**Joshua 3 of 5**

**Notes**

Privilege and responsibility

Joshua chapter 7 – the story of Ai

Why was God angry?

Ch 6;16-19 and ch 7.

Devoted things: entirely and irrevocably God's property. The whole idea of devoted things was to teach Israel lessons of trust, holiness and separation from idolatry and evil in the cultures of the world at the time. Holiness is not moral perfection, but "otherness" to God.

Can you think of times when God’s judgement was against the people of Israel, not those outside?

e.g. Num 16 & Num 25

How did that manifest itself?

Ch 7:5 Compare Ch 2:11 and Ch 5:1

How was that interpreted by Joshua and what was Joshua's reaction?

What did God say?

(Note God’s use of ‘they’ and ch 7;12)

How does the confession of Achan typify all temptation and disobedience?

Ch 7;21 and Genesis 3

What was the final outcome?

First judgement, then ch 7;26 Ch 8;1-2

Can one person's sacrifice redeem a nation?

Recommended reading: Helen Paynter's MA on Herem (contact Helen or via office).

Meditate on Isaiah 53 and Rom 5;18. Did Christ became a voluntary "herem" (devoted/accursed) on our behalf?

Is there a now and not yet about final judgement? 2 Peter 3 9-10

Is there “warfare” today – and what is that about? Eph 6:12 and Matthew 10

What instances are there of individual sins in NT church affecting the whole, and why?

Acts 5. 1 Corinthians 5 (and 2 Cor 2:4-7)

What about application for us?

Consider: A W Tozer quote

*The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian church today is to purify and elevate the concept of God until it is once more worthy of him, and of her.*

*The natural man is a sinner because, and only because, he challenges God's selfhood in relation to his own. In all else he may accept the sovereignty of God. He unconsciously imitates Lucifer ... who 'said in his own heart 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God ... I will be like the most high' (Is 14:12 onwards)*

*Yet so subtle is self that scarcely anyone is conscious of its presence. His constant assertion of self, as far as he thinks of it at all, appears to him a perfectly normal thing. He is willing to share himself, sometimes even to sacrifice himself for a desired end, but never to dethrone himself ... He is still, in his own eyes a king on a throne and no one, not even God, can take that throne from him."*

Individual and corporate

Consider to what extent our individual disobedience could affect our life as a church…

Communicate any significant thoughts to the leadership.

Read 2 Peter 3 - Peter's final recorded words of encouragement and exhortation...

Suggestions:

Prayer:

See leaflet on ‘Word and Prayer – raising the bar’. Check out the resources (rear page)

Discipleship:

Join a group