



## CELL GUIDE

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**TOPIC** The Spirit of Achan

**SPEAKER** Elder Lok Vi Ming

**THEME** Be Alert and Vigilant

**DATE** 14 & 15 Mar 2020

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Sometimes it does not take a lot to make us sin – all it takes is a disobedient heart. The reading of Joshua 7:1-26 shows us a sobering account of how in a moment of weakness, a man brought upon himself and his country the severe punishment of God.

The lessons we can draw from the message today centres on being obedient, reflecting on our own actions before we question God's promises and faithfulness, and willingly confessing our sins before God as opposed to being forced to do so.

## THE SPIRIT OF CAIN

### A. Achan's Sin

The contrast between the battles at Jericho and Ai demonstrate the consequences of sin, directly resulting in the defeat of the nation of Israel. Despite knowing his wrongdoing and having the time and opportunities to come clean, Achan did not admit his sin until he was identified and forced to own up to his mistakes. Achan was covetous and disobedient, which led to him stealing from God.

### B. Disobedience

Disobedience can come from different sources. **Wilful disobedience** is being intentionally and stubbornly disobedient, despite being specifically warned against an action. Other than Achan in Joshua 7, the Bible also gave us Lot's wife (Genesis 19) as an example and warning. **Prideful disobedience** comes from a place of over-inflated self-importance, like what King David did when he carried out a census against God's will (1 Chronicles 21). Even **reluctant obedience** is a form of disobedience, as Jonah demonstrated when he ran away from God's calling. Sometimes **delayed obedience** also reflects a degree of disobedience, when we do not immediately respond to God's commands.

### C. Obedience vs. Sacrifice

Saul was disobedient in 1 Samuel 15 and tried to justify his actions but Samuel pointed out that God would rather have his obedience. In our weakness, we might misconstrue our actions as

being pleasing to God but in Saul's example above, God looks at the intentions of the heart. Jesus also gave examples in Matthew of how God looks at the heart, and not at your actions or how well you follow a "formula" for being good.

## CONCLUSION

There are severe consequences to disobedience, where the consequences are immediate or delayed. Nothing is hidden from God. Yet the example of King Manasseh in 2 Chronicles 33:12-13 shows us that even when we are disobedient and sin greatly against God, there is grace available for us. King Manasseh tasted the goodness and mercy of God, and managed to turn his life around. We, too, can access the same grace and mercy, if we are humble to confess and repent.

# QUESTIONS

1. Achan made the grave error of choosing wealth over obeying God's commands. Take this time to reflect – how important is it to you to follow God? Or are you easily tempted to compromise your faith? What are some things that tempt you?

2. Elder Loh mentioned five common areas where believers struggle with in terms of being obedient to God: 1) Honouring our parents, 2) Meeting with and encouraging one another, 3) Tithing, 4) Working wholeheartedly, 5) Forgiving. Is there any area you are struggling with in particular?

3. Like King Manasseh, have you tasted the goodness and mercy of God in a specific area of your life? How has God turned your life around since then, and what is He asking you to do next?