

Title: Spring Clean - Joshua 7 1-12

Read:

¹ Then the People of Israel violated the holy curse. Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah of the tribe of Judah, took some of the cursed things. God became angry with the People of Israel. ² Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai (The Ruin), which is near Beth Aven just east of Bethel. He instructed them, "Go up and spy out the land." The men went up and spied out Ai. ³ They returned to Joshua and reported, "Don't bother sending a lot of people—two or three thousand men are enough to defeat Ai. Don't wear out the whole army; there aren't that many people there." ⁴⁻⁵ So three thousand men went up—and then fled in defeat before the men of Ai! The men of Ai killed thirty-six—chased them from the city gate as far as The Quarries, killing them at the descent. The heart of the people sank, all spirit knocked out of them. ⁶ Joshua ripped his clothes and fell on his face to the ground before the Chest of God, he and the leaders throwing dirt on their heads, prostrate until evening. ⁷⁻⁹ Joshua said, "Oh, oh, oh...Master, God. Why did you insist on bringing this people across the Jordan? To make us victims of the Amorites? To wipe us out? Why didn't we just settle down on the east side of the Jordan? Oh, Master, what can I say after this, after Israel has been run off by its enemies? When the Canaanites and all the others living here get wind of this, they'll gang up on us and make short work of us—and then how will you keep up your reputation?" ¹⁰⁻¹² God said to Joshua, "Get up. Why are you grovelling? Israel has sinned: They've broken the covenant I commanded them; they've taken forbidden plunder—stolen and then covered up the theft, squirreling it away with their own stuff. The People of Israel can no longer look their enemies in the eye—they themselves are plunder. I can't continue with you if you don't rid yourselves of the cursed things.

Think:

So you became a Christian, fantastic, brilliant, superb. I mean that from the bottom of my heart. The day you chose to follow Jesus, you can be sure that the angels were partying in Heaven. What's happened since? How did becoming a Christian change the way you treat people at school? How did asking the creator of the universe alter the way you handle yourself at college? Seems to me that God is a God that longs to see us continually grow and improve. Be sure to understand that we won't get into Heaven because we try and get better; no that work was done by Jesus on the cross. But if we look at this passage we can see that Gods not looking for a one off action from us He wants our lives to be dedicated to following Jesus. Joshua's people had done well in the past, but they messed up. God was clear, get rid of the rubbish and return to him. What's the rubbish in your life, what do you need to get rid of? Decide what the rubbish is and get rid of it now, because God wants to help you.

Pray:

Lord please help me remove stuff from my life that I know you don't want me to concentrate on. Amen.

Action:

Did you make a decision to get rid of some rubbish? Commit to it by telling someone you trust. Go on phone them now. Bye.