took the city: *“24 And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.”* (Joshua 6:24 KJV) But one of them, Achan, did not obey the instruction carefully and sinned against the Lord by taking one of the devoted things and kept it in his tent. God seemed silent at the beginning, but later on failure and defeat came upon the people when they try to get the second city. Therefore we learn lessons from ***Joshua 7*** and as the following:

1. We have more battle to fight so we need to be faithful toward God today so He will be with us tomorrow: We need to think when God would give us victory and when He answers our prayer and delivers us and defeats our enemies we ought to be faithful and obedient toward Him. ***If you behave unfaithfully toward God today, then in the future He will leave you alone and He will not fight your battles; you will face failures and defeat in the future due to your unfaithfulness with God today.***

2. Even small problem we cannot solve if God is not with us: The Israelites got defeated in the next battle; even the city was small and less power needed to conquer it. That had happened because God was not with them. ***So don't say it is a small problem and I can do it. No, you cannot do it without God, therefore repent and behave so God shall go with you in your next battle.***

3. When there is no answer prayer then there is hidden sin: ***Joshua 7*** it teaches us an important lesson that when there is no answer prayer, no progress and stagnation then there is hidden sin among the people.

4. For each battle there is a strategy and a plan God would give you if you are obedient to Him: God left the Israelites as they went to get the next city Ai. God allowed them to be defeated by their enemies because they disobeyed the Lord. ***For each and every problem there***

is a solution and a certain approach, and God would teach us how to handle it. But if you are not faithful to God He will leave you in a confusion that even you will not know how to start. That is why we find many Christians in defeat because of their disobedient and their unfaithfulness toward God. Therefore you need to repent and forsake your sins so God shall teach you and give you the strategy how to fight your battle.

5. For each battle there is a period of preparation: God honors and blesses good preparation for each and every project we need to do. An important step for good preparation is a period of prayer. Most likely God would reveal to us His will while we pray. As well as when we pray God will give us the plan and the steps of how to do the project. Also as we pray God will show us the hidden sin that still in our mid and the sins that we need to repent before we go to the next battle.

6. Sin can bring troubles and disasters more than what you expect or imagine, therefore avoid it at all cost: Sin will always affect more than the person who did it. The sin that you do will not only affects you, but it will affect your immediate family as you read in **Joshua 7**, as well as the people who surround you and extend to the whole community of believers that is the church including the elders and the leader of the church. Therefore be aware, understand all these things and be earnest and repent.

God is interested more with the quality of your life and how you practice your conduct with Him and with the people around you. God wants holiness in life as His Word dictates, **“14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:”** (Hebrews 12: 14 KJV) The Bible is written so we can learn more about God and how He wants us to live our lives for Him. **“4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”** (Romans 15:4 KJV) The story of Achan and what he did and how God dealt with that sin is something shocking but that is the way that God wanted. **“6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.”** (1 Corinthians 10:6 KJV) We learn from this story further lessons.

7. “17 For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.” (Luke 8:17 KJV): Achan when he disobeyed God by taking one of the devoted things to his house he thought he can hide it from God. He tried to hide what he did from the people but finally God expose all what he did in a public way. This thing should be clear to you as well; if you are doing something wrong and you are trying to hide what wrong you are doing, then be sure of this fact: How much you are smart finally God will expose your sin. Sooner or later this shall be happening. Therefore be earnest and repent today before it is exposed, **“13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”** (Proverbs 28:13 KJV) Therefore before your sin is exposed repent, correct the wrong that you had done and give your life fully to God.

8. Sin is the main reason to destroy many families: Achan was the head of one family and there were good number of people under his care. When he sinned his sin affected and destroyed all his family members. We find now a day's many Christian families are affected and in ruin because the head of the family or the parents who are responsible on the family are in sin. Therefore God is warning you today that your sin will affect the rest of your family members and those around you if you will not repent.

