

Healing for an Achan Heart (Joshua 7)

[THEME] Through Jesus, we can freely approach God for cleansing and healing to live victoriously.

Joshua 6:18 And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. **19** But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, *are* consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord.”

Joshua 7:1-13

But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the Lord burned against the people of Israel. **2** Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, “Go up and spy out the land.” And the men went up and spied out Ai. **3** And they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few.” **4** So about three thousand men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai, **5** and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until the evening, he and the elders of Israel. And they put dust on their heads. **7** And Joshua said, “Alas, O Lord God, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan! **8** O Lord, what can I say, when Israel has turned their backs before their enemies! **9** For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will you do for your great name?”

10 The Lord said to Joshua, “**Get up!** Why have you fallen on your face? **11** Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings. **12** Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They

turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you. **13 Get up! Consecrate the people** and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the Lord, God of Israel, "There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you."

Paraphrase verses 14-18: Joshua has all the tribes come before the Lord, clan by clan, family by family, man by man.

*15 The person found with the cursed things will be burned, he and everything he has, because he broke God's covenant and did this despicable thing in Israel."
(MSG)*

Consecration/Sanctification: "making saintly" or "making holy"

Qadash (Hebrew) to be set apart or consecrated

- "ification" denotes an active process of doing/making something
- "Saint" holy

How are we cleansed?

1. God cleanses us with the Word

Ephesians 5:25-27 **25** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, **26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27** so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Continue Joshua 7: 19-26

19 Then Joshua said to Achan, "**My son**, give glory to the Lord God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." **20** And Achan answered Joshua, "Truly I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I did: **21** when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

24 And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys

and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. **25** And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The Lord brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones. **26** And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor.

2. God cleanses us with the blood of Jesus

- Along with the Word of God, the blood of Jesus cleanses us to redeem us from sin

1 John 1:6-7 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and ***the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.***

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Three elements of victory: the Word, the blood, and our testimony

Revelation 12:11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

MY STORY: power of repentance and confession

Godly grief (true repentance) vs. worldly grief

Proverbs 28:13 (NKJV) He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.

The lovingkindness of the Father leads us to repentance.

- **Story of the prodigal son** (Luke 15:11-24)
- *Highlight verses 17-24:*
 - V.17 *"But when he came to himself..."*
 - *Repentance involves the need to turn from the direction we have been following*
 - V. 20-21 *"I will arise and go to my father" to confess*
 - *Arising to Father's house to ask for forgiveness*

- V. 22-24 Father's welcome and response to son
 - Receiving restored face-to-face relationship with the Father

How do we receive God's cleansing and healing? (4R's)

1. Revelation

- **James 4:8** "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

2. Repentance

- **1 John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

3. Renouncing

- **James 4:7** "Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee."

4. Restoration

- **James 4:10** "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

Conclusion

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As we genuinely repent and are restored to God, the kingdom of heaven is released through us and revival is released among us... 2 Chronicles 7:14