

Take Away The Accursed Thing

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Joshua 7:13. "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."

Sometimes when reading these accounts in the Old Testament I wonder how could they make such mistakes and sins when they had seen the miracles of God? The question is, "Why can't they learn to do better?" Then I look at myself and at the people of today.

We are not better than they were in following the commands of the Lord. Maybe a person of today can tell himself that if he had been there that he would have done better. I don't believe it for a minute. Why? Because I know people, and most of all, I know myself. We may mean well, but since we are in the flesh we are weak and prone to err. Jesus had a good reason to say, "The spirit indeed

is willing, but the flesh is weak." **Matthew 26:41.**

Israel couldn't stand before the enemy because of one man's disobedience to God's command. Achan, like all the men of Israel, had been told not to take of the spoils of Jericho. **Joshua 6: 18-19.** Yet, when Achan saw the gold, silver, and a garment, he lusted after it and took it. He could not say that he didn't know better, so there was no excuse. His greed got the better of him. Now, before we judge Achan too harshly, let us look at ourselves.

When any of us in a moment of anger said something that we shouldn't have said, can we say that we didn't know any better? No, we know better, but we did it anyway, just like Achan. In an act of greed, lust, or any other passion, we said, or did, something that was a sin, we knew better. There is no use denying it, either to ourselves, or to God. You can be sure that God knows the truth and so do we. I believe that the Lord looks with contempt on those who try, like the Pharisees, to act like they are perfect and without any faults.

Israel could not stand before the enemy with this sin in the congregation. Sin has to be dealt with, not left untreated. So it is in the lives of a Christian. If and when a person sins he must come to the

Lord and confess, repenting of his sin. **Proverbs 28:13.** "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." God will forgive if we go to him with a heart that is sincere. To ignore sin, or to try to cover it up, is to invite God's wrath just as Israel did.

Achan had gold, silver, and a garment hidden. It was found out and he had to face it. We may not have these things such as he had, but if we have pride, hate, greed, lust, or any thing that God has condemned it is the same thing. These things may not be visible to our neighbor, or even to our family, but they are clear and open to the Lord. If such things are hidden in a life there will be no victory, or fellowship with God.

Achan perished for his sin as he tried to hide it until the end. If we confess our sins to the Lord we can and will be forgiven. Don't think, or let anyone tell you, that you are some terrible failure because you made a mistake. There is no man that has not failed and needed to confess to the Lord. I know that I have and that I'm very thankful that the Lord has more mercy than man does. If we truly repent, God forgives.

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

MOSES AND PLAGUES OF EGYPT
MOSES HAVING THROWN HIS STAFF ON THE FLOOR TO CHANGE IT INTO A SNAKE, PHARAOH COMMANDS HIS PRIESTS TO DO LIKEWISE, NOW...

HOW SAYEST THOU NOW?

SEE! THE GODS OF EGYPT ALSO HAVE POWER!

THY GOD HATH NO MORE POWER THAN MY GODS!

BEHOLD!

AND THE SERPENT OF MOSES' STAFF, IN A FLASH, DEVOURS ALL THE SNAKES THAT THE PRIESTS OF EGYPT HAVE PRODUCED!

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