



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God Is Our Rescuer Series, Lesson 16

Lesson Title: Our Rescuer Wants Us To Surrender All

Take Home Point: Trust God and surrender all to him.

Warm-Up:

As usual, I calculated my income tax this year, and as usual I earned enough to pay taxes to the government. But this year I did something a little different. Since the government collects so much in taxes from millions of people, I decided to keep a small portion of my tax liability. The government would never be able to tell the difference in terms of the amount collected across the country, but what I kept would fund a well-deserved vacation for my family and me. I also figured my odds of getting caught were very small, so really no one would get hurt.

Read: Joshua 7:1 – 8:35

Observation (What happened?):

Who was the owner of the robe and gold and silver that Achan stole?

When Israel repented and obeyed God's instructions, what did God do for them at Ai?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did God consider it such a sin that Achan took just a couple of things from a city full of riches?

Do you think the Israelites were afraid to go back to Ai after what happened the first time?

Insight:

In Joshua 7:24-25, we read that Israel stoned not only Achan but also his family. What had they done to deserve death? Why did God include them in the punishment? To our modern sensibilities, that may seem cruel and grossly unfair to Achan's family. But our judgment that this is "unfair," reveals a lack of spiritual perspective. It is the nature of this sinful world that our sinful actions cause pain and loss to others. The alcoholic may be the only member of his family that drinks, but everyone gets hurt. The father who doesn't pray for his family loses opportunities for God to work in his children. The angry driver harms innocents in other vehicles by impatient and reckless maneuvering. The list goes on and on. We need to recognize sin's consequences in every way – in our relationships with others as well as with God. Be sure, God was deeply sorrowful about Achan's family, just as he is about how your sin hurts those around you.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Where in your life is God asking you to trust him even if you can't perceive his plan? How much time are you spending listening to hear him ask?

Can you remember a time when your sin caused hurt or loss to others? How did you respond? How did God respond?