

# The Sin Of Achan

**Introduction.** Before the fall of Jericho, Joshua warned the people of the danger to themselves and Israel of taking “of the accursed thing” (Joshua 6:18-19, 24). But in the face of all this, Achan was tempted and sinned.

Instead of looking at the specific sin of covetousness, it will be more productive to examine attitudes that can arise from a circumstance like Achan’s. These attitudes are going to will have to be contained so we can live without sin (Psalm 37:31; 40:8).

## ***I. “One Sin Will Not Hurt”***

- A. Did sin hurt the following people (Joshua 7:15; cp. Genesis 3:6; Leviticus 10:1-2; Numbers 20:7-12; 2 Samuel 6:7-8; Acts 5:1-11)?
- B. Sin hurts many including yourself and may lead to many other sins (2 Samuel 11:17; 12:18; cp. Proverbs 13:15; 1 Timothy 6:9-10).
- C. The Bible will reveal God’s way of escape from temptation (1 Corinthians 10:11-13; cp. 2 Timothy 4:2-4). In the face of temptation, some are not looking for a way out by endurance, but a way in for indulgence. How can we escape?
  1. Recognize those people and situations that give you trouble.
  2. Run from anything you know is wrong.
  3. Choose to do only what is right.
  4. Pray for wisdom and for God’s help.
  5. Seek friends who love God and can offer help when you are tempted.

## ***II. “My Sin Is My Own Business”***

- A. Whose concern was sin in these examples (Joshua 7:1, 7-12, 24-25; cp. 2 Samuel 12:14; 1 Corinthians 5:6)?
- B. Your body belongs to God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The wicked man had to be disciplined so that he would be saved and the church would be pure again (1 Corinthians 5:5, 13; Ephesians 5:27).
- C. Flee from youthful lusts (2 Timothy 2:22) and glorify God in your body (Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 6:18) so that you do not bring disgrace on faithful Christians in the Lord’s blood-bought institution (1 Timothy 3:7).

## ***III. “One Can Keep Sin Hidden”***

- A. Did these people conceal their sin (Joshua 7:21; cp. Exodus 2:12-14; Psalm 139:7-12; Acts 3:14-15)?

- B. God knows everything we think we can hide (Mark 4:22; Hebrews 4:13). Unrepented sins will be exposed at the judgment (Romans 2:16; Revelation 20:11-15).
- C. Instead of covering up your sin like Achan and suffering the consequences, confess and turn away from it (Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 29:15).

**Conclusion.** This narrative is an exceptional example of how God requires righteousness, not just from a nation, but from individuals. Just as we had sinned and destroyed ourselves through our connection with the first Adam, so we are saved through the second Adam, the Lord of Heaven (Romans 5:18-21).