

Purging Sin for the Glory of God

Joshua 7 & 8 ... Lesson 5 ... March 2, 2021

(Romans 15:4)

I. Trusting God

A. The Command

1. The directive ...

(Josh 6:17-19)

(Deut. 20:16-18)

2. First Fruits ...

(Exodus 23:19) (Levit. 27:30)

**Giving first fruits demonstrates trust and shows gratitude.*

B. The Sin

1. What Achan did ...

(Josh 7:21)

2. His lack of trust ...

C. Application ... directive for us ...

1. The Church –

2. Us individually –

(1 Tim 6:6-10)

II. Purging Sin

A. Achan & Israel

1. God brought discipline

a. Collectively ... Israel lost Battle at Ai

Notice how others were also affected ... sin always **affects others and **God's plans***

- *Physically ...*
- *Spiritually ... (Josh 7:5,7)*
- *A watching world (Josh 7:8)*
- *God's glory*

b. Individually ... Achan & family stoned

2. Purpose – for Israel to be an effective witness ... conquer land

- *Rahab's testimony (Josh 2:9-11)*
- *This purpose goes back to Abram and Gen. 12 ... (Gen 12:3)*
- *Even back to God's original mandate ... (Gen. 1:27-28)*

B. Today ... same purpose ... a witness to the ends of the Earth ... *(Acts 1:8)*

1. Pinpoint and purge sin in Church ...

(Jesus / Paul warn ... Mat. 18 & 1 Cor. 5)

2. Pinpoint and purge sin in individuals ...

a. Begins with desire to have our sin rooted out

(Mat 5:29-30)

(Psalm 139:23-24)

b. What sin entangles us?

c. How do we purge?

**What would an effective witness look like?*

**What in my life hinders that?*

d. Habits that hinder...

(1 Cor. 15:58)

e. Take root where planted ...

Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest, 'Many of us refuse to grow where God plants us. Therefore, we don't take root anywhere.'

Conclusion – to be God's witnesses ...

➤ Revelation ... lampstands removed

(Rev. 2:4-5)

➤ 'Well done ...'

(Mat. 25:21)

Questions:

1. What would an effective witness to a lost world without Christ look like?

For the Church?

For me as an individual?

2. What in the Church is hindering that? What in my own life is hindering that?

3. What needs to be 'purged'?

4. How does the Church do this? How do I do this?

5. Search your heart and ask ... Would I consider it a tragedy to be side lined as a witness? If not, what does that say?

6. Where might God be 'planting me' today?