

Consecrate Yourselves

Joshua 3:5

⁵Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."

Joshua 3:10

¹⁰Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will assuredly dispossess from before you the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Gergashite, the Amorite, and the Jebusite.

God promised His presence and help to His people. By His strength they would fulfill the mission He had given them.

The condition for this wonderful grace was consecration- to devote themselves wholly to God without any conditions.

They would have to take God's call to personal and corporate holiness SERIOUSLY.

They did, they crossed the Jordan miraculously, and God gave them Jericho by a miracle as well. So far, so good!

Joshua 7:1-13

7 But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully in regard to the things under the ban, for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, took some of the things under the ban, therefore the anger of the Lord burned against the sons of Israel.

²Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." So the men went up and spied out Ai. ³They returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up; *only* about two or three thousand men need go up to Ai; do not make all the people toil up there, for they are few."⁴So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai. ⁵The men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of their men, and pursued them from the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them down on the descent, so the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

⁶Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until the evening, *both* he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. ⁷Joshua said, "Alas, O Lord God, why did You ever bring this people over the Jordan, *only* to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? If only we had been willing to dwell beyond the Jordan! ⁸O Lord, what can I say since Israel has turned *their* back before their enemies? ⁹For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and they will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will You do for Your great name?"

¹⁰So the Lord said to Joshua, "Rise up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face? ¹¹Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put *them* among their own things. ¹²Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn *their* backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst.¹³Rise up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for thus the Lord, the God of Israel, has said, "There are things under the ban in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you have removed the things under the ban from your midst."

They got arrogant after the victory at Jericho, and did not seek the Lord for a plan for the conquest of Ai.

Secretly, greed had also seized the heart of a man named Achan, and he had brought corruption into the camp of Israel.

Their "easy victory" was turned into a devastating loss, and brought great discouragement and fear into the camp.

God, knowing all things, took them back to the same issue: "Consecrate yourselves, and I will be with You!

Beware of the thing of which you say — “Oh, that does not matter much.” The fact that it does not matter much to you may mean that it matters a very great deal to God. Nothing is a light matter with a child of God. How much longer are some of us going to keep God trying to teach us one thing?.....Are you protesting that your heart is right with God, and yet is there something in your life about which He has caused you to doubt? Whenever there is doubt, quit immediately, no matter what it is. Nothing is a mere detail.

-Oswald Chambers

After Consecration:

Joshua 8:1-2

Now the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear or be dismayed. Take all the people of war with you and arise, go up to Ai; see, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. ²You shall do to Ai and its king just as you did to Jericho and its king; you shall take only its spoil and its cattle as plunder for yourselves. Set an ambush for the city behind it.”

1. God encouraged Joshua
2. God gave him (and the people) a clear and detailed strategy for taking Ai
3. God promised Israel would win the victory
4. Israel implemented God’s plan exactly and won a decisive victory.

Romans 12:1-2

12 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

We never see the “tomorrow” God has promised if will not meet the condition of consecration.

What is in my life about which God has caused me to doubt?

Let it go today, because God has a great day planned for tomorrow.

Commission:

God’s way is to go after the silver and the gold, the precious stones we have set up.

What do I have in a display case in my heart, that no one- even God- is ever to touch?

Elders come up for prayer