

Hello! This is Dorothy -

At the present time, we are looking in the **Book of Joshua**. It is an exciting book! It is a picture of those who love and know the Lord Jesus. We have been delivered from our sin. We have been delivered from the bondage of which all the slavery of Egypt spoke for the children of Israel. Now we are in this liberty in which we can enter, if we will allow the Lord to do that work in us.

In **chapter 7**, we read about what was just a little battle. It was a battle to do with Ai. In doing what God had told them to do, they would have been protected, but, instead, they did it their way. There was a sin of independence. You see, one man - just one man only - took something. Could you imagine what that means? The decision you make can literally affect the lives of others. As a mother, in that little thing that you do, your children are watching. You might justify it, but they see it as stealing. There might be a situation that you speak about some other woman, and they hear that. To them you have opened up that dangerous position which is going to affect their future lives, in that you tolerate speaking in an evil way.

Do you realize that what your life is doing today has an affect on the lives of those about?

So, a decision was made that they were going to fight this battle of Ai. It was a little thing, but there had not been that talking to God. There had not been that, *Lord, You are saying to do it . How do You do it?*

It is the little things that are the snares in our lives. We go to God when it is an enormous, big thing like who am I going to marry and what will I name my children. We talk about these big things like where will we live, but we do not realize that God always uses the little things to bring about the big things. If we are not on track today in the little things, we are going to miss what God has for the big things.

In **chapter 7 and verse 10**, here is Joshua and he is in a desperate state. You see, they had gone ahead and they could not understand it. They thought there was victory. They knew everybody was looking to see what was happening in the neighboring countries. But instead of going and doing what God told him to go and do, there had been independent action.

We read in **verse 6** that Joshua was on his face and he rent his clothes. He was distraught.

7 And Joshua said, "Alas, O Lord God, why hast thou brought this people over at all, to give us into the hands of these people?"

The Lord turns right around and rebukes him.

10 And the Lord said unto Joshua, “ Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?

Is God saying to you, “Get thee up?” Don’t be moaning; don’t be crying; don’t be saying I do not know why this happened to me! There are things that we have to put right in our life. The Lord wants to live His victorious life by the power of His Holy Spirit through us, but we have to make right those things which are the blockages. And for this reason, God is not going to come with a long appeal to you. If He has told you to make it right and you are resisting him, it is as if He has withdrawn and He is literally waiting for the next move and until the next move comes from you.

The Lord in speaking to Joshua -

11/ Israel has sinned; and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them; . . . they have stolen. . .

They have taken the accursed thing. They have dabbled with the things that God said they were not to dabble with and not to take. Therefore, one man’s sin, it turns out, caused this terrible happening that other lives were lost and everybody was in despair.

Because God had a standard. God said, very clearly, “Arise, why have you fallen? Sanctify the people and take care of this sin systematically and quickly.” That is exactly what he did. He went from to group to group of the different tribes. Right down from the tribe to the family down to the man. Then as he came to the man, it was singled out that one man was responsible. One man’s sin and it

affected a nation! My people have sinned.

We are looking at the distraught situations of the nations around us. Could it be you and I have sinned and somehow we rendered impotent the power of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus? Could it be in the handling of money; in the prestige of wanting to be number one; Could it be as we have manipulated situations and told half-truths? Could it be?

O God, speak to my heart this day. The blood of these lives is on my hands. Deal with me and I will praise You for it.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.