

“Learning from Defeat”
Joshua 8:1-29
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~ We all need to learn and grow from our past mistakes. Remember, Losing a battle doesn't determine the outcome of a war. Again if we are going to have VICTORY we need to learn from our defeats, from our mistakes, from our sins.

Joshua 6:18-19

But what did Achan do? He took of the accursed things (treasures, war trophies) and so Israel committed a trespass. They went into to battle of Ai in SIN, and it cost them the battle and 36 lives.

We must always remember that Pride comes before the fall.

Joshua 7:1-5

Their sin and the lack of seeking the Lord cost them dearly.

Joshua 7:10-12

We see that they were defeated and had to get right with the Lord, there was sin in the camp and they needed to destroy the accursed from among them. Once they dealt with the sin, they would be able to move forward.

So Achan was judged and Israel was restored and had favor with the Lord once again. Much like we need to do when we fall to sin. We need to deal with the sin quickly. We need to REPENT and ask for forgiveness so the Lord can restore us.

1. A Second Chance and a New Start, vv. 1-2

2. A Different Tactic, vv. 3-13

3. Victory in Ai, vv. 14-29

1. A Second Chance and a New Start, vv. 1-2:

v. 1

How is it that God can bless them when they are in disobedience to His Word? How are we to receive direction and/or instructions from the Lord when we are being disobedient or when we are in sin?

“Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed;” ~

Defeats and setbacks make us **afraid**; we don't know what is going to happen in the near future or in the long term. It is this fear that causes us not to trust the Lord.

Dismayed ~ is how we feel, distressed, disappointed, distraught. This is due to the fact that we keep looking back at our past failures. So, we get discouraged.

Joshua 1:9

v. 2

“And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king.”

These words must have motivated and encouraged Joshua and Israel. They were forgiven the moment they dealt with the sin.

~ The Lord doesn't give up on us, or any other person. He can restore us and use us to His glory.

Joshua 7:19-25

God always wants to give us His very best. But we end up pushing Him away to have what I want, and what I want now. So, we settle for second best, or what we think is best. If only Achan would have squashed his greediness, his selfishness.

Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Achan could have had so much more if he would have waited, and to top it off, He would have had God's blessings. If only we would learn to wait on the Lord.

“Lay an ambush for the city behind it.” ~ Self-confidence is a false confidence. It is reliance on one self.

2. A Different Tactic, vv. 3-13:

vv. 3-4

* What we see here is that Joshua and all the people of war were getting up, arising to go to war, arising up out of defeat. They needed to be united, not divided.

vv. 5-6

As Christians, it is essential for us to learn to determine if God wants to do something NEW. If God is going to go in a different direction; with a New plan or a New tactic.

* Maybe he wants you to try a new ministry. You may be a stick in the mud in your respective ministry. Not wanting to change because this is the way it has always been done. Yet you won't move, allowing someone else to come in and make the necessary changes.

vv. 7-9

“but Joshua lodged that night among the people.” ~ This should resound in our ears. Jesus, being God became flesh, dwelt among us. This is truly a sign of a great leader, one that is willing to be in the trenches with you.

v. 10

Another mark of a great leader – one that gets up early and spends time with the Lord. This is the time where he continues to develop or understand the plan, the new tactic, the new strategy the change in direction.

vv. 11-13

3. Victory in Ai vv. 14-29:

vv. 14-17

In **Joshua 12** we learn that the king of Bethel would be killed and named as one of 31 kings that were killed in battle.

v. 18

Joshua and Israel would prevail only when Moses' hands were lifted up. **Exodus 17.**

vv. 19-26

I just want to remind you that this was God's judgment being poured out, much like it was in Jericho. This was an evil society that had rejected God's grace and His truth.

v. 27

The Lord had received the firstfruits from the battle of Jericho. So, now, because the army had fought this battle, they were permitted to claim the spoils.

vv. 28-29

God will give us the victories so long as we are obedient, follow Him and deal with sin as quickly as possible. We cannot allow sin in the camp to permeate. We need to deal with it so it does not affect those we love.

Application:

1. After failures, God is willing to forgive us and give us a second chance; give us a new beginning.
2. When we are defeated, when we fall to sin, we may have lost a battle, but it is not the end of the war. He is not done with us; we can still be useful and effective for the Lord. He is willing to restore us.
3. Are you willing to move forward? Learn from your failures? Learn from your sin. Repent; It is time to try a new tactic and move in a different direction. In what direction is the Lord leading you tonight? What is he asking you to do?
4. We must learn from our defeats in order to have victory.