

THE LORD'S ANGER BURNED

unit 7 | session 3



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus warned the religious leaders about hidden sin. While they appeared religious on the outside by following the law, they were dirty on the inside because they weren't following Jesus. Just as Joshua pointed out hidden sin in the community, Jesus pointed out the sin of the heart (**Luke 12:1-3**).

NOTHING IS HIDDEN

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Joshua 7—Joshua 8

OUR DISOBEDIENCE AFFECTS OTHERS

JOSHUA 7:1,7-8,10-13

1 But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel. . . . 7 And Joshua said, "Alas, O Lord GOD, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan! 8 O Lord, what can I say, when Israel has turned their backs before their enemies! . . . 10 The LORD said to Joshua, "Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? 11 Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings. 12 Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you. 13 Get up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the LORD, God of Israel, "There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you."

WE CAN'T HIDE OUR SIN FROM GOD

JOSHUA 7:18-25

18 And he brought near his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. 19 Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." 20 And Achan answered Joshua, "Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did: 21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath." 22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath. 23 And they took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the people of Israel. And they laid them down before the LORD. 24 And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones.

MAIN POINT.

God will hold us accountable for our disobedience.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

IMPUTATION

When God pardoned sinners at the cross, our sins were imputed, or transferred, to Christ, who became sin on our behalf. Our sin was imputed to Christ, and Christ's righteousness was imputed to us (Rom. 5:17; 1 Cor. 1:30). When God the Father looks at those who have trusted in Christ, He does not see their sins but sees the righteousness of Christ as belonging to them (Rom. 4:6).

DISCUSSION

OUR DISOBEDIENCE AFFECTS OTHERS

JOSHUA 7:1,7-8,10-13

- How did sin come into the world? Why do we sin today?
- Do you think there is such a thing as personal sin? What does Achan's situation help you know?
- Read Romans 5:17-19. What did Christ take from us? What did we receive from Him? How is this good news compared to what occurred with Achan?

WE CAN'T HIDE OUR SIN FROM GOD

JOSHUA 7:18-25

- What is the difference between an honest confession and simply getting caught?
- Read Luke 12:1-3. What does Jesus say about hidden sin? Why do we try to hide our sin?
- How could our own confession of sin affect those around us?

HOW DOES ACHAN'S STORY AFFECT YOUR VIEW OF YOUR SIN? WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE ABOUT THE WAY YOU VIEW YOUR SIN?

CULTURAL CONNECTION

We're greatly influenced by the ideas that our decisions are ours alone and that we have the right to do as we please so long as we aren't hurting anyone else. But we won't find these ideas anywhere in Scripture. In fact, we'll find the opposite: we're called to live sacrificially and do what's good for others. Also not found in Scripture is the idea that our sin is ours alone. Again, we'll find the opposite: our sin greatly affects those around us, sometimes for generations to come. It may not make us feel good to accept this, but sin always hurts someone. Those feelings of jealousy you think you're hiding—they'll eventually spill over into your actions and speech. That sexual content you're consuming on your phone—it's adultery of the heart, and it could have lasting effects on your future marriage. Even sin that feels private isn't private at all.



DAY ONE

LUKE 12:1-3

There's no way around it: these verses are pretty convicting, right? Jesus called out the hypocrisy in the religious leaders. He explained to His disciples that hypocrisy works a lot like leaven, or yeast. But what exactly does that mean? Yeast is the agent in bread which causes it to rise. Without it, you'd be left with a flat, pancake-like bread. And the thing with yeast is that it doesn't take very much. Very little yeast is very effective. It works its way through the whole batch of dough, causing it to rise in the heat.

Do you see how hypocrisy works like this? It starts inwardly, maybe in very small ways. But it begins to work its way through every part of our lives. It grows and grows; it often spreads to those around us. Just like we can tell the difference between bread with yeast and bread without it, our hypocrisy is more visible than we realize. Our hypocrisy is certainly laid bare before God, and this is what should convict us. We can hide our motives, our secret sin, or our impure thoughts from others, but we can't hide anything from our Maker. And eventually, it works its way through other parts of our lives and into the lives of others.

- **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A HYPOCRITE?**
- **WHY IS IT COMFORTING THAT GOD ACTUALLY WANTS US TO BE REAL WITH HIM RATHER THAN HIDING OUR SIN OR STRUGGLES?**

PRAY

GOD, I WANT TO BE REAL WITH YOU. I DON'T WANT TO CLAIM ONE THING AND DO ANOTHER. CONVICT ME OF ANY HYPOCRISY IN MY LIFE, AND HELP ME TO WALK GENUINELY WITH YOU.



DAY TWO

MATTHEW 23:25-28

You know those heart-shaped candy boxes that appear around Valentine's Day? They're full of all types of chocolate candy. The individual pieces usually look really good, but some of them just aren't! They catch you off guard too. You pick one out, not knowing what cream may be inside, and you take a bite only to be met with some crazy flavor that should never be mixed with chocolate. The outside is deceiving, and it catches a lot of us by surprise year after year.

While that may be a silly example, Jesus actually makes a similar point about our lives. In this passage, Jesus directly addressed the Pharisees, scribes, and other religious leaders, calling them blind, lawless hypocrites. He explained that their lives are a lot like a cup which looks clean on the outside, but the inside is covered with filth. Who would want to drink out of that? What does this really mean for us? Well, our lives look like this when we outwardly put on a face that we're close with God. We may do all the "right" things, like going to church, reading our Bibles, singing in worship, or being good rule-followers. Thanks to social media, we've gotten really good at managing other people's perceptions of us. But if we're honest, our hearts can still be filthy. They can harbor hate, lust, or anger. Our minds can house impurity of all kinds. In reality, we can be very far from God, even when we look like we're close to Him. So, here's Jesus's command: wash the inside. Draw near to God in a real way, and let Him make you clean.

