

Lesson 6 Achan and Ai

Find positive and negative examples (with verses) of our five themes (implied or in action) in Joshua 7-8.

Every Place the Sole of Your Foot Treads, I Have Given You

Positive

Negative

No One Will Be Able to Stand Before You

Positive

Negative

Be Strong and Courageous

Positive

Negative

Be Careful to Do According to All the Law

Positive

Negative

The Law Shall Not Depart from Your Mouth/Meditate on It Day and Night

Positive

Negative

Thought Questions

1. Why do you think chapter 7 begins by revealing exactly who violated God's commands and what he stole? Why is this not kept back from the readers until v.18 when the sin is revealed to Israel?
2. What similarities and differences do you see in the preparations for the first battle at Ai compared to the battle of Jericho?
3. After Israel is defeated, Joshua uses many of the same phrases that the Israelites used when they murmured against God and Moses in the Exodus. How is Joshua's response different from those instances? Why is it a better response?
4. Why do you think God had Joshua and the Israelites cast lots at the tribe, family, household, and individual levels to find Achan? Why didn't God just act directly (like Leviticus 10:1-2)?
5. What can we learn from Achan about how temptation and sin work in us? Cf. James 1:12-15.
6. What is different about the preparation for the second battle of Ai:
 - a. compared to the first?
 - b. compared to Jericho?
7. What does the name Achor mean? Why do you think this place was called this? Why does Hosea 2:15 make reference to Achor?
8. Why do you think God allowed the Israelites to take the spoil from Ai, but not from Jericho?
9. Why do you think Joshua chose this moment after the battle of Ai to offer sacrifices and read the Law?