

## "Sin of Achan" Joshua 7

On the heels of Israel's victory at Jericho, one man's sin leads to Israel's defeat at Ai. The story highlights the nature of sin, the results of sin, and our necessary response to sin.

### I. What is sin?

"But from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.' The serpent said to the woman, 'You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will **be like God**, knowing good and evil. When the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a **delight** to the eyes, and that the tree was **desirable** to make *one* wise, she **took** from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife **hid** themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. "

—Genesis 3:3-8

"Never forget that when we are dealing with any pleasure in its healthy and normal and satisfying form, we are, in a sense, on the Enemy's ground. I know we have won many a soul through pleasure. All the same, it is His invention, not ours. He made the pleasures. All our research so far has not enabled us to produce one. All we can do is to encourage the humans to take the pleasures which our Enemy has produced, at times, or in ways, or in degrees, which He has forbidden."

—C.S. Lewis *Screwtape Letters*

### II. What are its results?

"From any tree of the garden you may eat freely, but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

—Genesis 2:16-17

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."

—Romans 5:12

“Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.”

—James 1:12

A. Provokes God’s anger

B. Destroys community

### III. How do we respond?

A. Confess to start

“The man said, ‘The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.’”

—Genesis 3:12

“Then he said, ‘I have sinned; *but* please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and go back with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.’”

—1 Samuel 15:30

“Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice ... The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”

—Psalm 51:8, 17

B. Create attack plan

What kind of plan?

a. No more hide & seek

“Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose [those] which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.”

—Ephesians 5:11-13

b. More hide & Seek

“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

—Hebrews 3:12-13

C. Cultivate a heart

#### D. Cling to the cross

“For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, [then] ... our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.

—Romans 6:5-7