

The Accursed Thing

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Joshua 7:12-13, "Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you. Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you."

Some folks think that the Old Testament has no, or little value, for us to study today as we live under the New Testament. This scripture from Joshua shows a principle that is still true today. It is this, if we harbor sin in our lives then we will have no power to stand before our enemies. Israel had been defeated in trying to take the city of Ai. This was just after the city of Jericho had been conquered which was much larger than Ai.

The people of Israel were greatly distressed to find that they couldn't defeat a smaller enemy. They had no idea what made the difference until the Lord told them that there was sin in the camp and that there

was an accursed thing in their midst. As long as such a thing was among them they would not be able to defeat the foe because God would not give victory to a rebellious people.

Achan thought that he had nothing to worry about. No one knew that he had disobeyed the Lord's commandment, except maybe his family. If they knew they were not going to tell anyone, so he thought he had got away with his theft. After all he looked as good as the rest of the people and in public he acted no different. Somehow he let his greed blind him to a great truth, God knows everything, even the thoughts of the heart. While the people of Israel knew nothing of his sin, it couldn't stay hidden. **Numbers 32:23**, "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out." Even David's sin, as well as Ananias and Sapphira's, and all others came into the light of God's judgment.

Sin may be hidden in the heart and no man able to see it, but God is no man who can be deceived. He knows the thoughts and intents of the heart. If, and when, something is hidden in our hearts it makes a barrier between us and God. **Psalms 66:18**, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." This sin becomes the accursed thing. It does not have to be some material object such as Achan had, pride

or any other sin is just as bad.

Have you noticed and thought about the opportunities that Achan had to repent? He had several chances to do so, but he stubbornly held on to his belief that he wouldn't be found out. There was at least two days that he could have went and confessed his deeds. He knew that there was to be a search for the guilty party and that he and all that he had were to be killed and burned. Still he didn't offer any sign of repentance, nor consider that his actions were going to endanger his family. If he cared not for himself you would think that he would try to deliver his family from the curse. For whatever reason he did not. He had not only caused hurt and death to his family, but brought about the death of others as well. The men of Ai killed thirty six men because God was not fighting for Israel because of the accursed thing in the camp. (**Joshua 7:5**).

The Lord is serious about his servants doing what is right according to his commands. Time hasn't changed this principal for still today if anyone wants to have a victorious life as a servant of God he must resist sin. Keeping grudges, pride, greed, hate, or any others sin that the Lord has warned us about will stand between us and God. Obey the Lord and stay away from all things that God hates.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

DAVID'S fighting courage
DAVID HAVING KILLED TWO HUNDRED PHILISTINES IN THE VERY BATTLE IN WHICH KING SAUL HOPED DAVID WOULD BE SLAIN, THE KING HAS HAD TO GIVE MICHAL, HIS DAUGHTER TO DAVID...

... AND DAVID AND MICHAL FIND MUCH HAPPINESS IN THEIR WEDDED BLISS ...

AH, MY LOVE, MY DOVE - MY CUP INDEED RUNNETH OVER!

... BUT NOW KING SAUL HAS COME TO HATE THE VERY THOUGHT OF DAVID.

NOW DAVID IS THE HUSBAND OF THE KING'S DAUGHTER...

... AND ALL MY PLANS HAVE GONE AWRY ...

... WHAT ELSE IS LEFT BUT THAT DAVID SHALL TAKE THE KINGDOM FROM ME, EVEN AS SAMUEL PROPHESED!

BEHOLD! DAVID RETURNS AGAIN, AND AGAIN VICTORIOUS OVER THE PHILISTINES!

ISRAEL'S HEART GOES OUT TO THEE, DAVID, THOU MOST BELOVED SON OF JESSE!

AND EVEN AS SAUL CONTINUES TO PLOT AND PLAN TO KEEP DAVID FROM THE THRONE, DAVID BUSIES HIMSELF WITH PROTECTING ISRAEL FROM THE PHILISTINES AND DAILY BECOMES MORE AND MORE LOVED AND RESPECTED BY THE PEOPLE - WHILE SAUL BITTERLY TRIES TO STOP THE INEVITABLE. FOR HE HAS NOT LEARNED THAT HUMAN WILL CAN NEVER STAY THE PROGRESS OF GOD'S DIVINE WILL - ALL OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN I SAMUEL CHAP. 18.

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