

Joshua 7:1-9

What are the Deadly Dangers of Sin...? (Part 1)

I. Introduction: We do not take sin very seriously, because it does not appear as dangerous to us as God says it is.

- Maybe we have not become “ignorant of Satan’s devices,” (2 Cor 2:11) but we most certainly have become indifferent to them.
- If we knew how dangerous, damaging, & destructive sin is we would avoid it!

II. The Results of Sin...

1. It breeds disunity with God (v. 1).
 - Trespass – “to act under cover,” “to step over.” It indicates a breach of trust.
 - Sin always interferes with our relationship to God. (Isa 59:2)
 - You cannot walk closely with God until you walk rightly with God (1 John 1:6-9; Heb 12:14)
 - Adam and Eve expelled from Eden (Gen 3)
 - David – “Do not cast me away from your presence...” (Ps. 51:11)
 - Jesus – “My God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt 27:46)
 - God wants us to hate evil (Rom 12:9; Ps 97:10; Ps 101:3; Heb 1:9)
2. It brings defeat to our lives (vv. 2-5a).
 - Joshua had no idea anyone sinned. Sometimes we are totally unaware of sin that exists in our lives. (Isa 64:7)
 - Notice how confident the people were in attacking the city.
 - God said if they would follow Him one soldier would chase one thousand men. (Deut 32:30)
 - You are most vulnerable to sin when you have just had victory. (Dan 4:30; 2 Sam 11; Matt 26; Prov 16:18; Prov 11:2; Rom 12:3-4; 1 Cor 10:12; Ps. 2:11)
3. It Bolsters despair into our hearts (vv. 5b-6).
 - The people’s “hearts melted” – the phrase used of the enemy (2:11; 5:1)
 - Defeat at this point was as significant as the miraculous victory at Jericho
 - Deviating from God’s plan always brings despair into our lives.
 - Sin’s effects are often so severe that our world embraces those experiencing them as victims.
 - It is through this despair that salvation looks so great to the human mind, because people are vulnerable enough to accept it. (Ps 51:1)
4. It Becomes doubt into our minds (vv. 7-9).
 - Notice that Joshua asks God why He had caused Israel to lose (v. 7).

III. Conclusion:

(#1) It Breeds **Disunity** with our God...

(#2) It Brings **Defeat** into our lives...

(#3) It Bolsters **Despair** into ...

(#4) It Becomes **Doubt** into our minds.

- What good does it do for us to contemplate these things? If we confess our sin...

- It will deepen our walk with God and help us to walk closer with Him rather than causing us to experience Disunity with Him.
- It will bring Success in our spiritual lives rather than humiliation & defeat.
- It will bring joy into our lives rather than depression & despair.
- It will help us to trust in God rather than to doubt His plans for our lives.