Cherished Bible Stories
Lesson 14

A Story Of Victory & Defeat (Joshua 6-7)

Introduction

How quickly the fortunes of a group of people can turn from great success to tragic failure. If anyone ever tries to convince you that one's actions do not affect anyone else, don't believe him. *"No man is an island."* God has ordained that we are part of a greater whole...especially when involved in His work.

That is the theme of this story. Israel's success came to a crashing halt all because of 1 man. When sin is given a foothold among God's people, ***everyone*** suffers. Group success means ***everyone*** follows God.

Read the story and be prepared to answer the following questions.

1) What does God say to Joshua re: Jericho? (6:2) How telling is this, especially considering the city's description in v. 1? (cp. Rom. 8:31b)

2) What were the "procedures" to follow to obtain this "gift?" (6:3-5, 10) *Thought question*: how does this help us understand the connection between grace & obedience? (cp. Eph. 2:1-10)

3) What "restrictions" were given for this military exercise? (6:17-19)

4) How successful was Israel? (6:20-21)

5) Who was "saved" in Jericho's destruction? (6:22-23, 25) What does this emphasize about God? (Heb. 11:31; Jas. 2:25)

6) What does this "great victory" demonstrate about God and about Israel? (Heb. 11:30)

7) Was there a problem? (7:1) Comment on the wording of this verse as to who was unfaithful? Does this mean anything? (cp. 1 Cor. 5:6-7; 1 Cor. 12:26; Eph. 4:25b)

8) What events are recorded in 7:2-5? How did they turn out? Who was not consulted?

9) How did Joshua react? (7:6-9) How did God respond to him? (7:10-15) *Thought question*: if God knew the identity of the guilty, why all these drawn out "procedures?" What do you think He was hoping to accomplish? (cp. Gen. 3:9, 11; 4:9-10)

10) How was Achan dealt with once Joshua knew the truth? (7:22-26)

11) Using the space below, comment on any lesson(s) we learn from this O.T. story