

Sin in the Camp

Joshua 7:1-5

Introduction:

- A. Israel's success at Jericho.
- B. Israel's problem at Ai.
 - 1. Instead of easy victory, demoralizing defeat. (7:3-9)
 - 2. Caused by greed of one man - Achan. (7:20,21).
 - a. Sinned at Jericho. (6:17-19)
 - b. All Israel effected. (7:1)
- C. Israel's defeat shows God's attitude toward "sin in the camp" of His People.
 - 1. This can serve as warning to us today.
 - 2. This can also be encouraging – one defeat did not destroy God's nation.
 - 3. This can be seen in examples of sin in the camp in the early church.

Discussion:

- I. Lying In The Camp At Jerusalem (Acts 5:1-11)**
 - A. Greed, Pride, and Conspiracy to deceive.
 - B. Results:
 - 1. For the couple: Death and destruction.
 - 2. For the church: Fear and unity. (vs. 11,12)
- II. Carnality In The Camp At Corinth (1 Cor. 3:1-3)**
 - A. Manifested by various divisions, cliches and factions divisions (1:10ff; 11:18; 12:25).
 - 1. Caused by placing faith in man and human wisdom.(3:4-7; 18-23; 4:6)
 - 2. Caused by Jealousies. (1 Cor. 12)
 - 3. Caused by carnal use of God's assembly. (1 Cor. 11:18ff)
 - B. Manifested by an immoral member and churches failure to discipline them.
 - C. Manifested by a denial of the resurrection by some. (1 Cor. 15:12,33).
- III. Disorderliness In The Camp At Thessalonica (2 Thess. 3:11)**
 - A. Specific disorderliness was working not at all (free-loading implied) and busyboding.
 - 1. Idleness is not a synonym for disorderly.
 - 2. Idleness is a specific kind of disorderliness.
 - B. Told first to warn them (1 Thess. 5:14), then withdraw (2 Thess. 3:6)
- IV. Partiality In The Camp At Antioch (Gal. 2:11-13)**
 - A. Special attention to brethren because of economic, social or racial status. (cf. James 2:1-13)
 - 1. Cliches and factions often formed along such lines.
 - 2. Association with other Christians often along these lines. (cf. Gal. 2:14ff)
 - B. Partiality in dealing with problems and sins among brethren. (1 Tim. 5:17-21)
- V. Preeminence Loving In The Camp At Some Place (3 John 9)**
 - A. Causes some to become dictators.
 - B. Causes some to take too much upon themselves.
 - 1. Push themselves ahead of others more experienced and qualified.
 - 2. Assume work that belongs uniquely to elders.
 - 3. In absence of elders speak and act for congregation on their own.
 - C. Causes some to deceive themselves as to what their role should be.
 - 1. Think "limelighting" is leadership and "performing" is preaching.
 - 2. Think ends justifies means - usurp and abuse authority if necessary to get job done - Forget that God gives the increase.
 - D. Causes some to "politic" way into preeminence. (cf. Absalom 2 Sam. 15:1-6)

Conclusion:

- A. We need to correct any sin within the camp – starting with ourselves.
- B. We do not need to let sin from within defeat us – church has survived for 2,000 years after 1st century sins.