

Joshua- Courage for Battle Beauty of Defeat- Session #6 Small Group Notes

Introduction:

Think about these statements:

- The beauty of defeat is that it can lead to clarity.
- One of the most dangerous places to be is on the heels of victory.

Do you agree with these statements? Why or why not?

Think of a time when your actions, positive or negative, affected many people. What was the lasting impact of your actions, whether intentional or unintentional?

If your actions affected many people in a negative way, how difficult or easy was it to remedy the situation? Why are consequences for our actions important to consider before we act?

In today's discussion we are looking at how there are lessons that we can learn both in victory and defeat. And we are going to see a beautiful picture of God's grace in the midst of some of our worst moments as spouses, parents, co-workers, or friends.

Discuss:

1. Read Joshua 7:1-5

- Victory can lead to forgetfulness (Verse 1)
- We need to look out when things are good, because sin is so attractive.
- Victory can lead us to be overly confident in ourselves. (Verses 2-5)

Explain: Achan's sin caused the presence and power of God to leave the Israelite army. What might have been an easy battle because of the small size of the settlement of Ai became a death trap for the Israelite soldiers who attacked them. Because of this defeat, Israel became afraid and

began to doubt the Lord. Beyond his sin affecting the whole nation, it is possible that his fellow soldiers witnessed his crime since Israel sacked Jericho in broad daylight. He may have even been encouraged to do it.

Ask:

What do we steal from God that we should devote to Him? How does our withholding in these areas affect more people than just us? How does this impair the body of Christ?

Are there ways that our reaction to others sin can actually encourage others to sin, either directly or by passive observance? Where do we need to confess of encouraging sin in the past?

2. Read Joshua 7:6-15

- Defeat was a picture of grace
- A fitting response to grace is repentance

Explain: Joshua responded to sin with mourning. Such should our response be. A posture of mourning expresses true regret for our sin. True mourning over sin will always lead to action to turn from sin and turn toward God. This is the meaning of repentance. It's a deliberate and intentional sacrifice of something that is not of God so that we can have Him instead.

How have you seen children try to hide when they do things wrong? What does it look like when they recognize their disobedience? How can we see our lives in the way that children respond?

Think of a time when you realized your wrong actions would be revealed to others. How did you feel leading up to this moment? How did you respond once your actions were brought into the light?

Why is it important for us to confess our sin to the Lord and not seek to withhold our sin from Him?

3. Joshua 7:16-26

- Formula of sin: See, then desire, then take, then hide.
- The King does not leave us in the midst of defeat.
- The King paid the price to secure our victory.

- The beauty of defeat is that it reveals that we are all in need of a Savior, it brings clarity.
- Read Romans 8:1-4

Explain:

When we discover the small amount of treasure Achan stole from the spoils of Jericho, his sin almost seems trivial. But we must not make the mistake of believing that any sin is trivial to God. Viewing our sin as small based on what we can see leads to continual hiding and even more blind spots, which can lead to shame. Yet as children of God, we are called to bring our sin, all of it, to the light and experience the forgiveness of God.

What are some “small” sins that you have avoided confessing to the Lord or even justified for them remaining in your life?

How can “allowed” sin in our life have further implications in our relationships? How can our response to our personal sin be a testimony to others about God’s love and grace?

How does Romans 8 help to move us from shame in our sin to freedom?