



# DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

## Dover Daily Devotionals

In last Sunday's sermon, we explored the story of Israel's defeat at Ai, recorded in Joshua 7, highlighting the subtlety and seriousness of sin. We saw that Achan's secret sin of taking what God had forbidden led to the defeat of Israel's army, illustrating how hidden sin can have far-reaching consequences for the entire community. This story served as a solemn reminder that sin, even when concealed, is known to God and can disrupt fellowship with Him and among His people. However, hope and restoration are possible through repentance and a commitment to righteousness, as demonstrated by the faithful leadership in our own church's journey toward accountability and healing.

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### Devotional 1: The Hidden Danger of Sin

#### Scripture Reading:

“But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan... took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the Lord burned against the people of Israel.” Joshua 7:1 (ESV)

#### Devotional:

In the aftermath of Israel's victory at Jericho, the Lord had given specific instructions regarding the spoils of the city. They were to be either destroyed or placed in the treasury of the Lord, signifying that these items were set apart for God. Yet, Achan saw, coveted, and took some of these devoted things, hiding them in his tent. His actions were not merely a violation of a command but a betrayal of trust. This account in Joshua 7 reveals the insidious nature of sin, which often begins with a seemingly small act of disobedience. What harm could come from a little gold and a garment? But Achan's sin had repercussions.

The subtlety of sin is that it often appears harmless at first, promising satisfaction and gain. Achan's desire for material wealth blinded him to the spiritual reality of his actions. He failed to recognize that taking what belonged to God was not just a personal failing but a breach of the covenant with God, bringing harm to the entire community. Sin is never just a private matter; it has the potential to impact

others, just as Achan's sin led to Israel's defeat at Ai. The loss of thirty-six lives and the demoralization of an entire nation highlight the collective consequence of one man's hidden sin.

This story challenges us to examine our own lives for the hidden dangers of sin. Are there areas where we have compromised our integrity or disobeyed God's commands, thinking no one will notice? Sin, no matter how small or secret, is an affront to a holy God. We must remember that God sees all, and He desires our obedience, not just for His glory but for our good and the well-being of those around us. Let us be vigilant, examining our hearts, and bringing into the light any sin that we may have tried to conceal.

## Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Achan believed he could get away with his sin?
2. How can we guard against the subtle nature of sin in our own lives?
3. In what ways can hidden sins affect not only us but also those around us?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come before You today, acknowledging that You see all things, even the hidden thoughts and actions of our hearts. Forgive us for the times we have allowed sin to take root in our lives. Help us to be vigilant, to guard our hearts, and to bring every sin into the light through confession and repentance. May we walk in obedience to Your Word, knowing that it brings blessing and peace to our lives and to our community. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

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## Devotional 2: The Consequences of Disobedience

### Scripture Reading:

“But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.” Numbers 32:23 (ESV)

### Devotional:

Achan's sin did not remain hidden for long. The defeat at Ai revealed that something was wrong. Joshua, unaware of Achan's disobedience, fell before the Ark of the Covenant, seeking the Lord's guidance. God's response was swift and clear: “Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant.” The defeat and death of thirty-six men were direct consequences of disobedience. This tragic event reminds us that sin has consequences that can extend far beyond ourselves.

The phrase “your sin will find you out” serves as a sobering reminder that no matter how well we think we can conceal our wrongdoings, they will eventually come to light. This is not because God seeks to expose us out of cruelty but because He is a holy and just God who desires righteousness and integrity. The consequences of Achan's disobedience brought sorrow and loss to the whole community, illustrating the

ripple effect of sin. Our actions, good or bad, affect others, and hidden sin can bring devastation to those we love and to the community of faith.

This passage urges us to take sin seriously and understand the gravity of disobedience. It calls us to examine our lives and seek forgiveness and restoration through Jesus Christ. By confessing our sins and turning away from them, we can experience God's grace and avoid the painful consequences that come from hiding our disobedience. Let us heed this warning and strive to live lives of holiness and integrity, honoring God in all we do.

## Discussion Questions:

1. How does the story of Achan illustrate the principle that "your sin will find you out"?
2. What are some ways we can ensure we are walking in obedience to God's commands?
3. How can the consequences of one person's sin affect an entire community?

## Prayer:

Lord, we recognize that You are a holy and righteous God who cannot tolerate sin. Help us to understand the seriousness of disobedience and the consequences it brings. Give us the courage to confess our sins and turn from them, knowing that Your grace is sufficient to forgive and restore us. May we live lives that reflect Your holiness, bringing honor to Your name and blessing to those around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## Devotional 3: God's Knowledge of All Things

### Scripture Reading:

"And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:13 (ESV)

### Devotional:

Achan thought he could hide his sin by burying the stolen items in his tent. He acted as though God would not see or care about his actions. However, the truth is that nothing is hidden from God's sight. His knowledge is perfect, and His eyes see into every corner of our lives. When Israel was defeated at Ai, God revealed the hidden sin to Joshua, showing that He knows all things and will not allow sin to go unchecked.

This truth brings both conviction and comfort. On the one hand, it convicts us of the futility of trying to hide our sins from God. Our human nature might incline us to conceal our wrongdoings, but we must remember that God knows every thought, every action, and every motive. He sees what we hide from others and calls us to live in honesty and integrity. On the other hand, God's omniscience offers comfort

because it means He is aware of our struggles and is ready to offer His forgiveness and help when we confess our sins and turn to Him.

The knowledge that God sees all should lead us to live transparent lives before Him. We do not need to carry the burden of hidden sins or live in fear of being discovered. God invites us to bring everything into the light, confess our sins, and experience His grace and cleansing. Let us be open and honest with God, knowing that His desire is to forgive and restore us.

