

S3/2010 9/5/2010 “Do you rely on God or self each day?” Joshua 5:13-15; 6:1-22; 7:1-26

Introduction

1 Has been said that some Christians treat faith like an insurance policy – enjoy all the benefits

God gives us life, health strength, daily food job opportunities until things go wrong – help!!!

2 Faith is to live each day trusting God’s Bible promises to help us to live God’s way, change us

I Reliance on God totally

A 5:13-15 Joshua/Israel will fight God’s battle, under leadership of God’s Commander

1 Gen 15:16 God gave Canaan 470+ yrs to change evil worship while Abr’s folk were slaves

2 Now time had come to judge Canaanites and give their land to Israel as promised to Abr.

3 Josh given big responsibility to replace Moses as leader, told be courageous, don’t fear

4 While near Jericho, Josh. suddenly saw man with drawn sword, asked **-for us or enemies?**

5 Had amazing response – **neither**, have come to fight God’s battle to judge, destroy Canaan

6 When Josh. heard man was Commander of Lord’s army, immed. fell down to honour him

7 Exod 3:5-6 God had commissioned Moses to go to Egypt on holy ground- same for Josh

8 Josh knew God would help him, like he’d helped Moses if he obeyed, relied on God 100%

B 6:1-14 God’s plan for the first six days

1 6:1 People of Jericho had seen Israel cross Jordan River in full flood, heard re victories

2 Realised Israel’s God was much greater than their local gods, who had limited powers.

3 6:2-14 God gave Joshua clear instructions about what was going to happen for next 7 days

Order of marching – Armed men – 7 priests blowing trumpets - Priests carrying ark of covenant – rear guard - For 6 days, march around city once with trumpets blowing

C 6:15-20 God’s Plan to destroy Jericho on Seventh Day

1 7th day–7 marches around, priests blowing trumpets, be silent – 3 specific instructions

a After the 7th march around Jericho, priests would sound the trumpet blast, as all Israel shouted, God timed the city walls to collapse, so God gave them victory over Jericho

b Rahab, prostitute and family would be saved as had helped the 2 spies sent by Joshua

c Must devote the city and all in it to the Lord, **must not touch** anything **devoted** to God as **would make** the camp of Israel **liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.**

D 6:21-22 Victory and Destruction of Jericho except for Rahab and family

1 6:21 They devoted the city to the Lord, & destroyed everything except Rachel, family-**why**

3 Like Rahab, any Canaanite could have been forgiven and saved by accepting God’s will

4 By destroying all people/animals, handing rest to God, showed were God’s reps to judge

E Reliance on God each day will help us in every area of our lives – mirror of Chn life

1 Big lesson Josh. learned -let God’s Commander show him what to do, then obey him daily

2 Lord Jesus died on the cross in our place to reconcile each to God provided we receive him

3 Each who has repented and believed, must trust Jesus to be king and ruler of his/her life

4 1 Cor 6:19-20 With Jesus as king of your life, **a** Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit

b He lives in you **c** Don’t belong to yourself anymore **d** You have been bought with the price of Jesus’ blood **e** Therefore honour God with your body

3 We should ask the Lord’s help daily to live in a way that is pleasing to Him, which means

a Let Him change us within in the way we think, act to reflect His way of living, not ours

b At work, home, school, university, factory, social activities, watch TV, Internet, books

4 There will be challenges & difficulties in daily living, but God has promised to be with us

a Problems may be financial, emotional, physical, relationship, psychological-Jesus is there

b People may mock you for being a Chn at work, school, university, sport – Jesus is there

II Reliance on Self

A 7:1-5 Joshua and leaders failed to consult God, resulted in death of 36 men

- 1 Soon Israel became proud, Jericho was easy, **forgot God brought down walls, not them**
- 2 Joshua sent spies to check out Ai-would be easy to defeat them with 2000/3000 men, **But**
- 3 They forgot to ask the Commander of the Lord's army in prayer, what His plan was.
- 4 Alth. this **wasn't** reason for their defeat, if they'd prayed 1st, God would've told re Achan
- 5 3000 men attacked Ai and were defeated with 36 men losing their lives – only small town

