

*I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel,
And Thus and Thus have I done
Joshua 7:20*

Jericho had been prepared by God to be defeated by the children of Israel. The plan for Israel was to walk around the city once every six days and then seven times on the seventh day. It was on the last time around the city that the priests that went before the ark would blow their trumpets a final time and simultaneously all the people would shout at the top of their voices, having not uttered one word prior to this point, and then amidst this great noise the walls of the city were supposed to crumble. The people exhibited great patience and faith to carry on this process without complaint, as they were so apt to do in times past when things did not make sense to them. So when the walls of the city did crumble, as Joshua had predicted, the people got to witness another miracle of God, and they took the city. They were warned not to take anything from the city for their own use, for if they did the entire camp of Israel would be cursed by God as well as the person who did the taking.

It was not an unusual request to not steal but the treasures within the city looked so appealing to the eye, as did the forbidden fruit appear to Eve, that Achan secreted away gold and silver, hiding it in his tent. He probably figured that there was so much treasure all around that who would notice, much less care, if he took a small amount for himself? But God has a way of revealing our sin to us. And when Achan realized that he had trespassed against God by stealing some of the treasure, Joshua invited him to confess *“and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me”* (Joshua 7:19). Achan did not try to justify his actions but immediately said, *“Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and...when I saw...a goodly Babylonish garment...two hundred shekels of silver...a wedge of gold of fifty shekels...I coveted them, and took them”* (Joshua 7:19-21). He made a full accounting of this sin which he knew so well. God requires each of us to do likewise when we become aware of a sin, *“when he knoweth of it (a particular sin)...he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing”* (Leviticus 5:4-5).

It is sin which separates us from God and it is sin which will prevent us from entering heaven. Fortunately, God has provided a way to remove all past sin to reconcile us with God and that happens through the blood of Jesus. The New Testament states that *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our*

sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Further, Jesus has given all believers the keys of the kingdom of heaven, *“...and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”* (Matthew 16:19). Thus, we know from these words from the Bible that Achan’s sin was forgiven (loosed) in heaven as soon as he confessed to Joshua.

We might wonder why, if he truly was forgiven by God, *“...all Israel stoned him with stones”* (Joshua 7:25) after he confessed his sin. The short answer to that is that sin has consequences both here on earth and in heaven. If sins are not forgiven, the consequences are eternal while those on earth are but for a short time. King David, a child of God all the days of his life, confessed to Nathan the prophet of his sin with Bathsheba and against Uriah. God forgave him in heaven but David still suffered the rest of his life because of them, *“...the sword shall never depart from thine house”* (2 Samuel 12:10). Though Achan lost his earthly life, he gained his eternal life in heaven with Jesus.

May God grant you, dear reader, the strength of Achan to confess whatever sin that may bother you to another believer who holds the keys of the kingdom of heaven. He can proclaim the precious gospel message of Jesus *“...be of good cheer thy sins be forgiven thee”* (Matthew 9:2).

No matter the cost of sin here on earth, hide that sin no longer *“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (Matthew 16:25-26).

God’s Peace,
Charles Korhonen

Sept 1	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
Sept 8	Stig-Erik Enkvist	11a, 2pm 6pm Meals following
Sept 10	Stig-Erik Enkvist	Watton 7pm
Sept 11	Stig-Erik Enkvist	Atlantic Mine 7pm
Sept 15	Stig-Erik Enkvist	11a and 2pm Meals following
Sept 22	Paul Copponen	11am
Sept 29	Charles Korhonen	11am

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