

Joshua 7:10-26

Achan

And all Israel stoned them with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. And they raised over him a great heap of stones that stands to this day.



Achan and His Family Stoned to Death, by James Tissot, circa 1899

Achan's punishment was extremely severe. It was also just. The command to dedicate everything at Jericho to God was recent and had been very explicit. This means the disobedience was deliberate and intentional.

Contrast between Rahab and Achan

Rahab	Achan
Woman	Man
Canaanite	Hebrew (tribe of Judah)
Prostitute (disreputable)	Respectable
Should have died, but survived and prospered	Should have prospered, but died
Her family and all she owned survived	His family and all that he owned perished
Her nation perished	His nation prospered
<i>Hid the spies</i> from the king	<i>Hid the loot</i> from God and Joshua
Hid the spies <i>on the roof</i>	Hid the loot <i>under his tent</i>
Feared the God of Israel	Did not fear the God of Israel
Only <i>heard</i> of God, yet believed	Had <i>seen</i> the acts of God, but disobeyed
Her house survived, while the city was burned	His tent was burned
Cattle, sheep, and donkeys of Jericho perished	Cattle, sheep, and donkeys of Achan perished
She became like an Israelite and lived	He became like a Canaanite and died

In essence, Rahab and Achan trade places. She becomes like an Israelite and lives among God's people. Achan, on the other hand, a member of Israel, dies like the Canaanites. The narrator is letting us know that there is more to the conquest than just the destruction of the Canaanites. There are critical issues of individual faith and obedience involved. A Canaanite harlot can find it and a respectable Israelite man can miss it.

Points to Ponder

- There is nothing _____ from God's sight (Heb 4:13).
- God is faithful to help us, but He cannot _____ sin.
- God _____ those who have faith in Him, regardless of externals.
- God _____ those who rebel against him, regardless of externals.