

## Bible Study Regarding Hidden Sins

Read Joshua 7 and answer the following questions. (Refer to chapters before and after if necessary.)

Who was Achan?

What sin did he commit?

How did he try to cover it up?

How was his sin exposed?

*Consider the fact that God loves you so much, He may whisper your hidden sins to another believer who loves you, so that the sin satan is using to keep you in bondage will be broken. Isn't it better to confess your sin to God right away than to be 'caught' in it later?*

List the consequences to Achan hiding his sin, by answering the following questions:

a) How did his hidden sin affect the congregation of God's people?

b) How did it affect him personally?

c) How did it affect his family?

God is revealing in this Scripture the natural consequences to hidden sin. What is your reaction to these truths?

Read the following verses and write them below:

Numbers 32:23

Luke 8:17

Luke 12:2-3

Ephesians 5:8-13 (write a summary of these verses, or choose one from verses 8-13)

John 8:12

How would you summarize all these verses? What do you want to do in your own life as a result of learning these truths?

God is the One who set things up this way. Why would He want sin exposed? Are you willing to see this as a gift from the One who greatly loves you?

Sin has consequences. Write what sin causes, according to Romans 6:23.

Satan is the father of lies. When we sin, we fall prey to his kingdom of darkness and destruction. He is a thief, who comes to do what three things according to John 10:10?

When we hide sin and don't confess it to God, it hurts us. List how it hurts us according to Psalm 32:1-5, and then list the blessings of confessing sin to God.

How it Hurts

Blessings of Confession

Read Psalm 66:18. What happens if we 'cherish' or hide sin in our hearts?

*Think about how terrible it would be if God did not hear you anymore. This doesn't happen because He doesn't want to hear you. It happens because we choose sin over Him, and sin causes death. Unconfessed sin separates us from our glorious, holy, wonderful, pure Father. He doesn't want this, and He hopes you don't either.*

We have hope in Jesus! Revisit Romans 6:23 and John 10:10 again. What does the second half of each of these verses say?

*Eternal life in Christ means salvation from sin. This is both a) 'going to heaven' when we die, AND b) walking in the reality of the kingdom of heaven here on earth, NOW. Jesus is our Savior for eternity AND for today.*

Do you live like that?

What does James 4:6 say? Fill in the blanks.

God \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ but gives \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.

*It takes humility to confess our sins to God. We can't do it if we are prideful. In fact, the first sin we may find we need to confess is a prideful heart: a heart that wants to defend ourselves, blame others, or explain all the reasons why we are sinning.*

Do you need to confess a prideful heart or haughty spirit to the Lord right now? YES NO

If so, stop now and do it. Aloud. Don't wait! Just tell your heavenly Father that you admit you've been prideful, and then ask Him to forgive you.

What are God's promises to you when you confess sin to Him? Look up 1 John 1:9 and write them here.

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*In conclusion, this is a study on the Fear of the Lord, with an addendum focused on hidden sins. While this study does not extensively cover congregational confession or confessing sin to another person, it is important to mention that there will be many times when God will call us to do that. There is healing and freedom when we go to another believer or to someone whom we have wronged, humble ourselves before them, confess our sin, and request their forgiveness. There are Scriptures that address this and give guidance on how to do it. One section of Scripture that gives a brief yet sufficient look at this is James 5.*

Look up James 5:14-16 and write answers below.

According to these verses, what does God call us to do?

What does God tell others/elders to do?

What are the consequences?

There is nothing better than to walk about your day, having a clear conscience and being forgiven by God!

*Feel free to contact me if you would like further information or guidance. God bless you.*

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