

# The Cost of Disobedience

**Scripture: Joshua 7:1, 25**

**Joshua 7:1** But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against the children of Israel. <sup>25</sup> And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the Lord shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

## Introduction

Disobedience to God's instructions will always have devastating consequences. Just as there are rewards for obedience, there are consequences for disobedience. And the tragedy of disobedience is that the consequences often many more people than the one who disobeys. The story of Achan is such an account.

## I. God's instructions are to be followed explicitly and completely

**Joshua 6:18-19 KJV** And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. <sup>19</sup> But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the Lord: they shall come into the treasury of the Lord.

**Numbers 6:3-7 KJV** He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried. <sup>4</sup> All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk. <sup>5</sup> All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the Lord, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow. <sup>6</sup> All the days that he separateth himself unto the Lord he shall come at no dead body. <sup>7</sup> He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head.

- A. Only Rahab and her family were to be saved
- B. Everything in Jericho was to be destroyed
- C. Silver, gold, brass, etc. were dedicated to the Lord's treasury
- D. Samson was to be a Nazarite from his mother's womb

## II. The act of disobedience

**Joshua 7:1 KJV** But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against the children of Israel.

**Judges 16:17 KJV** That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

- A. Excuses for disobedience
  - 1. No one will ever know
  - 2. I will get away with this
  - 3. The instructions didn't apply to me
  - 4. It will only affect me
- B. There are no exemptions from God's instructions

## III. The consequences of disobedience

**Joshua 7:5 KJV** And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.

**Judges 16:20 KJV** And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. **And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him.**

- A. Thirty six men die in battle
- B. Achan, his entire family and all he had were destroyed
- C. Samson lost his eyesight and his life

## Conclusion

The cost of disobedience is always much higher than is anticipated. It affects many more than the one who disobeys.