

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Hebrews 11:29-30 “By faith they [Israel] passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days”

Quote: “There is a living God. He has spoken in the Bible. He means what He has said and will do all He has promised.” J. Hudson Taylor, Missionary to China

Faith in the true and living God set Israel apart from the Egyptians. Faith is believing that God is Who He says He is and that He will do all that He has promised to do in His written, inspired, inerrant Word.

Imagine the wonder of the Israelites when they walked between towering walls of water in the Red Sea and looked back to see their enemies destroyed! Imagine them walking around the city of Jericho for seven days, and then watching the walls of this mighty city crumble from the power of God! Surely they must have thought, “What a God we serve!”

Yet there are lessons to learn from these events about disobedience and its conse-

quences. We know that the very next battle at little Ai was a humiliating defeat. Earlier God had commanded that Israel take no valuables from Jericho, or else their camp would be cursed. The disobedience of Achan led to the death of thirty-six soldiers and his own family! “Joshua said to Achan, ‘My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.’ And Achan answered Joshua and said, ‘Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done. When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, *I coveted them and took them.*”¹ Because Achan did not demonstrate personal faith in God by obeying His Word, he reaped God’s wrath. His eventual confession surely led to forgiveness, but his sin brought the severe consequences that accompany disobedience. In the midst of wonder, wickedness can find a

foothold and blessing can be corrupted by the greed to get more. Surely, we all know of instances like this happening among professing Christians who ignore the clear teaching of Scripture, and who think that confession will cancel out all consequences. God is merciful to forgive, yet He remains just in allowing us to reap the harvest of sowing to our flesh. [

We can try to excuse personal sin that we see as insignificant in the “big picture,” or we can allow desires to drown out the clear teachings of God and be drawn to bait that is tailor-made to our cravings.² Like Adam, Achan was one man who took that which was forbidden and others suffered as well. All of these wrongs stem from a wrong view of God Who is omniscient, Who is offended by our petty sins and our belief that we can “get away” with them.³

This side of glory, there will never be an end to the warfare that we have with our flesh. There will always be some “beautiful Babylonian garment” that draws us to disobey, some idol of our heart that dulls the wonder of

Israel’s Wonders

what God has done on our behalf. Concerning this battle, God has clearly stated a warning and a promise. “...Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.”⁴ “...Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”⁵ Just as Israel lost the wonder of God’s intervention on their behalf and committed sin, we, too, can lose the wonder of what He has done on our behalf. When the deceptive riptide of sin threatens to drag you towards discontentment, disobedience and destruction, look to the cross and the empty tomb, regain your wonder, return from your “wandering” and worship Him!

1 Joshua 7:19-20 2 James 1:13-16 3 See Numbers 14 and 26:64-65
4 1 Cor.10:12-13 5 James 4:7-8