

AFTER CHURCH DEVO

BY REBUILD

Topic: Finding God in Our Failures

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come before You with hearts open to Your Word. As we read Your Scriptures, may our minds be enlightened and our hearts transformed. Let the words of Psalm 19:14 guide us: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Read: Joshua 7:1-9

Have you ever faced a situation where you felt invincible, only to be brought low by unexpected failure? Joshua and the Israelites experienced this in the aftermath of their victory at Jericho. Confident in their own strength, they underestimated the small city of Ai, leading to a devastating defeat.

The core issue in this narrative is self-confidence leading to self-reliance. Joshua, who had been instructed by God throughout the conquest of Canaan, chose this time to listen to the counsel of his men rather than seeking God's guidance. This shift in reliance is pivotal.

The cultural context highlights a significant error. In ancient Israel, communal responsibility was paramount. When one person sinned, it affected the entire community. The sin of Achan, hidden from the eyes of men but known to God, brought severe consequences on Israel. This teaches us that ignoring sin and failing to seek God's direction can lead to unexpected and painful outcomes.

In Romans 8:28, we are reminded that "all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." This verse reassures us that failure is not final. It's an event, not our identity. God's redemptive power can transform our failures into stepping stones for growth and deeper dependence on Him.

Conclusion:

Joshua's failure at Ai serves as a poignant reminder that our confidence must be rooted in God, not in our own abilities. When we fail, it is an opportunity to realign our focus, seek God's forgiveness, and trust in His plan for our lives.

Discussion Questions:

Students:

1. Have you ever felt overconfident in your abilities only to face unexpected failure? How did it affect you?
2. How can you seek God's guidance in your daily decisions, especially in your studies and friendships?
3. What steps can you take to ensure you are listening to God's voice rather than the voices around you?

Parents:

1. How can you teach your children the importance of relying on God's guidance rather than their own strength?
2. Share a time when your family faced a challenge and how trusting in God helped you overcome it.
3. How can you create a family routine that prioritizes seeking God's direction in your decisions?

Professionals:

1. How does self-reliance manifest in your workplace, and what are its potential pitfalls?
2. In what ways can you incorporate seeking God's guidance into your professional life?
3. Share an experience where relying on God rather than your own strength led to a positive outcome in your career.

This week, take a moment each day to pray and seek God's guidance before making any major decisions. Reflect on Romans 8:28 and trust that God is working all things for good in your life.