

**Scripture:** Ten Commandments (Ex. 20) – Joshua 7

**Singing:** 183:3-4 – 143:1 – 266:1-3 – 384:3-4 – Dox # 8 – 223

Intro: What matters most in leadership? 1 Tim. 3:2-7; 2 Tim. 2:2, 20-21

### **The Key to Success in God's Kingdom Workers is Holiness**

#### **I. The details of Israel's experience emphasize this key**

A. Joshua and the people felt confident facing Ai: 6:27

B. Joshua leads a serious and lengthy prayer service: vs. 6-9

C. God's answer is shocking to Joshua & his elders: 10-12

D. Application: Ps. 66:18

#### **II. The stoning of Achan's family emphasizes this key**

A. Achan worshipped his idol above the LORD his God

1. vs. 20-21: the record of his sin

2. vs. 13-15: the night-long appeal to his conscience ignored

3. vs. 16-21: the sin uncovered and confessed

4. vs. 25-26: the discipline of God

B. What's God saying to us: *all your sin matters big to Me!*

1. Listen to your conscience

2. Search the deceitfulness of sin: *where did Achan's sin start?*

3. Are you hiding a sin in your tent?

C. Application: Deal with your hidden sin before they are revealed

1. Numbers 32:23 – 1 Cor. 4:5 – Hebrews 4:12-13

**C. The suffering of all Israel emphasizes this key**

A. God's verdict and actions did not touch Achan only

1. Compare vs. 1a, 11-12; Joshua 22:20; 1 Cor. 5:6-7; 11:30-32

B. Have you married into the toxic thinking of *individualism*?

1. In God's eyes His people are *not an island but a body*

2. Though you think sin is private or personal, God does not think so

3. Search deeply to face your hidden sins (or not-so-hidden-sins)

C. Application: come clear with God about your sins

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Hypocrisy is nothing better than skin-deep holiness.

A man may have the tongue of an angel  
and the heart of a devil. (Flavel)

It is the mark of a hypocrite to be a Christian everywhere  
except where no one sees him or knows him.

The hypocrite has a crooked eye,  
for he looks more to his own glory than God's. (Watson)