

Justice Under the Law

And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done. . . .

And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? The LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. --Joshua 7:20, 25

Immediately after the triumph at Jericho, the Israelites fought against the city of Ai, but were unable to take it. God told Joshua that Israel lost because of God's anger. One of the Israelites had kept some of the "accursed things" from Jericho for himself instead of destroying them.

God said that the disobedience angered Him. He did not take it lightly. Yet today we seem to excuse sin. God tells us that He hates sin. In Proverbs 6 He tells us seven things that are an abomination to Him. They are a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wickedness, feet that run to mischief, one who bears false witness, and one who causes discord among the brethren.

We would never think of stoning someone for telling lies or being proud. We seem to ignore those who devise wickedness and sow discord. In the case of Achan, he disobeyed God and brought trouble to all of Israel. They had to deal with the sin—find the sinner and execute the sentence before they could experience the blessing of God.

I cannot help but wonder if we even identify and deal with sin in our own lives. Has the world's emphasis on being politically correct and bringing social justice caused us to turn our heads away from God's demand for righteousness?

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey the lusts thereof.—Romans 6:12