

Cautionary Tale vs. Example

Joshua 6:18-19- But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD.”

#1. Actions have Consequences (do not take lest you bring trouble)

#2. God Honors Sacrifice

Joshua 6:23-24- So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel. And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

(God saved her family because she saved someone else's)

Be the answer to someone else's prayer

#3. God Judges Selfishness

Joshua 7:1-5- 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. Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, “Go up and spy out the land.” And the men went up and spied out Ai. And they returned to Joshua and said to him, “Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few.” So about three thousand men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai, and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

COMMUNAL BLESSING OR COMMUNAL JUDGEMENT

HEALTH OF A COMMUNITY REFLECTS LEVEL OF SELFISHNESS/GENEROSITY OF THE CHURCH

#4. Sin of Withholding

Joshua 7:19-22- Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise^[m] to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.” And Achan answered Joshua, “Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did: when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels,^[m] then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath.” So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath.

It wasn't about WHAT Achan had, it was that he WITHHELD it

The PRECIOUS, VALUABLE things of God hidden in the ground

RAHAB VS. ACHAN
SACRIFICE VS. SELFISHNESS

Will your generosity lead to the Salvation of a nation or will your sin of withholding contribute to the destruction of it?

John 6:8-13- One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had

eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.

Your investment in one could feed thousands.