



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 050 - We're All in This Together Joshua 7

After Jericho crumbled under God's awesome power, Israel was shocked to see its army routed by a much smaller neighboring town. Their courage melted away and they feared their surrounding enemies would grow confident and crush them.

- What effect do unexpected defeats and setbacks have on your confidence and courage?
- What are some better ways to handle them?

Israel's defeat was the result of one man's sin. Even though he hid the stolen booty from Jericho in his tent and hid himself among the millions of Israel, he soon learned the hard way you cannot hide from God. Out of the twelve tribes of Israel, *his* tribe was chosen. Out of all the clans in Judah, *his* clan was chosen. Out of all the families in his clan, *his* family was chosen. Then out of all the men in his family, *he* was chosen—Achan. And the death of that one man (and his family) saved the nation of Israel.

- When you consider God's ability to single out one man from three million what do you think about your hidden sins and guilt?
- What does it say about Judgment Day and the terrible punishment that awaits all who reject Jesus Christ and His salvation?

Centuries later, God would single out one other man from Israel to receive a death sentence. Unlike Achan, this man had committed no secret sins—or public ones, for that matter. Jesus Christ was sentenced to death by crucifixion for all the hidden and open sins of all people of all time. On the cross Jesus was our substitute, taking our sins upon Himself and dying in our place in order that we may inherit eternal life.

- When you consider all your sins laid on Jesus—even your secret, hidden ones—what confidence do you gain for the defeats and setbacks you face in life?

After Israel's defeat in battle, how did God protect His reputation among His Canaanite enemies and keep them from boldly attacking Israel? He directed Joshua to have a small part of the Israelite army attack the city gates as before, but this time there was an ambush set behind the city. When the battle began the front portion of Israel's army started to retreat as though they were being defeated again, then the ambush was sprung and the city was taken. The dread and fear the Canaanite people felt toward the God of Israel actually increased because the previous Israelite loss in the first battle now looked like it was part of God's plan all along.

- Looking back at some of the defeats and setbacks in your life, how has God turned them around for your good?