

*Jericho represents the world; Ai represents the flesh. Some saints are marching around Jericho, blowing trumpets as they talk about being separated Christians. But they are as negative as anyone could be as they declare, "We don't do this, and we don't do that." In fact, they do a spiritual striptease – they put off everything that seems to them to be worldly. They have overcome the world. But what about the flesh, friends? Some of the most dangerous people in the church are the super-duper saints who talk about having overcome the world, but they are defeated at Ai. Some of them have the meanest tongues imaginable... The flesh has many people in tow. They think they are living the Christian life. In fact, they talk about living the victorious life, yet they do not even know what it is. The victorious life is **His [God's]** life. He is the one who gets the victory and not us.*

You and I are defeated by the flesh. We cannot use the same tactics to overcome the flesh as we use to overcome the world. The Israelites did not recognize their weakness... Have you found out, my Christian friends, that you have no strength or power within yourself? You cannot live the Christian life, and God never asks you to. God wants to live

Second Chance

Joshua 8:1-29

Joshua 8:1-9

- Fear to _____
 - God speaks directly to Joshua
 - God promises victory
 - God makes things different
 - God give Joshua the plan

Joshua 8:10-29

- Israel _____
 - Israel executes the plan
 - Symbols
 - Joshua raising his scimitar (javelin)
 - Burning of Ai

Application

- God promises us _____ over the _____
 - Jericho = _____
 - Ai = _____
 1. **Get rid of sin**
Psalm 139:1-3
 2. **Obey God**
- **Victory is possible despite** _____
 - Death has no victory
1 Corinthians 15:55-58
 - Sin is not our master
Romans 6:8-14

"Victory comes as our hearts are transformed, as we walk in the Spirit, becoming more godly men and women. Sometimes this happens through unpleasant circumstances. We have to die to ourselves... Victory means that no matter the circumstances we can experience peace, rest and freedom, as God gives us the power to say no to our sinful desires. Victory means that when we confront an ethical dilemma at work, we don't have to be fearful. Victory means that when we share the gospel, we can do so boldly and confidently because God is with us... Victory means that we are becoming more and more like Christ; we move deeper and deeper into the heart of our Savior."

- John Hanneman

Food for Thought:

READ:

Genesis 15

- 1. Joshua 8:25 talks about the killing of women in Ai. In our society this seems kind of harsh. According to verses 12-16 in Genesis 15, what promise does God give Abraham regarding Ai? (Hint: Ai is part of the Amorites)**

- 2. Why do you think it was important for Israel to follow through with what they accomplished in verse 25?**

DIGGING DEEPER

THE COVENANT RENEWED AT MOUNT EBAL:

READ:

Joshua 8:30-35

- 1. What was the first thing that Joshua did after the great victory at Ai? What does this tell us about the kind of man he was?**
- 2. Why do you think Joshua assembled all of Israel together at this place and in this fashion? (See Deuteronomy 11:29; 27:1-4)**

- 3. Why do you think the children and aliens were included in this covenant renewal ceremony?**

TAKING IT HOME

- 4. What might it mean for you to “build an altar” to the Lord? What would you offer?**
- 5. It is important for us to remember what God has done for us in the past. What are some ways that you have remembered God's faithfulness to you in the past? How have you celebrated the second chances that he's given to you?**