9. God's patience is leading you to repentance: **“9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”** (2 Peter 3:9 KJV) God gave Achan a good period of time to repent, from the fall of the Jericho city to the next city Ai, but he did not take warning; even when the army failed in the battle because of his sin he did not take warning and repented. In the same way for you, the Lord had given you a good period of time to repent and turn away from your sins, therefore take this warning by heart and take the opportunity today to repent and renounce your sins before God will rise up and act, for **“31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”** (Hebrews 10: 31 KJV)

10. The link of Achan's sin with the lack of tithing and giving the firstfruit: God commanded that all the metal in the form of gold, silver, bronze and iron should go to the treasury, **“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 6:19 KJV) And what are the things that should go to the treasury (the store house of God)? The tithes as we can read here, **“10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”** (Malachi 3:10 KJV) Achan did not give the gold and the silver in the garment he took to the treasury. Achan also preserved that goodly Babylonish garment which he ought to burn with the rest of the whole city of Jericho as God commanded that Jericho needed to be fully burn to God as the first city they should give fully to God. **“24 And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.”** (Joshua 6:24 KJV) So in such of what he did Achan failed also to bring his firstfruits to God, the thing that we should not fail to do, **“29 Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me. 30 Likewise shalt thou do with thine oxen, and with thy sheep: seven days it shall be with his dam; on the eighth day thou shalt give it me.”** (Exodus 22:29-30 KJV) So what Achan did was parallel to fail to tithe and giving the firstfruits to God. Failure to bring our full tithes, our firstfruits and our offerings to the church is stealing because these are the devoted things and should be brought to God.

Our God is a triune God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit; He is a God who loves fellowship. He created man so that He will live and have fellowship with man. But for God to dwell with man He needs a clean atmosphere, an atmosphere of no sin. Therefore when God created man and put him in the garden east of Eden to work it, He instructed him how to live his life. And when man sinned against God and refused to repent the Lord sent the man away. But God remained faithful to His covenant to save and redeem man and continue to live with Him. In addition as we read in the Bible God had placed a corporate responsibility upon all His people that they should purge, clean and remove the evil from among them. Therefore further truth and facts we learn from **Joshua 7** and as the following:

11. Corporate responsibility to purge the evil from among us: For all the sins that man do, the man who sin will receive the consequences of his wrong doing and how he acted unfaithfully toward God. As well as God had called us as a church to purge the evil and to expel the evil from among us; those who persistently refuse to repent and go along their evil ways of life they need to be expelled out. **“11 Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed. 12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how**

say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:” (1 Corinthians 15:11-13 KJV) And that what Joshua and the Israelites did to Achan who sinned; they cleansed the camp from sin, so the Lord would enter the camp and live with them again. The corporate responsibility to purge the evil from among us should be also extended to the family. The family of Achan, his wife and children might seen him bringing the garment with the gold and silver to the tent and hiding it there, and possibly they kept silent or even they agreed with him. We are not sure of what really happened and how his family responded because there is no Scriptural detail written. But what we need to state here that inside the family we need to admonish and correct one another when we found one of our family members is doing wrong. We need to warn him or her and guide him or her out from sin into repentance using all the possible ways so that to avoid the fall of the wrath of God on us, for the rest of the family will be affected with the person involved if the sin is tolerated and condoned and connived.

12. The church need to investigate the wrong doers to deal with the sin: Joshua needed to send men to the tent of Achan, searched it and brought the garment that Achan was hiding, “22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it. 23 And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.” (Joshua 7:22-23 KJV) That all people saw what had happened and how the sin was found out, and everything was done in God’s presence. The church should use its authority to investigate in order to find out to deal with the sin of those who rebelled against God.

13. Discipline and rebuke those who sin: The judgment of God was inflicted on Achan and on his family, “24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. 26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.” (Joshua 7:24-26 KJV) Those who are called brothers and sisters, especially those who are involved in God’s service and God’s ministry and live in sin and not willing to repent they need to be rebuked and disciplined for the wrong doings they are practicing in their lives. “20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.” (1 Timothy 5:20 KJV)

14. Restoration for those who sin: Those who sin God call us to restore them when they will repent. “1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1 KJV) The church will do its best in prayer, counseling, warning, and in teaching the Word of God, and waiting patiently for those members who sin to repent in order for them to be restored back to God and to the church.

15. Close follow up, high control and nurturing is the responsibility of the church: Some they don’t like the church to interfere with their personal life and their decisions. Well that it might be true as long as there is nothing wrong. But the church should interfere even in the personal things when there is sin. As well as everything should be transparent and the church

must know certain details so it will help in following them up and protect them from falling into sin and the trap of the devil.

