

**Title: Sorry - Joshua 7 13-26**

---

Read:

<sup>13</sup> "So get started. Purify the people. Tell them: Get ready for tomorrow by purifying yourselves. For this is what God, the God of Israel, says: There are cursed things in the camp. You won't be able to face your enemies until you have gotten rid of these cursed things. <sup>14-15</sup> "First thing in the morning you will be called up by tribes. The tribe God names will come up clan by clan; the clan God names will come up family by family; and the family God names will come up man by man. The person found with the cursed things will be burned, he and everything he has, because he broke God's covenant and did this despicable thing in Israel." <sup>16-18</sup> Joshua was up at the crack of dawn and called Israel up tribe by tribe. The tribe of Judah was singled out. Then he called up the clans and singled out the Zerahites. He called up the Zerahite families and singled out the Zabdi family. He called up the family members one by one and singled out Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah of the tribe of Judah. <sup>19</sup> Joshua spoke to Achan, "My son, give glory to God, the God of Israel. Make your confession to him. Tell me what you did. Don't keep back anything from me." <sup>20-21</sup> Achan answered Joshua, "It's true. I sinned against God, the God of Israel. This is how I did it. In the plunder I spotted a beautiful Shinar robe, two hundred shekels of silver, and a fifty-shekel bar of gold, and I coveted and took them. They are buried in my tent with the silver at the bottom." <sup>22-23</sup> Joshua sent off messengers. They ran to the tent. And there it was, buried in the tent with the silver at the bottom. They took the stuff from the tent and brought it to Joshua and to all the People of Israel and spread it out before God. <sup>24</sup> Joshua took Achan son of Zerah, took the silver, the robe, the gold bar, his sons and daughters, his ox, donkey, sheep, and tent—everything connected with him. All Israel was there. They led them off to the Valley of Achor (Trouble Valley). <sup>25-26</sup> Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? God will now trouble you. Today!" And all Israel stoned him—burned him with fire and stoned him with stones. They piled a huge pile of stones over him. It's still there. Only then did God turn from his hot anger. That's how the place came to be called Trouble Valley right up to the present time.

Think:

Have you ever had detention at school? Staying after school because you messed up. Come on be honest, did it happen more than once? Have your parents ever grounded you? Once, twice, three, or four times? Hold on a minute, they punished you for the first time wasn't that enough? How come they punished you again the second, third and fourth times? They punished you because that's what happens; we get punished for every time we do something wrong. The police officer doesn't book an adult for speeding and then say OK from now on this one fine covers any time you speed in the future. Gods slightly different he knows we will stuff up again, and again, that's why he sent Jesus to die for our mistakes. On the cross Jesus paid for our past mistakes and he will pay for our future mistakes. Our part in the deal? That's simple don't take this for granted, and try not to stuff up. And probably the most important part. When we do muck up we are to say sorry to God and ask for his forgiveness. Not just the first time, not just the second, third or fourth time. But we are to say sorry every time we stuff up and Jesus pays the price.

Pray:

Lord I know that you already are aware of my mistakes, but please help me admit them to you when I need to. Amen.

Action:

Are there any things you need to say sorry to God about? Clear the decks, bring them to him now. After all he knows already, anyway. Bye.