

BACKGROUND - God has given Joshua success thus far in all his endeavour in leading the Israelites into the Promised Land

- Joshua 2
- Joshua 3 & 4
- Joshua 5
- Joshua 6

CONTEXT – The Immediate Situation

- Joshua 6:17 - Joshua pronounced Jericho “*herem*”
- Joshua 6:18, 19 - Joshua warned the people in violating what was pronounced “*herem*”

JOSHUA Chapter Seven



1. Joshua 7:1 – 5 **BREAKING FAITH WITH A FAITHFUL GOD: THE WRATH OF GOD REVEALED**



2. Joshua 7:6 – 15 **DISTRESS BEFORE A MERCIFUL GOD: THE SIN OF THE PEOPLE REVEALED**



3. Joshua 7:16 – 26 **JUDGEMENT OF A HOLY GOD: SIN JUSTLY & DESERVEDLY PUNISHED**



Thinking through...

1. **Remember** the holiness of God and His sacrificial love for us who are utterly sinful. God Himself dealt with what was required to remove sin and consecrate His people.
 - Like Achan, our sin incurs God's wrath, affect others and deserve punishment. God's wrath is necessary because of His holiness.

Wrath, unlike love, is not one of the intrinsic perfections of God. Rather, it is a function of God's holiness against sin. Where there is no sin, there is no wrath - but there will always be love in God. Where God in His holiness confronts His image -bearers in their rebellion, there must be wrath, or God is not the jealous God He claims to be, and His holiness is impugned. The price of diluting God's wrath is diminishing God's holiness. D.A Carson, *The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God*, Crossway, 2000, p. 67.
 - God required that Achan's sin be dealt with the consecration of the people by the destruction of the objects of wrath that His anger may be turned away.
 - John 3:16 – 21 and Romans 3:23 – 25a, we see God fulfilling that Himself for us in Christ – Christ became our propitiation that God's wrath may be turned away and we be made righteous (consecrated).
 - Let us be always thankful and mindful that God is merciful toward us. We must do well to remember that God seeks His people's purity.
2. Just like Israel, Christians live with a **double mandate** (individual responsibility and corporate unity)
 - i. **Individual responsibility**
 - a. In what ways can we be better testimony?
 - b. How are we prone to procrastinate in dealing with sin
 1. by our denial of wrongdoing
 2. by our rationalizing/ self-justification
 3. by our lack of sense of God's judgment/ displeasure
 - ii. **Corporate unity**
 - a. When we make decisions, do we bring them before the Lord that our hearts may be searched by the Spirit for our motives and principles?
 - b. When we make decisions, do we consider how our decisions may weigh on the corporate body of Christ (the church)?