

Joshua: A Tale of Two Cities Part 2

Feb. 20, 2021

Joshua 6:17-7:13



There is a second part to the Jericho story in the book of Joshua—it's the city of Ai. In this second part of the narrative one of the Israelites (Achan) disobeys God's commands regarding the "devoted things". If Jericho and Rahab are a reminder of how quickly an outsider can become an insider through obedience, Ai and Achan are a reminder of how quickly an insider can become an outsider through disobedience.

Getting Started

Toran shared a story about some hidden "ad-packs". What's something that you tried to hide while growing up?

Read

Joshua 6:17-7:13

Digging Deeper

- The text above paints a clear picture of sin and disobedience, which like all sin and disobedience, refuses to stay hidden. How do you relate to this? Are there times in your life that you have tried to cover up sin and disobedience?
- Through the story of Ai and Achan we see that sin always impacts those around us. Has this been the case for you? In big or small ways, how has this played out for you in your life?
- At the end of the message on Sunday, Toran shared a quote from an imaginative conversation (attached below—you might need to read this for everyone again). How did you respond to this? What stood out to you?

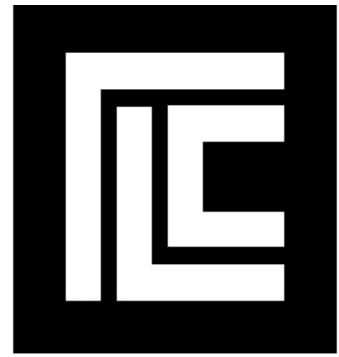


THE LOCAL CHURCH

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Quote from imaginative conversation shared on Sunday...

“No, wait”—we say, cautiously approaching Jesus—“you don’t understand. I’ve really messed up, in all kinds of ways.”

I know, he responds.

“You know most of it, sure. Certainly more than what others see. But there’s perversity down inside me that is hidden from everyone.”

I know it all.

“Well—the thing is, it isn’t just my past. It’s my present too.”

I understand.

“But I don’t know if I can break free of this any time soon.”

That’s the only kind of person I’m here to help.

“The burden is heavy—and heavier all the time.”

Then let me carry it.

“It’s too much to bear.”

Not for me.

“You don’t get it. My offenses aren’t only directed toward others. They’re against you as well.”

Then I am the one most suited to forgive them.

“But the more of the ugliness in me you discover, the sooner you’ll get fed up with me.”

Whoever comes to me I will never cast out. (Jn 6:37)

-Dane Ortlund “Gentle and Lowly”



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