## Discussion Questions:

1. Why do people sometimes think they can hide their sins from God?
2. How does knowing that God sees everything impact the way we live our lives?
3. What steps can we take to live more transparently before God and others?

## Prayer:

Father, we acknowledge that You see everything and that nothing is hidden from Your sight. Forgive us for the times we have tried to conceal our sins. Help us to live openly and honestly before You, knowing that Your grace is sufficient to cover our failings. Teach us to walk in the light of Your truth and to be people of integrity, bringing glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

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# Devotional 4: The Ripple Effect of Sin

## Scripture Reading:

“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.” 1 Corinthians 12:26 (ESV)

## Devotional:

The defeat of Israel at Ai due to Achan's sin serves as a powerful example of the ripple effect of sin within a community. Achan's disobedience was not an isolated incident; it affected the entire nation of Israel. Thirty-six men lost their lives, and the hearts of the people melted in fear. The whole community suffered because of one man's hidden sin. This story teaches us that sin is not a private matter but can have devastating consequences for others.

In the body of Christ, we are interconnected. What one person does affects the whole body. Just as Achan's sin brought suffering to Israel, so too can unaddressed sin within the church bring harm to the entire congregation. Sin can cause division, strife, and spiritual weakness. It can hinder the work of the Holy Spirit and damage the witness of the church to the world. This is why it is essential for us to address sin openly and seek reconciliation and healing.

Let us be mindful of the impact our actions have on others. Let us strive to live holy and blameless lives, not only for our own sake but for the sake of our brothers and sisters in Christ. When we see a fellow believer struggling with sin, let us come alongside them in love, offering support and accountability. By doing so, we strengthen the body of Christ and promote unity and spiritual health.

## Discussion Questions:

1. How does the story of Achan demonstrate the interconnectedness of the community of faith?
2. What are some practical ways we can support one another in living holy lives?
3. Why is it important to address sin openly within the church community?

## Prayer:

Lord, we thank You for making us part of the body of Christ, where we share in each other's joys and sufferings. Help us to be mindful of how our actions impact others and to live lives that honor You. Give us the courage to address sin within our community with love and grace, seeking restoration and unity. May we support one another in our walk with You, growing together in holiness and love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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# Devotional 5: Repentance and Restoration

## Scripture Reading:

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9 (ESV)

## Devotional:

After the sin of Achan was revealed, Joshua took immediate action to address the sin in the camp. Achan confessed his wrongdoing, and though the consequences were severe, this act of repentance was necessary to restore Israel's relationship with God. Repentance is a powerful act that acknowledges our sin, seeks God's forgiveness, and leads to restoration. It is a turning away from sin and a turning back to God, who is faithful and just to forgive.

Repentance is not just about feeling sorry for our sins; it involves a genuine change of heart and a commitment to walk in obedience to God. When we confess our sins to God, we acknowledge that we have wronged Him and seek His forgiveness. God, in His grace and mercy, promises to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This is the hope we have in Christ: that no matter how far we have strayed, God's grace is sufficient to bring us back.

The story of Achan serves as a reminder that God desires repentance, not to condemn us, but to restore us. His heart is always for reconciliation and healing. When we come to Him in humility, confessing our

sins, He welcomes us with open arms and restores us to fellowship with Him. Let us not hide our sins, but bring them to the light, trusting in God's promise to forgive and cleanse us.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What does true repentance look like, and how does it differ from simply feeling sorry for our sins?
2. How does God's promise to forgive and cleanse encourage us to confess our sins?
3. Why is it important to address sin and seek repentance in our lives regularly?

## Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank You for Your promise to forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Help us to have a heart of true repentance, turning away from sin and turning towards You. May we not hide our sins but bring them into the light, trusting in Your mercy and grace. Restore us to fellowship with You and with one another, that we may walk in Your ways and bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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# Devotional 6: God's Mercy and Our Victory

## Scripture Reading:

"And the Lord said to Joshua, 'Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai.'" Joshua 8:1 (ESV)

## Devotional:

After the sin of Achan was dealt with, God spoke to Joshua with words of encouragement and reassurance: "Do not fear and do not be dismayed." These words marked a turning point for Israel. The path to victory was reopened, and God's presence and blessing were once again upon His people. This moment demonstrates God's mercy and His desire to restore His people to victory after they have repented and returned to Him.

God's mercy is evident throughout the story of Israel's journey. Even after the failure at Ai, God did not abandon His people. He provided a way for them to be restored and to continue their conquest of the Promised Land. This is a powerful reminder for us today that no matter how many times we fail, God's mercy is available to us. His grace is sufficient to forgive us, restore us, and lead us to victory.

We may face defeats and setbacks in our spiritual journey, but God's mercy assures us that these do not have to be the end of our story. When we turn to Him in repentance, He lifts us up, strengthens us, and sets us back on the path to victory. Let us hold fast to His promises, trusting in His mercy, and moving forward in faith. Our failures do not define us; God's grace and mercy do.

## Discussion Questions:

1. How does God's response to Israel after Achan's sin was dealt with show His mercy and grace?
2. What are some ways we can move forward in victory after experiencing failure or defeat?
3. How does knowing that God's mercy is always available to us impact our relationship with Him?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your mercy and grace that restore us even after we have failed. Help us to trust in Your promises and to move forward in faith, knowing that You are with us. Strengthen us to walk in obedience and to live in the victory that You have won for us through Jesus Christ. May we always turn to You in repentance, receiving Your forgiveness and experiencing Your restoring power. In Jesus' name, Amen.