

Next Week's Prayers



"...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

Jas. 5:16

▶ Prayer Exercise

If you have been experiencing any "defeats" lately, make a thorough examination of your life to discover any hidden sins that you haven't dealt with.

Can you list any sinful words, actions, or attitudes that might create problems in your relationship with God? If so, be sure to list those and deal with them.

Are you relying on your own power instead of God's

Renew your own consecration to the Lord, and then engage him in Prayer.



DEVELOPING STUDENTS
OF THE BIBLE

Sunday Morning Bible Class



▶ 40 Great Prayers of the Bible

Farmerville
Church of Christ

Joshua's Prayer in Defeat
Joshua 7:2-15

Prayer Study # 11

Study Series by Bill Denton, D.Min.

Sunday Morning Bible Class

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Joshua's Prayer in Defeat

Josh. 7:2-15

Joshua and the Israelites had just experienced one of the greatest military victories in history at Jericho. It was great for the simple fact that they didn't win the battle, God did. His power felled the walls of the city and made it possible for Israel to defeat Jericho's army.

However, not all was well. Achan disobeyed God, and kept some of the spoils of war for himself. When Israel next went up against Ai, they thought they would only need a few thousand men, certainly not the whole army. Ai was just a small and insignificant town.

But, the men of Ai routed Israel. They killed several and sent the rest fleeing for their lives. Then Joshua prayed.

What Can We Learn?

1. This defeat was precipitated by a presumptuous self-confidence. There is no evidence of reliance on God, but rather an unwise estimate of their own ability to win the battle at Ai.
2. The defeat was also precipitated by an outright disobedience of God's commands (Achan).
3. Joshua's prayer sounds very much like the complaints of Israel out in the wilderness. It evidences a misplaced faith.
4. Joshua appears to be apologizing for Israel's failure to defeat Ai. He still doesn't seem to connect lack of victory to a problem between them and God.
5. God is very direct in his response to Joshua. "Get up. The problem is sin."
6. The reason for defeat was that God was not with them.
7. God's instruction was twofold:

Consecrate the people

Get rid of the banned items

Questions to Ponder

1. So soon following the victory at Jericho, how do you explain Israel's lack of connection between God's power, their relationship to him, and victory?
2. What sinful elements are involved in Israel's determination that it would only take 2 – 3 thousand men to defeat Ai?
3. In Joshua 7:8, what do you think Joshua understood to be the reason they lost the battle at Ai?
4. Why do you think God allowed the sin of one man to affect the entire nation?
5. What is the one thing most "right" about Joshua's prayer?
6. Why would God not allow his people to experience victory as long as there was sin in the camp?
7. What did God have in mind when he commanded that the people consecrate themselves?
8. In how many ways did God answer Joshua's prayer?

