Lesson 51
Achan Disobeys

Opening Prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Lord, You teach it is better to give than to receive. Give to us giving hearts, and teach us to enjoy the gifts You give. Help us to celebrate the blessings You give to others.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Memory Work:

Bible Verse

The Lord said to Joshua, "Get up! What are you doing bowing on the ground? Israel has sinned… They have not only stolen, but they have also lied. *(Joshua 7:10-11)*

Catechism:

The Seventh Commandment:

You shall not steal.
What does this mean?
We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Focus:

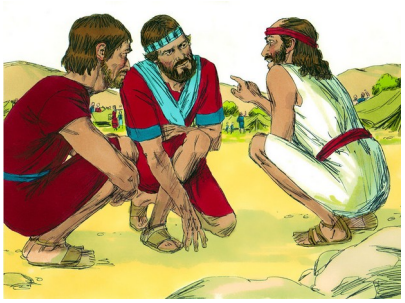
God teaches us to be thankful for what He has given to us. To steel is, in reality, telling God His blessings are not enough. If we are to love our neighbor as our self we should help our neighbor keep the blessings God has given to him and celebrate with him for what he has been given.

Lesson: Joshua 7:1-26

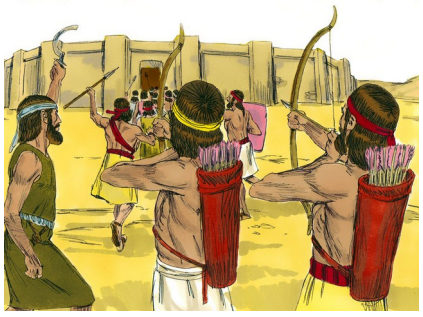
[After the city of Jericho fell the people were commanded to take nothing of the treasure of that city. Everything was to be burned or put into the Temple treasury…]

The people of Israel proved to be disloyal about the things claimed by the LORD. Achan*{AY-k-en}* the son of Carmi *{CAR-my}*,…, of the tribe of Judah, took something that had been claimed by the LORD. So the LORD became angry with the people of Israel.

Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai *{AY-eye}*. Which is near Beth Aven, east of Bethel. He said to them, “Go, look at that country.” So the men went and looked at Ai.



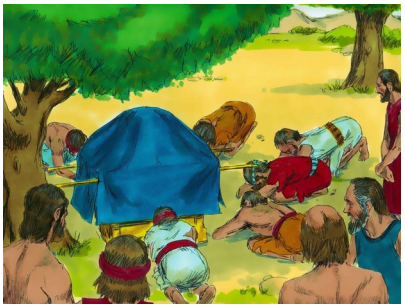
They came back to Joshua and told him, “You don’t need to send all the troops. Only about two or three thousand men are needed to destroy Ai. Don’t tire the troops out by sending all of them. There are only a few troops in Ai.”



So about three thousand men were sent.

However, they fled from the men of Ai. The men of Ai killed about thirty-six of them, chasing them from the city gate to the slope of the stone quarries. Israel's troops lost heart and were scared stiff.

Joshua and the leaders of Israel tore their clothes in grief. They put dust on their heads and bowed down to the ground in front of the Lord's ark. They stayed there until evening.

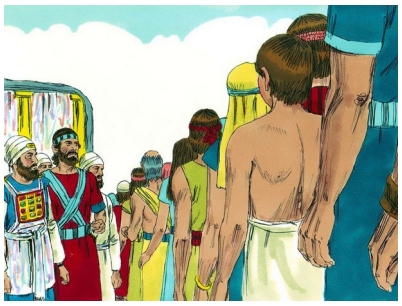


Joshua said, "Almighty Lord, why did You bring these people across the Jordan River? Was it to hand us over to the Amorites *{AM-oh-rights}* so that they could destroy us? I wish we had been content to live on the other side of the Jordan! Lord, what else can I say after Israel ran away from its enemy? When the Canaanites and everyone who lives in the land hears about it, they will surround us and remove every memory of us from the earth. What will You do then so that Your great name will be remembered?"

The Lord said to Joshua, "Get up! What are you doing bowing on the ground? Israel has sinned. They have ignored the requirements] that I have placed on them. They have taken what I claimed for Myself and put it among their own goods. They have not only stolen, but they have also lied. The people of Israel will not be able to defend themselves against their enemies. They will run away from their enemies because the people of Israel are now claimed for destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy what I have claimed for Myself.

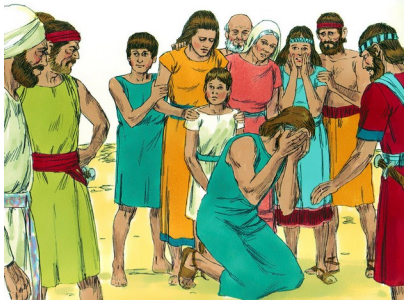
“Get up! Tell the people, ‘Get ready for tomorrow by performing the ceremonies to make yourselves holy. This is what the Lord God of Israel says: You have what I claimed for Myself. You will not be able to defend yourselves against your enemies until you get rid of what I have claimed. In the morning come forward by tribes. The tribe the Lord selects will come forward by families. Then the family the Lord selects will come forward by households, and the household the Lord selects will come forward man by man The man who is selected, along with everything he has, must be [destroyed] because he has stolen what the Lord has claimed. He has ignored the Lord’s requirements and done a godless thing in Israel.’ ”

Joshua got up early in the morning. He had Israel come forward by tribes… [Then families, then households, then each man] came forward.

