

*NIV Joshua 7:1 But the Israelites acted unfaithfully in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel.*

*2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to (spy out) t Ai.*

*3 When they returned to Joshua, they said, "Not all the people will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it...for only a few men are there."*

*4 So about three thousand men went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai,*

*5 who killed about thirty-six of them... At this the hearts of the people melted and became like water.*

*6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads... 8 O Lord, what can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? 9 The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?"*

*10 The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? 11 Israel has sinned; They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.*

*12 That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.*

QA. What is the problem? How is this spelled out in verse 11b?

QB. Looking at verse 12a, what is the result?

*13 "Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: That which is devoted is among you, O Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove it.*

QC. Looking at verse 13, what 2 things are they being told to do?

*16 Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was taken.*

*17 The clans of Judah came forward, and he took the Zerahites. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was taken.*

*18 Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan ... was taken.*

*19 Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and give him the praise. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me."*

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*20 Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done:*

*21 When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."*

QD. Looking at 21, the last of the first sentence, what would you say was the root cause of Achan's sin?

James 1:13 – 15 describes the exact same problem: *13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;*

*14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.*

*15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

QE. Look at the attached list of Directions to Attain Contentment from Jeremiah Burroughs and consider how each of these things is useful and how they apply to us today.

*24 Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold wedge, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor.*

*25 Joshua said, "Why have you brought this trouble on us? The LORD will bring trouble on you today." Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them.*

*26 Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor ever since.*

QF. Did Achan repent of his sin immediately due to personal conviction – how long did he wait to confess?

His sin, and our own affects us as individuals and affects our church, our families, sometimes people we don't even know. As God loves us and loves His church, His purposes are always to bring us nearer to Himself, to consecrate us and to remove sin from us. To grow us in Christlikeness, He is faithful to His elect.

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Taken from Jeremiah Burroughs' The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment

(This is a brief summary, partly my paraphrase, partly his words. His list is longer.)

Directions to Attain Contentment:

1. Consider the mercies we have received, past and present. Focus our thoughts on His goodness and faithfulness – even little mercies in trials.
2. Don't dwell on and frequently talk about our disappointments and trials
3. Don't dwell on the opinions of others.
4. Don't excessively fix our affections on material things and comforts
5. Spend time meditating on spiritual things, reading scripture, thinking about eternal life, salvation and the forgiveness of our sins.