

Joshua 7:13

Get up, sanctify the people, and say, 'Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you."

A little background on what's going on here. The Children of Israel have entered the Promised Land and just defeated Jericho. But Joshua told them before they defeated Jericho:

† **Joshua 6:18-19** *And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."*

Sounds nice and easy, right? Well it was for everyone but one man, Achan:

† **Joshua 7:1** *But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel.*

Notice it says: *the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things.* Achan was one of the children of Israel, yet God held all the people responsible and the result was what happened at the next battle with the people of Ai.

† **Joshua 7:3-5** *And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few." So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai. And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water.*

Thirty six men died because of one man's sin, and God response is in today's devotional verse.

Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you."

To apply this to us today; Stop and think, what things are you bringing into your home and hiding from others, you know those magazines or books or movies or what you are viewing on the Internet, maybe even the music you are listening to. Yet you wonder why God is not answering your prayers or why so many bad thing are happening in your life right now.

Maybe you are an Achan and you are bringing into your home or workplace or even in your church those things you know you shouldn't have because God says not to.

Not you? That's fine because not everyone does this, we as Christians try not to bring things that we know that God would not approve of into our homes or life. But maybe you know of a Achan. Remember God said ***the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things.***

As Christians, we are one big family just like Israel is one big family from Jacob (Israel). As a family we should be looking out for one another, but if you keep quiet then you are not truly loving your brother or sister in the Lord, and sad to say but not only does that person and their immediate family suffer from it, but so does the church. Remember, thirty six men died because of Achan's sin.

Paul wrote to the Galatians about the same type of thing:

† ***Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.***

James addressed it as well, so I think God would want us to do the same since this is His word and His instructions for us. But make sure it's done in Love!

† ***James 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.***