



Courage to Face Yourself
(Joshua 7:1-26)

Main Idea: Sin is bad

Connect: When you were a child where was your favorite hiding place?

Discuss

1. What insight, observation, or principal from this sermon did you find to be most helpful, insightful or troubling? Explain ...
2. The Lord warns the Israelites that only things intended to be set-apart for the Lord be taken from Jericho. He tells the people they will die and trouble will be brought upon them if they do not obey. (v. 17-18) He also warns against rebuilding the city (v. 26-27).
 - God made it very clear that if anyone took anything from Jericho that they would be destroyed. In this case, God was demanding obedience and punishing disobedience. How do you define sin?
3. Achan steals from the Lord, the Israelites lose a battle against Ai, and the Lord announces his punishment for Achan's sin (v. 1-15)
 - The Israelites receive a physical and spiritual defeat at the hands of the people in Ai. Joshua immediately turns to the Lord for help, and the Lord tells him what happened and why. Why didn't he pray before the battle?
 - Do you tend to blame God first, before examining your own life of sin? Explain.
 - In what ways can you relate to Achan?
4. Achan's sin is discovered and he confesses (v. 16-23)
 - Achan confesses his sin in front of all the tribes of Israel. God knew exactly what he had done and now all of Israel did too. What happens in our lives when we sin and try to hide it?
 - If you had been Joshua, would you have been tempted to let Achan go with a slap on the wrist? Send him packing? Knock him out? Or what? What does this say about you style of disciplining those you feel responsible for at home or work?
5. Achan's sin is judged. He and his family are killed (v. 24-26)
 - Who all suffered because of Achan's sin? Why do you think the punishment was so severe?
 - How have the sins of others negatively affected you? How have your sins negatively affected others?

Live it Out

- Confess your sins by name to God, and ask for his help dealing with them. Don't be afraid to ask for help, for "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (2 Tim 1:7).
- Add forgiveness for our nation to your prayer list.