

Growth Group Homework

For the week of July 27, 2014

Joshua 7:1-26

Quick Review: The army of Israel, under the new leader, Joshua, pulls off a stunning victory. Miraculously, Jericho's fortified walls had come tumbling down. God's army, by all indications, appeared invincible. Enemy nations trembled as they cowered behind their city walls. God's instructions had been communicated only too clearly: "keep yourselves from the things under the ban," Joshua 6:18. The sin of one Israeli soldier, who was tempted to sin and who took treasure from the destroyed city of Jericho, treasures "under the ban," created a malestrom of collateral damage that affected the Nation of Israel, the army of Israel, individual soldiers of Israel, 37 families of Israel, but more importantly it negatively impacted the reputation of the God of Israel to the surrounding nations. Definition of Collateral Damage - "collateral damage is unintentional damage to things that are incidental to the intended target. It can refer to the accidental or unintentional damage or destruction to innocent people."

My Story:

- Share a story of a person's hidden personal sin that affected many innocent people with collateral damage? What was the final outcome?
- Discuss how some "little sins", subtle sellouts or little compromises of a person's daily life can eventually negatively impact the person doing the "subtle sins" and some of the people closest to the "subtle sinner." Discuss.
- If you are able to share a personal experience, share a time when you were the victim of the collateral damage of another person's sin or spiritual or moral failure.

Growing Deeper:

- Moses has died and the second in command of the nation of Israel is Joshua, the great military leader of army of Israel. God prepares Joshua to be a moral, godly, righteous leader, like his predecessor, Moses, so he can successfully lead the Nation of Israel to conquer the Promised Land of Canaan. READ, interpret and discuss Joshua 1:5-9. What is God telling Joshua to be and do in order to righteously lead others without compromise or failure? Write down all the instructions God gives to Joshua. Are these instructions meant for followers of Jesus Christ also?
- God has given Israel a new leader, it is Joshua, son of Nun. God tells the people of Israel to follow Joshua's leadership in Joshua 1:16-18. In essence, what are the people of Israel promising to the LORD and to Joshua? Make a list of promises the people gave to Joshua and the LORD and then discuss those promises of JOSHUA 1:16-18.
- In Joshua 5:13 through 6:5, the ANGEL of the LORD (Christophany) visits Joshua and the LORD gives exact details of Israel's conquest of the city of Jericho. In Joshua 6:18-19 The LORD tells Joshua that NOT one Israeli soldier is to take anything out of the conquered city. READ Joshua 7:1 and Joshua 7:3-5 and interpret then discuss. How many Israeli soldiers became collateral damage because of one man's sin? How many Israeli families became collateral damage because of one man's sin?
- In Joshua 7:5, what is the reaction of the people of Israel after the defeat of the Israeli army by Ai, caused by one man's sin? What is Joshua's and the elders of Israel's reaction to the defeat of the Israeli army at Ai, Joshua 7:6-8? READ Joshua 7:9. Why is Joshua so concerned that the name and reputation of the army of Israel and their God, Yahweh, by the other surrounding Canaanite city-kingdoms will be greatly impacted because of one man's sin?
- In Joshua 7:10-12, God scolds Joshua and tells him why the Israeli army lost the battle against the City-kingdom of Ai. READ Joshua 7:12-13. What clear instructions does God give to Joshua to remove the sin of the nation and the discipline God had allowed upon Israel because of one man's sin? What does it mean for people to consecrate themselves before God? Write down the instructions and discuss as a group.
- READ Joshua 7:16-18. What was the process for the guilty soldier, Achan, to be discovered and punished? What were the three reasons Pastor Paul mentioned in the message today of why Achan sinned? The answer is found in Joshua 7:21.
- Remember what the people of Israel promised Joshua and the LORD in Joshua 1:16-18? According to Achan's very own promise to Joshua and to the LORD what was supposed to happen to anyone who rebelled against God's Word (Cf. Joshua 1:18)? Did Achan knowingly and willfully bring collateral damage upon his family? Nation of Israel? 36 soldiers and their families? And upon the reputation of the LORD of Israel, all because of his rebellion and sin? Discuss.