

“Redeeming Failure”

Joshua 7

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Instruction #1: GOD JUDGES SIN.

But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel. . .

Joshua 7:1 (English Standard Version)

“the devoted things” = Hebrew = *herem* = the practice of irrevocably giving over things or persons to the Lord, usually by totally destroying them.

APPLICATION TIP

Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom . . . but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.” Jeremiah 9:23-24 (ESV)

To whatever degree that—in your own wisdom—you don’t understand how God’s judgement and love go together, will you reaffirm your trust in the Lord today, in the certain knowledge that He is the Lord who practices steadfast love and justice?

Instruction #2: OUR SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY IS DAMAGED BY AND BEARS SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNREPENTANT SIN. (Joshua 7:2-6)

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. Hebrews 10:24 (ESV)

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:13 (ESV)

APPLICATION TIP: Prayerfully evaluate your position in the church family by asking these questions.

- Am I involved in a spiritual community at Lighthouse?
- Am I giving other believers access to my life?
- Am I willing to exhort or stir up the people with whom I am in community?

Instruction #3: GOD GRACIOUSLY GIVES OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESTORATION. (Joshua 7:10-13)

APPLICATION TIP: Find a time this week to sit with God and consecrate yourself to Him. Open your heart. Allow Him to speak. Repent, if needed. Renew your commitment.

Instruction #4: WE DON'T GET TO PICK THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR SIN. (Joshua 7:23-26)

[We were all] *by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind*, [but now, Jesus has delivered those who trust in Him] *from the wrath to come*. (1 Eph. 2:3; 1 Thess. 1:10; cf. Rom. 5:10).

TAKE-HOME TRUTH
