

Sermon Title:
"The Church in the Hands of an Angry God"
Joshua 7

INTRODUCTION:

I. Act One: The Battle vv. 1-5

- A. Scene one: send out the spies.
 - 1. We need to count the cost.
 - 2. We need to do our homework.
- B. Scene two: the spies report.
 - 1. Is their report presumptuous?
 - a) Did they need more than 3000 soldiers?
 - b) Was there a way for them to know about Achan's sin?
 - 2. What their report presumed about the battle.
 - a) God would be with them.
 - b) God would give them victory.
- C. Scene three: the battle
 - 1. What happened during the battle?
 - a) They lost 36 men.
 - b) They were routed!
 - 2. How they felt after the defeat.
 - a) They were terrified.
 - b) They only lost 36 men. They had only sent 3000 to the battle. They had about 600,000 fighting men in reserve. Why was a small defeat at the hands of a small enemy such a big deal?
 - c) They were not expecting any defeat at all.
 - d) Is that presumptuous? No, God had promised them that he would deliver the Canaanites into their hand. Now it looked like God was reneging on his promise.

II. Act Two: The Lament vv. 6-9

- A. What Joshua did.
 - 1. He fell to the ground and cried out to God.
 - 2. He prayed all day.

- A. What Joshua said
 - 1. He told God he did not expect defeat.
 - 2. He argued that the name and reputation of Yahweh were at stake.

III. Act Three: God's Instructions vv. 10-15

- A. Get up.
- B. You must deal with the sin of Israel if you expect to experience power.
 - 1. Why should Israel suffer for Achan's sin?
 - a) The one and the many principle.
 - b) Had the 36 soldiers who died done anything wrong?
 - 2. Why announce a process that would take more than a day?
 - a) It left Israelites wondering what the disciples asked "is it I?"
 - b) It provided Achan an entire extra day to repent.

IV. Act Four: The Climax vv. 16-26

- A. Scene one: the lots are cast.
 - 1. Why doesn't Achan come forward?
 - 2. Does he expect to skate by?
 - 3. Does he think God doesn't know what he did?
- B. Scene two: Achan confesses.
- C. Scene three: God's judgment.
 - 1. Why does Achan suffer consequences after he confesses?
 - 2. Why does God punish his family and cattle?
 - a) What did his donkeys do wrong?
 - b) Are there consequences for my family when I have a hidden sin?
 - c) What is the significance of the stones that mark the grave?

CONCLUSION: