Hide & Seek

Joshua 6 ESV

18 But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. 19 But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord.

I. Sin is adultery against God

- Joshua 7 ESV

1 But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the Lord burned against the people of Israel.

A. Broke the commandment: Do not have any other God's before me.

B. Valued the items more than he valued being right with God.

C. Fell in love with his sin and what he perceived could be gained from it.

II. Sin Impacts more than just ourselves

Joshua 7 ESV
10 The Lord said to Joshua, “Get up! Why have you fallen on your face? 11 Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings. 12 Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you. 13 Get up! Consecrate the people and say, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the Lord, God of Israel, “There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you.” 14 In the morning therefore you shall be brought near by your tribes. And the tribe that the Lord takes by lot shall come near by clans. And the clan that the Lord takes shall come near by households. And the household that the Lord takes shall come near man by man. 15 And he who is taken with the devoted things shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he has done an outrageous thing in Israel.’”

A. This one sin impacted an entire nation

B. Sin has consequences that can affect your those you love.

III. Sin cannot remain hidden.

A. Don't miss the opportunity for repentance

Joshua 7:13 ESV
13 Get up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the Lord, God of Israel, "There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you."

B. God revealed the sin of Achan

Joshua 7:19-20 ESV
19 Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the Lord God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me."
20 And Achan answered Joshua, "Truly I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I did:

C. You cannot hide from the presence of God

Jeremiah 16 ESV
17 For my eyes are on all their ways.
They are not hidden from me, nor is their
iniquity concealed from my eyes.

D. Fear the Lord

Luke 12 ESV

1 In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

2 Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.

3 Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

4 “I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. 5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

IV. Sin has consequences

Joshua 7 ESV

22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath. 23 And they took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the people of Israel. And they laid them down before the Lord. 24 And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. 25 And Joshua said, “Why did you bring trouble on us? The Lord brings trouble on you today.” And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones. 26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor.

Seek

To seek the Lord means to seek God’s presence. Presence is a common Hebrew translation from the word Face. To be before His face is to be in His Presence.

I. Seek His presence

> Psalm 105 ESV
> 4 Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!

II. Put away distractions

Colossians 3 ESV
1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

III. Humility is a key to seeking

Psalm 10 ESV
In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”

Practical

A. Create space and time to seek his presence

B. Keep your heart focused on the main thing.

1. **Prayer**
2. **Presence**
3. **People (Harvest)**

C. Say yes to the next step

If your presence does not Go with me I am not going - Moses

“Our churches are filled with people who are coming to hear from Moses”

Get on the Mountain and get in His presence yourself.

When was the last time you walked up the mountain by yourself and approached God and His presence and had a divine encounter with him?