Turning Defeat Into Victory

Crossing Over to Possess The Land

March 6, 2016
Some Of Our Most Difficult Times Occur Immediately After A Great Victory
Turning Defeat Into Victory

Success Can Be Spoiled:

- When We Fail To Take The Necessary Precautions To Keep Fighting In God’s Strength

- Sin Must Be Dealt With Before The Battle
Joshua 7:6-9 (NIV) 6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. 7 And Joshua said, "Ah, 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 O 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?"
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- It’s Okay To Ask God Why
- We Must Go To God Before We Go To Battle
- **The Danger:** Trying To Fight *Today’s Battles* In *Yesterday’s Anointing*
- Joshua Has Questions -- God Has Answers
Joshua 7:10-13 (NIV)  

10 The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?  

11 Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.  

12 That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.  

13 "Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: That which is devoted is among you, O Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove it."
The Reason For Israel’s Defeat at Ai:

- You Have Sinned
- You Have Transgressed My Covenant
- You Have Taken The Devoted Things
- You Have Stolen & Lied About It

“...I Will Not Be With You Anymore Unless You Destroy Whatever Among You Is Devoted To Destruction” = GOD IS SERIOUS ABOUT SIN
Joshua’s Response To Defeat:

1. He Threw Himself On The Mercy Of The Lord
2. He Opened Up Honestly With Him
3. He Listened To What The Lord Said
4. He Acted Upon The Truth God Prescribes
The Devastating Effect Of The Disobedience Of One:

- Joshua 7:14-18 (NIV)  
  "In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe that the LORD takes shall come forward clan by clan; the clan that the LORD takes shall come forward family by family; and the family that the LORD takes shall come forward man by man.  
  He who is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the LORD and has done a disgraceful thing in Israel!"

- Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was taken.

- The clans of Judah came forward, and he took the Zerahites. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was taken.

- Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.
Disobedience Of One Person Can Have A Devastating Effect On A Whole Community

#1 -- God Never Winks At Sin
#2 -- Sin Corrupts God’s People And God’s World
#3 -- What Is Done In Private Can Have A Public Effect

Sanctification And Purification Are Needed and God Has A Plan For That
Willful Disobedience To God Is A Contagious Disease That Must Be Dealt With As Soon As It Surfaces

The Sin Of One Can Have A Devastating Effect On The Success Of Another

One Of The Toughest Battles We Face Is The Battle Within

Sometimes Conquerors Are Defeated -- Not By The Biggest Things -- But By Smaller Things
We Must Deal With Hidden Sin

- Hidden Sin Robs Us of Our Peace And Our Victory
- (Prov 11:3 NIV) The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.
- We Deal With Sin Through Confession – Repentance --And The Cleansing Power Of The Blood Of Jesus
Turning Defeat Into Victory

- Hiding Our Sin Steals From The Glory Of God
  - It minimizes His holiness
  - It confirms that our agenda is the most important

- Confessing Our Sin Honors Him:
  - It exalts His holiness
  - It proves His agenda is more important than ours
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- Humanity Has A Big Problem -- Sin

- Sin Makes Us To Be Slaves – Prisoners – Enemies – Captives -- Corpses

- The Provision Of God: Jesus -- Is The Answer To Man's Problem (Rom 5:10-11)
The Verse That Achan Proves:

- (Prov 28:13 NIV) He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.
God’s Only Answer For Sin Is Confession Repentance & The Blood Of Jesus

1 John 1:7 (NIV) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 John 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.