

Israel and Ai- November 16th- Joshua 7

The failure at Ai (and often our failures) point back to:

1) Pride

- a. Victory is often followed by shameful **defeat**. The enemy often gets us after a victory in our life. When we are often our most vulnerable ...pride can set in.
- b. The thought was that Israel had conquered Jericho, they didn't, God did. Joshua and the people quickly forgot who had given them victory, so they proceeded to conquer Ai by their own means.
- c. **Pride** precedes the fall. Remember it is not about you or me!
- d. Opposite of pride is **humility**. Humility before God.

2) Neglect of Prayer

- a. The time to humble oneself is **before** the battle, not **after**. It is continuous.
 - i. Joshua did not go back to the Lord for **guidance** with Ai.
 - ii. Joshua and the people assumed they could do this on their own and either forgot or thought they didn't need God.
- b. Joshua tried to put his defeat on God.
 - i. *And Joshua said, "Alas, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan!"⁸ Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies?⁹ The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?"*
Joshua 7:7-9
- c. Seek out and follow the Lord's **instruction**, daily, hourly, minute by minute.
- d. Prayer- we seek God and commune with Him, we don't change situations, problems or people, **He** does.

3) Disobedience

- a. Sin is **serious**- Achan's disobedience cost not only his life but the life of his family. We can't expect God to work in and through us when we are in willful, disobedient sin!
- b. Sin must be **dealt** with before we can move on:
 - i. **Joshua 6:18**- *But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.*
 - ii. **Joshua 7:1**- *But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi ...So the LORD's anger burned against Israel.*

How is your pride/ humility? How is your prayer life or lack thereof? How is your obedience or disobedience?

Outline adapted Chuck Missler