

## **“How to Glorify God, part 5”**

### **Joshua 7:19-26**

INTRO:

As you know, the last several weeks we have been exploring the subject of "glorifying God." We spent the first week learning about what it means to glorify God and why we must glorify Him. Then we turned our attention to seeking to discover what the Bible says about how we can accomplish this task. We have learned:

*We glorify God when we respond properly to our suffering.*

*We glorify God in doing His will at any cost.*

*We glorify God in our bearing fruit.*

Today, we will learn how we glorify God in confessing our sins.

***I. How We Glorify God in Our Confessing Our Sins (Joshua 7. 19-26).***

***II. What It Means to Confess Our Sins.***

***I. How We Glorify God in Our Confessing Our Sins (Joshua 7. 19-26).***

A. As we arrive in the camp of the Israelites here in **Joshua 7**, we recognize right away that something is terribly wrong. The triumph over Jericho has been short lived. Ai, that little burg that the people had thought was really no trouble at all was the scene of Israel's first defeat.

1. God's wrath brought devastating results to the children of Israel and of Joshua, their leader. Questions like, "Has God forgotten us?" "Does God intend to destroy us here now?" flooded Joshua's mind. After all, if little puny Ai can stop them, what chance did they have against the giants and the well-fortified cities of the land?

2. What they didn't know was the facts of **verse 1**. God's wrath was hot against Israel because she had sinned.

B. You know the story. Joshua throws himself before the Lord. The Lord shows him the problem and sets up a system to flush out the culprit. Now, finally, Achan is exposed (**v.19**). Look now at what Joshua says.

1. "***Achan, give glory to God and confess your sins.***" And that is exactly what Achan does. He tells the whole sordid tale.

2. Now what does God have Joshua do? In our New Testament mind set we expect the LORD to forgive Achan of his transgression and everything will be all right again.

3. This is not what happens. The LORD tells Joshua to take Achan, his family and his possessions out to the valley of Achor and to stone them there and then to burn them there.

C. Some cry foul here. *“How could God possibly do this?” “How can I serve a God like this?”* You'd better because there is no other God out there to serve. We do not have the privilege of designing God to meet our approval. We are to love and serve God as He is.

1. Let me now point something out that if we do not see this we will never understand what confession is or how it glorifies God. God was entirely right and justified in having Achan killed for his sin.

2. Remember from the beginning God established a penalty for sin. He described the penalty to Adam and Eve in the garden.

**Genesis 2:17b** *“In the day you eat thereof you shall surely die.”*

The penalty for all sin, no matter how small or how large, was always death.

3. Now, take a look at what was said one chapter back.

**Joshua 6:17-19** *“Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.”*

Before they went up into the city, before the walls came down, God specifically had Joshua warn the people about the consequences of a sin like Achan's sin.

4. When Achan died, he received precisely what he justly deserved for the crime that he had committed. It was right and it was just.

## ***II. What It Means To Confess Our Sins.***

A. If all of this is right and just, how was God glorified when Achan confessed his sin? How is God glorified when we confess our sins? That is what we are going to learn when we focus in on what Confession is all about.

1. Our problem in all of this is that we don't really understand what it means when we confess our sin. Achan confessed his sin by acknowledging that he had sinned and then telling exactly what he had done.

**vs.20-21** *“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. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.’”*

2. Confession is not saying you are sorry. Notice Achan never once said he was sorry. Confession involves admitting that we are guilty and that God is righteous and just in judging each of us for our sin.

B. Let me show you what I am talking about by turning your attention to a verse that should be very familiar to you.

**1 John 1:9** *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

When we confess our sins we agree with God about what He says about our sin. When God points out sin in our lives and says, *“That is sin.”* We agree and say, *“Yes, Lord, that is sin.”*

C. Now what are we saying when we agree with God that we have sinned? We are saying we are guilty and the just thing for God to do is to judge us and to condemn us to death. Because the Lord Jesus already paid for that sin, our Holy God is faithful and Justified in forgiving the sin for which His perfect Son died. Is this what we do when we confess our sins? It should be. We need to recognize that it isn't just that I say I'm sorry, but that I am confessing that I am guilty of a great crime against the Almighty God.

D. How then is God glorified in the confession of our sin?

1. God was glorified in Achan's confession in that when he confessed, no one could accuse God of acting wrongly or without reason in executing this punishment against Achan and his family. God simply judged a guilty man.

2. How is God glorified in the confession of our sins? Look at **1 John 1:9** again. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

God is glorified in that when we confess our sins and acknowledge that we deserve every bit of what Achan received we are acknowledging the Holiness and Justice of God. He would be right if He simply put us to death for our sins. However, He does not do that. God is also glorified when we confess our sins because in forgiving our sins He shows the wonder of the grace God gave to us

to us in Christ Jesus. He is faithful and just. Faithful to His own holiness because Christ died for our sins. He is Justified because those sins were paid for at Calvary. Therefore, He forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

**Do you glorify God in confessing your sin?** Do we see confession for what it is?  
Are we willing to do this that God might be glorified in us?

**Hymn #189 *Calvary Covers It All***