

## *From Creation to the Cross: Avoiding Setbacks*

*Joshua 7*

February 26, 2023

Emphasis: If we are going to continue moving forward to claim the abundant life God has prepared for EGBC, we must be diligent to avoid setbacks.

<sup>19</sup> ...*all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD.*

*-Joshua 6:19*

1. We avoid setbacks by keeping our hearts fixed on the LORD

### References:

<sup>1</sup> *As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, my God.*

<sup>2</sup> *My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When can I go and meet with God?*

*-Psalm 42:1-2 (NIV)*

*...where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

*-Matthew 6:21*

<sup>9</sup> *For [God] satisfies the longing soul,  
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.*

*-Psalm 107:9*

...**Achan** the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, **took some of the devoted things**. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel...<sup>4</sup> And they fled before the men of Ai, <sup>5</sup> and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent. **And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.**

-Joshua 7:1, 4-5

*Father, glorify your name.*

-John 12:28

2. We avoid setbacks by being quick to repent when we stumble and sin

### **References:**

<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have **fellowship with one another**, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** <sup>10</sup> If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

-1 John 1:7-10

<sup>6</sup> Then **Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face** before the ark of the LORD until the evening, **he and the elders of Israel**. And they put dust on their heads.

-Joshua 7:6

<sup>11</sup> *Israel has sinned*; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; *they have stolen and lied* and put them among their own belongings. <sup>12</sup> Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. *I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you.*

-Joshua 7:11-12

<sup>13</sup> *Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

-Proverbs 28:13(NIV)

<sup>8</sup> *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

-Matthew 5:8

3. We avoid setbacks by always considering how our decisions might impact others

### **References:**

<sup>4</sup> *So about three thousand men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai, <sup>5</sup> and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men...*

-Joshua 7:4-5

<sup>15</sup> And he who is taken with the devoted things shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has done an outrageous thing in Israel.

-Joshua 7:15

<sup>24</sup> And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters... And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. <sup>25</sup> And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones.

-Joshua 7:24-25

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...

-Philippians 2:3-5

### **Conclusion and Application:**

It only took one person to cause a setback in the journey of Israel. Don't be that person!