

5/18/24

Sermon – The Greedy One - The People we meet wk?

Scripture – Joshua 7

Main Message – Greed destroys you and everyone around you. Don't be Greedy.

True Story – Once upon a time at IBM here in NY, a guy was hired to do a engineering job. Back in the day this location was HUGE! Over time, Endicott started to slow down, became inefficient, and people went out looking for a job. I hired a person to work for me and one day she told me this story. A guy was hired to do a job. He showed up on his first day, did all the necessary paperwork, got established, attended the orientation meetings for a few days, and when it was time to go to his job assignment, he didn't show up. The place was growing so fast, no one noticed. However, for a decade, his salary continued to be automatically deposited into his bank account. Only when lay-offs began to start did they find out this situation.

Here's one that happened at my company. We made a consumable product, a crystal that had electrical contacts coated with gold. The purchasing manager bought the gold, sent it to production to coat the crystals in a vacuum chamber. There was always leftover gold in the crucible, but not much. Heck, no one will miss a couple of grams of gold that was left in the crucible. So this went on for quite some time and the purchasing agent fueled his drug habit and stole the residual gold. We had during these years layoffs, limited raises and other such things. He eventually went to jail. Of course in these cases the company never gets back what was taken.

This is the problem with Greed. It's a bad sin. It affects everything and everyone around you. It isn't done in isolation without harm to others. It is not a victimless crime.

Here is an interesting story about a guy name Achan in Joshua 7. God had given specific instructions at every encounter about what was to be taken, what is left behind, who was to be left alive and who was to be killed. Achan's greed did a lot of damage. This chapter takes place after Jericho was taken.

Read Joshua 7

This really happened. It's not just a fable. This guy existed, Jericho existed, Joshua Existed. The people I told you about also existed. The damage done because of Greed also existed.

Everyone around him was affected and especially his family which was stoned with him. Harsh? Yes it was. But sometimes the infection has to be cut out and removed.

Today, we must also honor God by not being filled with Greed. Greed has no good place. How do we handle a greedy individual? Well, these days we aren't going to stone them. However, they can be cut off from the people. Greedy people will always break a moral law of God. We can pray that his sickness be taken from them. We must give all who sin a chance to repent, but ignoring it won't work. They will think they are winning and that no one knows or cares. They must be confronted. Now, we must always watch our own hearts. We understand greed for money. We must also understand those who are greedy for attention, for status, for knowledge, even for food. In all cases the greedy person is a consumer of way more than their fair share. Root out greed in your character and give it to the Lord and repent. d