



~ Sin in the Camp ~

“Get up, sanctify the people, and say, ‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: “There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you.” – Joshua 7:13

Israel had been set apart by the Lord as His special people (Deut. 7:6). In essence they were consecrated to the Lord as a people. They entered into covenant with Him to be His people and He their God.

When they finally entered the promised land, they had to begin conquering their enemies to gain control of the land. Jericho was the first of these cities to conquer. God gave them specific orders of how to fight this city. It was definitely not your normal technique for battle, but God was very specific. He also told them not to take any goods, animals, or people at all out of the city. Everything was to be burned or killed and the silver, gold, and bronze were to be taken and brought to the temple for the Lord. It was the first battle, a first fruits unto the Lord. It was His battle and victory.

However, one man named Achan disobeyed this command and took some of the goods, silver, and gold for himself burying it in his tent. The Israelites then went up to go against the city called Ai that was much smaller than Jericho and easier to attack. Nevertheless, Israel lost that battle and 36 men died. As a result of Achan’s disobedience God could not bless Israel in their efforts. There was sin in the camp.

Achan had plenty of time to consider his deeds and repent before the battle of Ai ever occurred. He knew well the command God had given and was a witness to the deaths that happened as a result of his actions. Still, he refused to come forward and repent. He never had a change of heart and in the end he, his family, and all that he had were destroyed because of his rebellion against God (Josh. 7:24-26).

This is a lesson for us today. God has called us to be a people of power. He wants to live out His works in us. “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” – John 14:12 However, in order to do the works of Christ, we must live as He lived – completely connected to God thru the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many of us long for victory in our own lives and families. But we limit God’s ability to help us by not surrendering those areas to Him that we know are sinful or that God is calling for in our lives. We struggle to trust that what God is asking for will really be a benefit. Without daily

prayer and bible study, we have no foundation of trust to stand on. This affects what God is able to do in us and in our families. If you as a parent are praying for the salvation of your children but you yourself are not allowing God to have total authority in your life, God is handicapped at what He is able to do. What we do has an effect on others.

This is especially true for church leaders. When church leaders are not consecrated before God in their own lives, it limits God's ability to bless. God cannot work because there is "sin in the camp" that needs to be removed. Thus the whole church is affected and cannot receive the fullness as a church body of the blessings God is wishing to pour out upon His people.

Revival and reformation in our lives and churches begins with humility and repentance. Opening ourselves up for a Divine search allows God the ability to show us the areas He is not in control of. As we begin to relinquish control of the areas (big and small) that we have in our lives as a people and as a church, we give God the ability to fully bless us as He intends and to change us from pitiful to powerful by His Spirit. We must purge ourselves and our churches of anything that keeps us separated from God and recommit ourselves by word and action to the will and purpose of God. Then and only then can we expect to win the battles ahead and begin to see the power of the Holy Spirit alive in our lives and our churches.

I have made a commitment this year to allow God access to bring my life daily into complete surrender and obedience to Him. Won't you join me in this commitment? Together we can experience the power of God working among us as He begins with our own lives and moves us to share our experience with others who need His power too. Let's make this the "year of the Lord" in our hearts and lives as we remove "sin from the camp".

Kimberly Mills

Elijah Road Ministries Devotionals

Daily tools of inspiration and hope for the journey home.