



One Short Step From Victory To Defeat

Series: *The Venture and Victory of Faith,*

Book of Joshua (#7)

Text: Joshua 7:1 – 8:35

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Theme: **Holiness is indispensable to the victory of faith.**

Sin brings defeat and devastation.

1. The process of sin. (7:21; see also Genesis 3:6; James 1:13-15)
2. The seriousness of sin.
(7:1, 4-5, 11-12, 15, 20, 24-26; see also Genesis 2:16-17; 3:3, 14-19; 2 Samuel 12:9-19; Psalm 5:4-6; Isaiah 59:2; Ezekiel 18:4; John 3:16, 36; Acts 5:1-11; Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3)

Holiness brings restoration and victory.

1. Holiness is...
(7:19-21; 8:30-35; see also Leviticus 11:44-45; Psalm 19:12; 90:8; 139:23-24; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10; Hebrews 12:1-14; James 4:8; 1 Peter 1:16; 2 Peter 3:14; 1 John 1:7-10)
2. Holiness brings...
(8:1-29; see also 2 Chronicles 7:12-18; Psalm 24:4-6; Isaiah 35:8-10; Acts 3:19)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Yesterday we saw that it is only one short step from victory to defeat. Faith that believes, obeys and waits on God must be joined by holiness to experience true victory. Review 7:21 along with Genesis 3:6 and James 1:13-15 to trace the process of sin. We could wonder why Achan was so foolish and not stop that process. But when we look at ourselves and our sin we can understand (not excuse) the process of his and our own sin. Ask God to help you remember this process and to rely on Him to resist it.

Tuesday. Sin is serious. Joshua 7 is a graphic picture of how devastating it is. If you ask a dozen people what sin is, not only will you get different answers but some will minimize sin (e.g., “We all do it.” “No one is perfect.” “God loves and forgives,” etc.). Check the Bible references on the seriousness of sin in the outline. Now check your own view of and attitude toward sin

Wednesday. Holiness is indispensable to the victory of faith. From any notes you made on Sunday and the Scripture references in the outline, describe what holiness is and how important it is for you.

Thursday. Holiness brings restoration and victory. It moves us forward but, as with forgiveness, does not erase all the scars and consequences of sin (see 7:20, 24-26; Acts 5:1-11). Read 2 Chronicles 7:12-18. While this concerned the nation of Israel, the underlying principles can be applied to you and your relationship with God. Now read Isaiah 35:8-10 which speaks of the time when Christ will reign on earth. One application is that if you allow Christ to reign in your heart that will transform it from being a dangerous and devastating road of sin to being a “Highway of Holiness.” Thank God for this.

Friday–Saturday. Sunday we plan to look at *counterfeits* from Joshua chapter 9. Read and think through the chapter as part of your preparation for Sunday.