

TURN DEFEAT INTO VICTORY!

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

WORSHIP

Because of Your Love,
Hosanna (Praise is Rising),
See A Victory, Lord I Need
You, Be Strong and Take
Courage

WELCOME

Consider your favorite
sports team. What are some
“hindrances” to victory do
you think they make sure
they get rid of, to win?

WORD

JOSHUA 7:10-13 (READ THE ENTIRE JOSHUA 7 & CHAPTER 8)

¹⁰ So the LORD said to Joshua, “Rise up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face?”

¹¹ Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put them among their own things. ¹² Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst. ¹³ Rise up! Consecrate the people and say, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for thus the LORD, the God of Israel, has said, “There are things under the ban in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you have removed the things under the ban from your midst.”’

Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Walt Disney, and even JK Rowling are very successful, famous people, but all of them experienced failures, bankruptcy, and many rejections. The Bible tells us in **Proverbs 29:16** – “**The righteous man falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in time of calamity**”. How can we turn defeat and failures into victory?

Joshua 6:27 ends with great success, and Joshua’s fame spreads all over the land. But past victory does not guarantee future victory. **Joshua 7:1** reveals sin committed by a man named Achan, and “the **anger of the LORD** burned against Jerusalem”. One man’s sin impacted the whole nation! Our God is not just loving –the wrath of God is as much “a divine perfection of His character as His faithfulness, mercy, and grace” (**Arthur Pink**). The absence of wrath towards sin will be a great flaw in God’s character! The very perfection of His character demands that God should be angry towards sin. **RC Sproul** wrote, “A god who is all love, all grace, all mercy, no sovereignty, no justice, no holiness, and no wrath is an idol.” Truth matters, and we must talk about the whole truth about God.

In **1 Chronicles 2:7** Achan was labeled a troublemaker. We must never be an Achan who got greedy, coveted silver and gold from the “ban”, a complete disobedience to God’s command. To Achan, it was a “private matter”... it won’t affect others. But we see that Achan and his entire family suffered when they were stoned to death and burned (**Joshua 7:25-26**). **Deuteronomy 24:16** instructs that everyone should be put to death for his own sin. This means, that Achan’s sin infected his family, they became conspirators. The irresponsibility of one person is usually passed to another to clean up their mess. **Luke 12:2** tells us that even things we think are in secret will be revealed! Someday, justice will be delivered to the entire world.

How then do we turn our defeat to victory?

1. RECOGNIZE YOUR DEFEAT

Israel saw Ai an easy feat – placing their confidence from their past victory (**Joshua 7:2-3**), but we quickly see that this sudden conquest ended with disaster, resulting in the death of some of their fighters (**verses 4-5**). This brought fear to the entire group of Israel. Many times, we blame others for our troubles. We don’t take time to reflect and find out where we failed. We must learn from our mistakes and see what we must improve, or how we transgressed the Lord.

2. REFOCUS ON GOD

Joshua 7:6-9 shows how Joshua led the people to pray to God and grieve for what happened. Joshua was concerned not just for his own sake, but more importantly for God’s reputation. **Acts 3:19** has an amazing promise – sins will be wiped away and times of refreshing will come, if we choose to refocus on God and repent (turn) to Him.

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When we pray, we also listen to God. We literally must learn to be quiet and read the Word of God. God speaks to us through His Word.

We also learn importance of discovering the ROOT PROBLEM – God speaks and raises the fact that ISRAEL HAS SINNED (**Joshua 7:10-11**) – having done something that God has forbidden, and God even specified the sin that was done. God told Joshua the root problem of defeat – SIN. We are aware of grave sins and we may not be doing these, but even the “**little sins**” matter and so we must be sensitive with sin. It is the “Kryptonite” of the Christian life. in **verse 12**, God repeats the same idea again – the reason why Israel couldn’t stand against enemies is because they have become “accursed” due to sin. He commands them to **CONSECRATE** themselves and have the sin corrected (**v.13**), to remove the sin. This involves repentance; this involves setting apart their lives to God!

Martin Luther said, “**When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent’, He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance**”. Sin robs us of joy, peace, and power. Achan was put to death even if he confessed – because he only did so after he was caught. Beyond embarrassment, and the pain of being known as a “sinner”, repent because you have grieved God who loves you and had offered Himself for you.

Joshua 7:16-18 shows us how a long process slowly but surely led to the discovery of Achan’s sin. Achan confessed because he got caught (**v.21**). This is different from real repentance – change of heart and mind, draws us closer to God and creates a desire in us to obey His commandments. **1 John 1:9** promises that if we confess our sins, He will be faithful to forgive and cleanse us.

DAVID understood repentance; he committed adultery with Bathsheba, even killed her husband. When he was rebuked, he confessed, repented, and even suffered the consequences of his sins. **Psalms 51** shows how David repented of his sin – he appealed to God’s grace, lovingkindness, and great compassion (**v.1**). He admits his sin, calling it as it is (**v.2**), he assumed complete responsibility. He also prayed that God would create a clean heart and steadfast spirit in him (**v.10**), that the joy of his salvation be restored (**v.12**). This surrender of David is amazing, and he was described as a man after God’s heart (**Acts 13:36**)!

3. RESPOND TO GOD BY FAITH

Joshua 8:1-2 shows us that after this, God instructed Joshua and assured him again of victory. Victory is ours after we repent, and so we are told to respond to God by faith, not by hopelessness, guilt nor regret. Jesus’ encounter with Peter was amazing (**John 21:15-17**). Jesus asked Peter if he loves Him, and “love” was used 7 times. Love should be our greatest motivation – we must love God more than anything else and respond to Him in complete obedience! Remember in Christ, we take hold of this promise through faith (**Galatians 3:10, 13,14**)!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Is there anything in your life that is not pleasing to God? Is there any connection with your life circumstances now and unconfessed sins?

2. Setting It Right.

What lessons have you learned from your past mistakes?

3. Living It Out.

What do you think God is telling you to do for His greater glory?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that the recent natural calamities, conflicts, and other hardships that has affected people all over the world will cause repentance and a return to the Lord. Reach out to those who may be going through a “defeat” in their lives and pray with them. Give tangible help in their areas of need. Share Jesus to them so that they too can turn to Him for victory.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God’s help and comfort for Turkish and Syrian people devastated by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; escalating tension in East Asian countries to stop.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

MEMORY VERSE

JOSHUA 7:13

Rise up! Consecrate the people and say, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow’, for thus the Lord, the God of Israel, has said, “There are things under the ban in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you have removed the things under the ban from your midst.”