

STRONG & COURAGEOUS: “Realignment Process” - Rev. Riley**Berthaudin**

Sermon Notes: November 9th , 2025

Text: Joshua 7

Introduction

We’re in a series called “Strong and Courageous,” walking through the book of Joshua and discovering what it means to live boldly for God. But courage isn’t just about facing battles; it’s also about learning to walk rightly before a holy God. In Joshua 7, Israel experiences a painful moment of failure after a huge victory. One man’s sin brings defeat to an entire nation, revealing how seriously God takes obedience and how deeply He desires His people to reflect His holiness. We are challenged to remember God’s character and how we can live within His blessings.

In life we like to be right, we don’t want to have to rely on anyone and we believe we know what is right/best for us. So why listen to others advice when we have our own?

Achan decided to steal what was set apart as God’s. And because of that crossed out of covenant faithfulness. And because of that all of Israel had to pay the consequences of it.

We see a repeated patten throughout the whole Bible of people who have fallen into sin. That formula that we see emerge from scripture of how sin is birthed is: SEEING, WANTING, TAKING.

Once sin has your eyes, it will require your heart.

When we sin it affects 3 people:

1) US

- When we have unrepentant sin. We can feel further from God. Not because He separates Himself from us, but because we are elevating our fleshly desires over our relationship with Him.
- Blessings from Him won’t come because we are too busy accepting the blessings from sin.

2) OTHERS

- Sin never leaves us alone. It won’t be satisfied with you. It wants others: those you love, those you cherish, and those in proximity to you.
- We saw that Achan sins affect all of Israel, this foreshadowed the New Covenant Church as a body. One member’s sin affects the whole.

3) GOD

- Sin is PERSONAL to God.
- God is the very essence of Holiness. And sin is everything that opposes or violates the Holiness of God.
- When we sin God’s anger isn’t cruelty; it’s His holiness in motion when His people turn from Him.
- When we realize how holy God is, and how serious sin is, sin stops being “just a mistake” and becomes what it truly is: an offence against the very heart and purity of God.



Life Group Discussion

Warm-Up:

Pastor Riley used a story of Pastor Jeremy's daughter Maddie learning how to surf, yet she continued to ignore advice given to her. When was a time you thought you knew what was best but later realized God's way was better?
What helped you see the difference?

Study & Discussion:

Read Joshua 7

1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

2) Why do you think it's so easy to trust ourselves instead of God's wisdom? What are some subtle ways this shows up in daily life?

3) Based off of Joshua 7:1–12. What stands out to you about how seriously God takes obedience and holiness in this passage?

4) How does Achan's story challenge the idea that our personal choices only affect us? What does it reveal about how sin impacts community?

5) What does God's holiness mean to you personally? How does understanding His holiness change the way you view sin, grace, and obedience?

6) Through Jesus, God transforms our "Valley of Trouble" into a "Doorway of Hope" (Hosea 2:15). What does that look like in your life right now? Where have you seen God bring mercy out of your mistakes?

PRAYER:

