

**Message:** “JOSHUA: Sin’s Progressive Affect” by Pastor Jon Whisner, 2/27/22

**Description:** Just a few hours after Israel’s thrilling, long-awaited victory over Jericho through the miraculous power of God, they are shockingly defeated by the small, unimpressive city of Ai. What caused their immediate downfall? Sin.

**Key Scripture:** Joshua 7:1-26

**Takeaway / Application:** Read 1 Peter 5:8 to begin. After great victories, we should always be aware and alert that the enemy is actively scheming to defeat us—even while we’re in the midst of celebrating our wins over him.

- Sin is progressive—it is not content to have a little, or some, or most of you—it wants ALL of you. Read John 10:10, which tells us three things Satan desires to do to us. When reading the story of Achan’s sin in Joshua 7:20-21, look at the power and affect sin had on him **personally**. Discuss the allure of money, greed and materialism that ruined and destroyed this man’s life. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-12. Discuss the temptations and pitfalls.
- Joshua 7:25 reveals the devastating destruction that Achan’s sin brought upon his family. They were all stoned to death and burned. Someone said, *“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you far more than you want to pay.”* Achan had no idea the progressive affect his sin would have on his **family**. Read Deuteronomy 24:16. It seems Achan’s family members followed his lead and participated in this sinful activity—thus also receiving the same punishment as he did. God in turn wiped out and destroyed Achan’s line and future lineage because of his sin.
- Read Joshua 7:1 & 5. Achan’s disobedience to God not only cost him his life and his family their lives, but it cost **the whole nation Israel**, and the lives of 36 brave soldiers. Think of the pain and loss those wives and children would have to endure for the rest of their lives by the death of those 36 warriors. Plus, the judgment, shame, fear, confusion, and loss of courage Israel’s defeat brought to Joshua and Israel through one man’s sin. Sin is progressive!
- The massive heap of stones mentioned in Joshua 7:26 that serves as a huge grave marker—and a remembrance of God’s judgment on sin—should serve as a grave reminder to all Christ-followers not to play with, conceal, or lie about sin before our holy God. Are there any sin(s) that you need to confess to God right now? Could you appropriately share or confess with your group any sins, and seek God’s forgiveness with the accountability of your church family? Read 1 John 1:7-9. Confess. Be forgiven. Walk in the Light!
- Read Colossians 2:13-15. Rejoice in the grace, mercy, and love of God through His sacrifice for our sins—through the death of His only Son, Jesus. V.14 says He canceled our sin and nailed it to the cross. Amazing Grace!