

Hello! This is Dorothy -

How are you today? It is a joy to turn to **Joshua** and to look at **chapter 7** together. In **chapter 7**, there is a man called Achan. This man disobeyed God and, in so disobeying God, he involved the defeat of his nation. Also, he brought total despair. As a matter of fact, thirty-six people were lost in battle because of his sin. How important it is, as we look at this chapter, to see what it was that Achan did.

20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:

21 When I saw - notice those words - among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them- I saw; I coveted - and took them; - And what had he done with them? - and . . . (he) hid them in the earth. In other words, these great possessions that he wanted, all the time, he then had to cover up.

You see, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life caused this man to do incredible damage to not only the children of Israel, but to precious, innocent people who were killed

because of him.

This is no new story. But it is interesting when all this was recorded. It was the new life that God was showing through the Scriptures that the Christian can enter into, having passed through Jordan (and we will look at Jordan another time), that it was no longer the old life, the flesh; it is the life in the Spirit; the exchanged life; the resurrection life of Christ in my life. But here was this old flesh raising its ugly head! Always, my sin of my flesh, will hinder others coming to the Lord, finding forgiveness and eternal life.

There is a story back in **2 Kings 5:26** when Elisha, a prophet of God, had a servant called Gehazi. At that particular time, Elisha had had a visitor from another land and had been instrumental in God healing this man. The man's name was Naaman. This man wanted to offer great amounts of goods and do anything he could to please Elisha. He was very grateful. You can understand where he was coming from, but Elisha knew that that miracle had been wrought by the living God. He didn't cash in on what God was doing. He didn't take it to himself and say, "Well, we did do this. So that's all right." It was God's. What happened is that this servant was very displeased with this. So he came with some lame-duck explanation and chased after the healed Naaman when he left Elisha. Gehazi chased after Naaman, made up a false story and he took goods, which he then had to hide. A lot of good goods

are when you have to hide them! I do not know what happens to garments in the earth; I would not think it does them a lot of good! But that is always what happens when you steal something.

Then Elisha turned and said to Gehazi - "It is not time to receive money and to receive garments" and goes on and speaks of all the other assets that somebody could receive. Can I say, from Heaven's point of view, this is not a time for us who love the Lord Jesus, to want a reputation amongst the other women, to want to be known in our church or whatever sphere we feel our little world is all about. This is a time that we need to give all credit to the wonder-working living Lord Jesus Christ operating in and through us. Another time was that as in the early Church, there was no room for sin. You know the story in **Acts 5**, no doubt, of Ananias and Sapphira. God dealt so severely with those two that, as a result, they were carried out dead.

You say, "It is not like that any more. There is so much sin on every hand." Could it be that the power from the local assembly, from the Christian group, has gone? Somehow we preach Christ, but we preach Him without power. I want you, if you know Jesus, right now to listen carefully to the Spirit of the Lord. I want you to stand before the enemies of God as you have dealt with every "accursed thing" - everything that was set for destruction in your life. You say, 'I do not know what that is.' It could be something as small as a

pen. It could be something as small as a necklace that belongs to your sister. It could be something that is so small, but it is the “accursed thing.”

Do get your life open right now. *In Jesus Name. Amen.*