



Failure in the Land of Promise

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

March 8, 2015

But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan . . . took some of them. So the Lord's anger burned against Israel. - Joshua 7:1

Israel's Story . . . Dealing with Failure

- A Soldier – _____ (Josh. 7:1, 20-21)
- An Army – _____ (Josh. 7:2-5)
- A Leader – _____ (Josh. 7:6-15)
- A Sinner – _____ (Josh. 7:16-26)

Key Principle . . .

The potential for victory in the Christian life is always present, but one victory or even a series of victories do not guarantee the next.

Breakthrough Principles . . . *When failure is nearby*

1. _____ is a dangerous basis for decision making
Joshua 9:14-15; Proverbs 16:18; Isaiah 55:8-9; James 4:13-17
2. What life does ____ us depends on what life finds ____ us
Joshua 7:7; Exodus 14:11-12; Num. 14:1-3; Heb. 6:1; Jer. 17:9
3. Never underestimate the potential of _____
Joshua 7:21; Hosea 8:7; Proverbs 1:31; Galatians 6:7-8

Truth for Life

For the week of March 8, 2015

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This week we learned the devastating consequences of not taking obedience and sin seriously. Proverbs 1:7 tells us, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*" Achan lacked this fear of God. How do the following verses help us understand where a healthy fear of God can take us?
 - Psalm 103:11-14
 - Proverbs 16:6
 - Proverbs 15:33
2. Read Acts 5:1-11 . . . How did the lack of fear affect the persons in this story? Do you remember a time when your fear of God or lack thereof affected your response to temptation?
2. The potential for failure (spiritually, morally, or otherwise) is always close at hand. The "Breakthrough Principles" that we discussed on Sunday are key to keeping failure from our experience. Read Joshua 7:2-7, 10-12. What was the cause of the Israel's defeat? What role did Joshua (their leader) play in the defeat (hint - Joshua 9:14)? What could have been done to avoid the defeat? Of the 3 principles, which 1 did Joshua need? Achan? You?
3. Keeping "Our Tent Cleaned Out" is necessary as we follow Christ. But we have seen, or experienced ourselves, the reality of moving back into godless living. God has given us some spiritual practices that can help decrease the temptation to presume upon God's second chances and at the same time strengthen us for consistent obedience. How might the following passages speak to this?
 - Psalm 119:9-11
 - 1 Corinthians 15:33
 - Philippians 4:8
 - 2 Timothy 2:22

Reflecting on these, how do we put these verses into action? Have you ever found one to be more helpful than the other? Is there one you feel you need to apply in your life right now?

Memory Verse

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. – Proverbs 1:7



Failure in the Land of Promise

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

March 8, 2015

But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan . . . took some of them. So the Lord's anger burned against Israel. - Joshua 7:1

Israel's Story . . . Dealing with Failure

- A Soldier – **Disobedient** (Josh. 7:1, 20-21)

The Soldier (1)

The sin (20-21))

- An Army – **Defeated** (Josh. 7:2-5)

- A Leader – **Discouraged** (Josh. 7:6-15)

Remorse (6)

Reproach (7-9)

Repentance (8-9)

Rebuke (10-15)

- A Sinner – **Discovered** (Josh. 7:16-26)

An Investigation (16-18)

A Confession (19-23)

The Judgment (24-26)

Key Principle . . .

The potential for victory in the Christian life is always present, but one victory or even a series of victories do not guarantee the next.

Breakthrough Principles . . . *When failure is nearby*

- 4. **Presumption** is a dangerous basis for decision making

Joshua 9:14-15; Proverbs 16:18; Isaiah 55:8-9; James 4:13-17

- 5. What life does **to** us depends on what life finds **in** us

Joshua 7:7; Exodus 14:11-12; Num. 14:1-3; Heb. 6:1; Jer. 17:9

- 6. Never underestimate the potential of **one step**

Joshua 7:21; Hosea 8:7; Proverbs 1:31; Galatians 6:7-8

Truth for Life

For the week of March 8, 2015

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

4. This week we learned the devastating consequences of not taking obedience and sin seriously. Proverbs 1:7 tells us, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*" Achan lacked this fear of God. How do the following verses help us understand where a healthy fear of God can take us?

- Psalm 103:11-14
- Proverbs 16:6
- Proverbs 15:33

Read Acts 5:1-11 . . . How did the lack of fear affect the persons in this story? Do you remember a time when your fear of God or lack thereof affected your response to temptation?

5. The potential for failure (spiritually, morally, or otherwise) is always close at hand. The "Breakthrough Principles" that we discussed on Sunday are key to keeping failure from our experience. Read Joshua 7:2-7, 10-12. What was the cause of the Israel's defeat? What role did Joshua (their leader) play in the defeat (hint - Joshua 9:14)? What could have been done to avoid the defeat? Of the 3 principles, which 1 did Joshua need? Achan? You?

6. Keeping "Our Tent Cleaned Out" is necessary as we follow Christ. But we have seen, or experienced ourselves, the reality of moving back into godless living. God has given us some spiritual practices that can help decrease the temptation to presume upon God's second chances and at the same time strengthen us for consistent obedience. How might the following passages speak to this?

- Psalm 119:9-11
- 1 Corinthians 15:33
- Philippians 4:8
- 2 Timothy 2:22

Reflecting on these, how do we put these verses into action? Have you ever found one to be more helpful than the other? Is there one you feel you need to apply in your life right now?

Memory Verse

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. – Proverbs 1:7