My Dear and Beloved: The above are God’s divine way of how to live in peace with Him and with one another. These are safe way to secure an abundant life for each and every one of the church members and to secure to us a place in Heaven among those who are sanctified through faith in the blood of Jesus and what He did for us on the cross.

There is a hope and restoration when sin is dealt with and sinner judged as we can read here: “And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.” (Hosea 2:15 KJV) Let us explain this verse and get further encouraged with the ways of God to deal justly with sin.

A. “I will give her her vineyards”: Only after judgment God will restore and will give His people the good things that will fill their lives with God’s provision and with refreshments and joy. Therefore rejoice as God is chastising you, for after that you will be blessed by God. Therefore also as a church we don’t need to be afraid to deal with sin and sinners knowing that after God shall reward us and restore His blessing back to us.

B. “and the valley of Achor for a door of hope”: After dealing with sin and judging sinners, the despair that accompany God’s wrath will be replaced with hope and confidence in God’s goodness. As you persevere in receiving the discipline of God and repent of your sins then your faith will be strengthened and will trust God that He is going to restore you.

C. “And She shall sing, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt”: The joy will be restored, and many testimonies will be uttered and spoken of the goodness of God, as what happened when God delivered out His people out of the land of Egypt from the hand of Pharaoh and the Egyptians. In the same way after dealing with your sin and got chastised, your faith will increase as God would start to restore you, and you will start to praise God and testify about His goodness and faithfulness =.

The valley of Achor is also mentioned in the book of Isaiah, “10 And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me.” (Isaiah 65:10 KJV) Here the valley of Achor, which is the valley of trouble, is a place for the herds to lie down. “And the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in.” David says about God, “2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still water.” (Psalm 23:2 KJV) When you comply with God and work with Him to deal with sin then that will be the way for you to seek God, and in this way, the valley of Achor would be a green pasture for you, and your life will be refreshed and revived, and you will be renewed as it is said in Hosea 2:15, “And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt.”

“And the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me”:

The way we seek God and draw near to Him is when we comply with Him to purge sin from the mid of us. The church that does not compromise and cleanse her members and ministries from sins is a God seeking church. True that discipline and dealing with sin

most of the time bring temporarily troubles and losses upon the church as what had happened in **Joshua 7**, but finally as the church comply and stand with God the Lord shall restore His blessings back to the church and to His people.

When the church deals with sin some members will get upset and might leave the church. That might be painful, but the church would not progress in victory and move forward and advance into new places unless sin is dealt with.

The way that ministers and leaders would seek God is when they are standing at the gate of Hades dealing with sins and expelling demons and combating the power of darkness. Complacency and putting aside God's discipline, and compromising with sin, that will bring more bondages and troubles in the life of the church and His people.

Sin destroys but repentance and turning toward God brings life and life to the full. Sin will only bring you troubles and make your heart harder. Therefore repent and commit yourselves to God. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: *Father God I thank you for your Son the Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that taught me your ways and directing me of how I need to act in dealing with sin and those who sin. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the corrections and the admonishments that we received in this message.*

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your dishonesty, cheating, stealing, telling lies and breaking your covenant with God. Repent of your compromises, condoning and conniving with those who sin. Confess and renounce your stubbornness and your delay obedience. Confess and renounce your abuse to the grace of God. Confess your fear of man and you lack of the fear of God. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess your lack of tithing and giving your firstfruits to God. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship, your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord I really want to be faithful to you from this day on. Lord I commit myself to be fully devoted to you and to the matter that you entrusted to me. Lord I commit myself to bring to you the sacred portion, my tithes, my firstfruits, my time, the talents and all what you gave to me. Lord I commit myself to follow the instruction of your Word. Lord help me and guide me to be in line with your instructions and commands and to be faithful to the church and the ministry that you placed me in. Lord as I repent and come back to you help me to overcome the following problem _____, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and who responded to the teaching of your Word in this message. Lord continue to cleanse them from their sins and lead them to live according to your will and plans so that they will be restored fully to you, to the church and the ministries that you called them to serve in. Lord protect them and provide them so they will continue to serve you.

Lord, bless us as your church. and help us to implement your Word and enable us to deal with sin and with those who sin. Lord lead us to restore those who repented and come back to you.

Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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