

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, I sin against you and my neighbor when I break any of your commandments. Forgive me. Amen.



Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 2: Commandments Four to Ten

Study #07 of 13

Seventh Commandment *Achan Steals from God*

Memory

1. "Do not steal" (Exodus 20:15).
2. "If we confess our sins, we can depend on Him to do what is right-He will forgive our sins and wash away every wrong" (1John 1:9).

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Study #07 of 13: Achan Steals from God (Joshua 6-7)

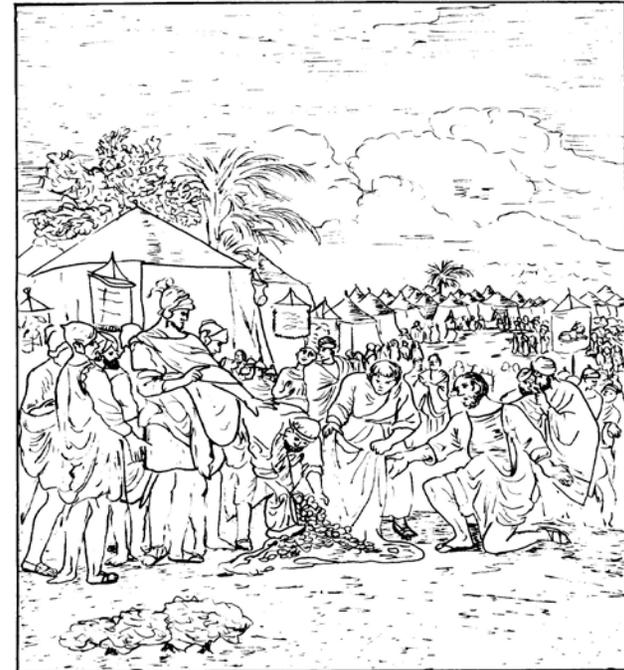
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Grace Lutheran Church – Rev. Erik J. Rottmann, Pastor

Versailles, MO, 65084

USA

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God says to you in the seventh commandment,
"Do not steal"
(Exodus 20:15).

THIS MEANS you must not take anything,
even in secret, that does not belong to you.

Bible Reading: Joshua 6:2, 18b; 7:1, 10-26

Questions and Answers For Understanding This Bible Story

1. When God promised to give Jericho to the Israelites, what did He say to them?

God forbade the Israelites to touch or take anything that belonged to the people of Jericho. God called the things belonging to the people of Jericho “condemned.”

God said, “If you take anything that’s condemned, you’ll bring condemnation on the camp of Israel and get it into trouble.”

2. What did Achan do after he heard God’s Words? What result did Achan’s sin have for all the Israelites?

Achan ignored God’s Words. He took a Babylonian robe, some silver, and a bar of gold. All of these things were “condemned.”

Achan’s sin got all the Israelites into trouble. God said, “The reason the Israelites can’t stand up against their enemies but turn their backs to them is that they themselves have been condemned. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the condemned things that are among you.”

3. Why did Achan sin this way?

Achan said, “I wanted them, and I took them.” Achan’s greed made him forget about love for God and neighbor. Achan stole to serve himself, even though his sin harmed others.

4. Have you ever felt tempted to take something that is not yours? If no one finds out about it, is it okay to do it?

Perhaps you have felt tempted to steal something when no one was looking. Maybe it was even something small, like a pen, pencil, or a

toy. Perhaps a store clerk accidentally missed an item that you were trying to purchase, and didn’t charge you for it. Maybe you thought, “no one will know.” Big or small, taking something that is not yours is stealing. Stealing breaks the seventh commandment, even if no one finds out about it.

5. God says to you in His Bible, “If we confess our sins, we can depend on Him to do what is right—He will forgive our sins and wash away every wrong” (1John 1:9).

a. In what way did Achan give glory to God?

Achan gave glory to God by confessing his sins. He did not deny that he broke the seventh commandment.

b. What was Achan’s earthly punishment?

Even though Achan’s sin was forgiven by God, Achan still had earthly consequences for that sin. His earthly punishment was death.

We also have earthly punishments for sins we commit. For example, we might receive discipline from our parents when we do wrong. Or, if we got caught stealing or breaking another law, we might spend time in jail or pay a fine. However, “If we confess our sins, we can depend on Him [God] to do what is right—He will forgive our sins and wash away every wrong” (1John 1:9).

c. Was Achan forgiven his sins? Are we forgiven our sins?

We, like Achan are in the same situation before God. We have all sinned. However, God “will forgive our sins and wash away every wrong” (1John 1:9). Achan was forgiven. We also have forgiveness in Jesus our Lord, “Who bought us with His blood to forgive our sins and set us free” (Ephesians 1:7). Having our sins forgiven, “God gives everlasting life in Christ Jesus, our Lord” (Romans 6:23).