- **IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE ARE YOU MORE CONCERNED WITH THE WAY YOU APPEAR RATHER THAN WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE OF YOUR HEART AND MIND?**
- **WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO LET GOD MAKE YOU CLEAN ON THE INSIDE?**

PRAY

GOD, CLEAN ME FROM THE INSIDE OUT. I DON'T WANT TO CARE MORE ABOUT APPEARANCES THAN I DO ABOUT BEING TRULY RIGHT WITH YOU. SHOW ME THE PLACES IN MY HEART AND MIND THAT I NEED TO BRING BEFORE YOU.



DAY THREE

ROMANS 5:12-19

If you watch the news or even pay attention to current events on social media, you'll probably notice that the negative news spreads more quickly. It's like a fire: one spark of information transforms and spreads rapidly. But the good news often takes a little longer to catch on.

Sin is like this too. We sometimes give it a lot of attention because it just feels rampant, but sin and struggle and pain aren't the main news. The gospel is! Sure, sin feels almost impossible to avoid here, but it has already been defeated. Sin began with one man, Adam. It spread, a lot like the yeast we talked about. It acted like a virus, infecting everyone ever born. But here's the good part of the story: one Man put an end to sin's power. One Man put an end to its ultimate effect over us—an end to death. Through one Man, Jesus, we've been offered a gift of salvation. And this gift is so much more powerful than sin. It crushes sin! This is the story we get to tell if we've called on Christ for salvation and confessed Him as Lord. And here's another great part to the story: the power of us living authentic, godly lives—the power of us truly loving Jesus—spreads further and wider than our mistakes. Our obedience to the Lord can have a lasting impact that we can't even begin to see here on this side of heaven.

- **WHY DO YOU THINK WE DWELL MORE ON THE BAD NEWS RATHER THAN THE GOOD NEWS—THE GOSPEL?**
- **HOW DOES KNOWING JESUS DEFEATED SIN AND DEATH COMFORT YOU WHEN YOU STRUGGLE WITH SIN?**

PRAY

**JESUS, THANK YOU FOR DEFEATING SIN AND DEATH.
THANK YOU FOR OFFERING SALVATION TO THE
WORLD. HELP ME TO LIVE IN SUCH A WAY THAT
PEOPLE HEAR AND KNOW THIS PART OF THE STORY.**



DAY FOUR

JAMES 5:16

When we're sick or someone we love is sick, we normally pray for healing. We just want to feel better, or we want our loved one to feel better. Sometimes, we find remedies to at least soften the symptoms, like medication, cough drops, or even a good day of laying around on our couch. Thankfully, God can heal us, and He so often does.

We don't always think of healing as anything other than a physical need, but we're in need of spiritual healing too. Sin makes us sick spiritually; it creates distance between us and God; and it heaps consequences on us. So how do we seek healing from sin? This verse tells us to confess our sins to one another if we want to experience healing and freedom. Confession isn't something that comes easy for a lot of us. It involves being honest about our mistakes; it means we have to drag what is hidden in the dark into the light. It makes us feel vulnerable and exposed. If we're honest, it doesn't feel good. But something powerful happens when we confess our sin to God and to trusted, godly friends, mentors, and family members: we're healed. The sin loses its grip on us. We enter into accountability with others who can help us battle against the sin.

- **HOW CAN YOU TAKE STEPS TO ASK FOR ACCOUNTABILITY?**
- **WHY ARE WE SO AFRAID OF CONFESSION? HOW DOES YOUR MIND NEED TO CHANGE CONCERNING CONFESSION?**

PRAY

GOD, HELP ME TO EMBRACE CONFESSION OF MY SINS, NOT ONLY TO YOU BUT ALSO TO OTHERS WHO CAN HELP ME WALK AWAY FROM THE SIN.



DAY FIVE

JOSHUA 9

This week, we read about one man disobeying God's command after defeating Jericho. Achan took things which were supposed to be set apart for God: a cloak, silver, and gold. Achan's deceitful actions quickly led to consequences for all of Israel because God was displeased. But once Achan confessed his sin, Israel renewed the covenant with God and went on to defeat the city of Ai under God's mighty power. As you can imagine, word about Israel's military victories quickly began to spread to neighboring tribes.

Here is where the Gibeonites come onto the scene. They had heard all about Israel and about Yahweh, and they were afraid. They pretended to be from far away and dressed in rags to convince Israel to make a treaty with them, protecting them from other tribes and kings. Verse 14 is important: Israel didn't consult God. God had directed Israel not to make a treaty with any tribes in Canaan. But because they didn't ask God, Israel made the treaty with the Gibeonites. They were deceived, and because they acted on their own without direction from God, they would later face a battle and many would lose their lives (Josh. 10).

What can we learn from this? No matter how good a situation may look, it's always wise to stop and consult God. It's always wise to pause and pray and to seek wisdom through Scripture. We sometimes think it's okay to make decisions on our own, especially if these decisions seem small or insignificant; God wants us to come to Him with everything, even the details that seem minor.

- **IN WHAT AREA OF YOUR LIFE DO YOU NEGLECT CONSULTING GOD? WHY?**
- **WHAT PRACTICAL STEPS CAN YOU TAKE TO SEEK GOD ABOUT ALL THINGS?**

PRAY

GOD, I CONFESS THAT I SOMETIMES MAKE DECISIONS WITHOUT COMING TO YOU FIRST. I KNOW THIS COULD LEAD TO DISOBEDIENCE. HELP ME TO CONSULT YOU, NOT OUT OF DUTY, BUT BECAUSE I KNOW YOU CARE ABOUT ALL DETAILS OF MY LIFE.