

HOW DOES JOSHUA DEAL WITH SIN?

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Text: Joshua 7

1. The people were defeated

- The spies brought back a report (v2-5).
- Fewer men went out this time (only 3000).
- They were routed and lost 36 men.
- As a result they were demoralized.
- God didn't go with them so they were ill equipped.

2. Joshua went to God (v6-9)

- He never blamed his men.
- He reminded God about the danger they were already in:
 - o his men were very discouraged;
 - o the message to the inhabitants of the land - they would become bold;
 - o the name of God which is in shame.
- Other leaders shared his concern.
- Joshua was an example of humility.

3. God spoke (v10-12)

- The sin of disobedience was already in the camp.
- That sin must come out of them before they could have peace.
- Joshua immediately acted (v13).
- Achan was found out and punished (v19-21)
- This was a hard decision to make but he had to make it (v24).
- Paul reminds the Romans that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).
- The people were now ready to face the challenge again but with God.

4 What lessons do we learn?

- Making decisions is important for a leader, hard though it may be.
- Seek guidance from God before you make any decision.
- Own the outcome and deal with it.
- Joshua felt the pain the people went through. This is the cost of leadership.
- He knew the battle belongs to God and was not his.

These seven chapters only open the great treasure in this book. I hope you will take time to study the rest of the book and see the promise keeping God at work.