B 7:6-9 Joshua and elders were forced to consult with God

- 1 Now Josh./elders threw themselves on ground before God's ark-why, why?, until evening
 - a We have been defeated by our enemies
 - b Why did you bring us across the Jordan to lose
 - c Canaanites will hear, surround/defeat us
 - d Then what'll you do for your own great name
- 2 In their minds, it was all God's fault, **but** trusted self, **failed to ask if they'd been at fault**

B Reliance on self often starts in a small way, then grows

- 1 Is amazing how we can slowly drift away from our enthusiastic 1st few months as Chns
 - a Keen to come to church, attend Bible studies, read Bible, pray every day, witness
 - b Get caught up with work, social activities, family responsibilities, miss one of these
 - c Then start making excuses, and soon we can rationalise our thinking -God'll understand
- eg Missed channel in Mkuze River, got stuck in mud, narrow at beginning, gap grows wider
- 2 I read Bible often when I was younger, know it pretty well, don't need to keep doing it !!!
- 3 When things go wrong, try to blame God like Joshua tried to do, instead of looking at self
- 4 Hebrews 10:25 **“Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another”** – Do you/I do this?

III Results of Hidden and Unconfessed Sin

A 7:1 Achan's and our sin do affect others negatively

- 1 Achan sinned, broke God's cove'nt with Israel, so all he had become liable to destruction
- 2 God's anger burned against **all of Israel** because of sin of one man - our sin affects others

B 7:10-15 God refuses to help Israel against their enemies until they deal with their sin

- 1 God told Josh. - **stand up, Israel collectively** have sinned by breaking special relationship they had with God-**Israel** a had stolen some of devoted things b Lied c Hid stolen things d Couldn't defeat enemies e Turned around, ran as they became liable for destruction
- 2 7:12 God refused to help Israel anymore until they destroy what's devoted to destruction
- 3 All Israel to prepare for God to judge, destruction by fire for guilty one/all belongs to him

C 7:16-26 Achan only confessed when forced to - God taught from start wanted obed.

- 1 Josh by lot chose guilty person Judah tribe-Zerah clan-Zimri family-Carmi's son- Achan
- 2 At no time did Achan confess his sin until forced to by Joshua – Try imagine his thinking
- 3 7:19-21 When Josh told him to give glory and praise to God, he finally confessed
 - a His sin against God
 - b Had seen beautiful robe, silver, gold
 - c Coveted these
 - d Hid them
- 4 Goods were found, Achan, whole family, animals etc stoned, burned, as God had warned
- 5 Achan brought trouble on all Israel judged for hidden sin-God turned from fierce anger

D Consequences of unconfessed, hidden sins

- 1 All of us at one time or another, have done things of which we are ashamed, embarrassed
 - a Done something to offend someone
 - b Had evil thoughts about someone
 - c Gossiped
 - d Hidden anger
 - e Jealous of someone
 - e Look at, read immoral books, DVDs, internet
 - 2 Question what have we done about these things? – Suppressed **or** confessed them to God
 - 3 If remain hidden, we feel guilty, they will affect our spiritual growth, affect other people
- eg Hondas cut-out switch, stopped petrol from reaching engine-anything wrong betw. you & God?

IV Where do you/I stand?

1 **Reliance on God** as you face each day, wanting to live His way at home, work, socially etc.

Requires self-discipline, active daily relationship with God - Prayer, Bible reading, obed.

2 **Reliance on self** - Can happen to anyone !!- no-one is exempt can drift away from God

3 **Unconfessed, hidden sins**-Things in my life - too embarrassing to share with God, others,

Or things I love doing, or things more important to me than Jesus

4 Bible teaches more important how we finish Chn race than how we start-Demas 2 Tim 4:10

eg a David (Moore Coll. trained in 1970s) became rector in another state - now has drifted away

b Elaine S was in her 20s (1970s), became mish, married a local, since divorced- now no faith