

BUILDING BLOCKS

Biblical Authority

The Sin of Achan

Part 8



Poor Achan—he was a bad man. He thought he could do something wrong and hide it. He thought no one would ever know. But God knew.

A. Joshua led Israel in a mighty victory at Jericho (Joshua 6)
1. The next city was Ai. It was much smaller, so only 3,000 soldiers went to battle.

2. Israel was sent running. Thirty-six were killed. The hearts of the people melted. Something went wrong.

3. Joshua prays to God and finds out that someone broke the rules
- Joshua 6:17-19 nothing from Jericho was to be kept by the people. Everything was to go to the Lord.

B. Achan had stolen some things (Joshua 7:21)
- He hid them in the ground, inside his tent.
- There was a very serious punishment that followed (7:22-26)

Some lessons learned:

- God _____ what He had said
- We must _____ whether we will listen to God or do what we feel like doing
- Achan's choice had _____ upon many others
- God's ways are _____ than our ways (Isa 55:8-9)
- What may seem right often _____ (Prov 14:12)
- What God tells us is for our _____ (Deut 6:24)

For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ Did Achan know what he did was wrong?
- ▶ Did Achan think he could break God's rules and get away with it?
- ▶ Sometimes we may not feel like doing what God says. How can this story help us do what is right?
- ▶ What does it mean that God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts?
- ▶ In looking at the gold he took, what are some things that Achan didn't see?
- ▶ At Jericho the walls came down because Israel did what God said. Why do you think Achan believed that he could break God's law here?
- ▶ God always knows. What lessons are there for us?