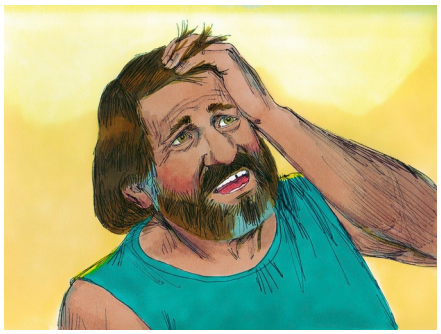


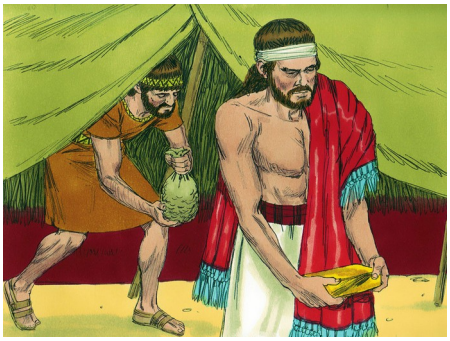
And Achan *{AY-k-en}* the son of Carmi *{CAR-my},*… of the tribe of Judah, was chosen.

Joshua said to Achan, “Son, give honor and praise to the Lord God of Israel! Tell me what you have done. Don’t hide anything from me.”



Then Achan answered Joshua, “It’s true. I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel. This is what I did: I saw a fine robe from Babylonia, five pounds of silver, and a bar of gold weighing about one pound among the [treasures of the city]. I wanted them, so I took them. You will find them buried inside my tent with the silver beneath them.”



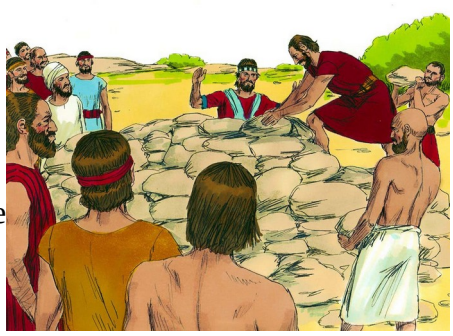


Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent. The loot was buried inside with the silver beneath it. They took the loot from the tent and brought it to Joshua and all the people of Israel. Then they laid it out in the presence of the Lord.

Joshua and all Israel took Achan, the silver, the robe, the bar of gold, [and all he had], and brought them to the valley of Achor [Which means: Disaster].

Then Joshua said, “Why did you bring this disaster on us? The Lord will bring disaster on you today!”

And all Israel stoned Achan [and all he had]. They made such a large pile of stones over Achan that it is still there today.



Then the Lord withdrew his burning anger. For this reason that place is still called the valley of Achor [Which means: Disaster] today.

Review:

- **Joshua sent some of the men to Ai to do what?** To spy on it.
- **What was their report when they got back?** They said that there weren't very many people who lived in Ai and that they only needed to send 3,000 fighting men.
- **What happened when they went to fight Ai?** They were defeated and 36 men were killed. They had to run away.
- **How did Joshua respond to this news?** He tore his clothes and fell face down before the ark of the covenant.
- **What did he say to the Lord?** Why did you bring us across the Jordan to destroy us? The other people will find out about it, and then they'll come and destroy us and Your reputation too.
- **How does God answer Joshua's question?** Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? Israel has sinned by taking some of the devoted things… You need to destroy those things or I won't be with you anymore.
- **Who sinned? God or Achen?** Achen did.
- **In the morning Joshua was to do what?** Have the people come tribe by tribe until they found out who committed the sin.
- **Who ended up being the guilty one?** Achan
- **What does he tell Joshua?** I saw a robe, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold. I wanted them, and I took them. They are buried in my tent.
- **Do you remember what God told the people about Jericho and what to do with the things inside the city of Jericho?** They were supposed to take the gold, silver, bronze and iron and put it in the temple treasury. The rest was to be destroyed.
- **What commandment did Achan break?** You shall not steal.
- **Achan thought that he could hide his sin, but who knew about it all along?** God did.
- **Can you hide your sins from God?** No.
- **What should we do if we sin?** Repent, which means to apologize or say "sorry."
- **Will God forgive you?** Always YES!!

Closing Prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Lord, God of Heaven and Earth, praise Your holy name, for You are merciful and abounding in unending love. Lord teach us, each day, to praise You for Your all You give to us. Teach us to see how we share Your blessings with others.

In Jesus' name. Amen.