

“Redeeming Failure”

- Part 2-

Joshua 8

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Take-Home: Our failure is a place to begin again in dependence upon God, allowing Him to redeem what has been broken.

OUR GRACIOUS GOD REDEEMS OUR FAILURES.

Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. For I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land.

Joshua 8:1 New International Version

WHEN GOD REDEEMS OUR FAILURES, HE OFTEN INVOLVES US IN THE RESTORATION.

“ . . . Lay an ambush against the city, behind it.” So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai. And Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them out by night. And he commanded them, “Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind it. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you remain ready. And I and all the people who are with me will approach the city. And when they come out against us just as before, we shall flee before them. And they will come out after us, until we have drawn them away from the city. For they will say, ‘They are fleeing from us, just as before.’ So we will flee before them. Then you shall rise up from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will give it into your hand. And as soon as you have taken the city, you shall set the city on fire. You shall do according to the word of the LORD. See, I have commanded you.” So Joshua sent them out.

Joshua 8:2b-9b English Standard Version

The men of the ambush also came out of the city against them, so that they were caught in the middle, with Israelites on both sides. Israel cut them down, leaving them neither survivors nor fugitives. . . . So Joshua burned Ai and made it a permanent heap of ruins, a desolate place to this day. . .

Joshua 8:22, 28 (NIV)

WHEN WE ARE FAITHFUL TO GOD, WE WILL OFTEN BE SURPRISED AT HIS GENEROSITY.

And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves. . . .” Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as their plunder, according to the word of the LORD that he commanded Joshua. Joshua 8:2,27 (ESV)

BEGINNING AGAIN INCLUDES A RECOMMITMENT TO OBEDIENCE.

Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, . . . On it they offered to the LORD burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings. There, in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua copied on stones the law of Moses, which he had written. All Israel, aliens and citizens alike, with their elders, officials and judges, were standing on both sides of the ark of the covenant of the LORD, facing those who carried it—the priests, who were Levites. Half of the people stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had formerly commanded when he gave instructions to bless the people of Israel. Afterward, Joshua read all the words of the law—the blessings and the curses—just as it is written in the Book of the Law.

Joshua 8:30-34 (NIV)