

15 Feb 2015: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: **Stop Praying!**

Scripture Text: Joshua 7:1-15

1. In v.10, God seemed to tell Joshua to arise and stop praying. This is not in contradiction to the teaching of the Bible to pray without ceasing. In the incident in Joshua chapter 7, God wanted Joshua to deal with the sin issue in Israel.
2. Joshua has taken over from Moses as the leader of Israel. They have passed the first 2 tests of faith in crossing the river Jordan and the conquer of the city of Jericho. They obeyed the Word of God in these 2 tests and were ready to possess the Promised Land.
3. However in the battle with Ai, the children of Israel failed in the battle despite Ai being a small city. A man Achan took of an accursed thing and kept it which was a sin against God. God knew there was sin in the camp of Israel and would not bless Israel. Out of about 2 million people, God knew exactly the man Achan who had sinned. Nothing can be hidden from God.
4. The children of Israel also took lightly in the battle against Ai. They did not pray to God for help and direction. They thought that they could simply send two to three thousand men and Ai would be destroyed. In the end, Israel lost the battle and 36 men died. The heart of Israel melted when they lost the battle.
5. Joshua rent his clothes to pray to God. It was a wrong prayer as he said it was better for Israel not to have cross over Jordan and that Israel would not be able to claim the Promised Land. The real reason for Israel to lose the battle was because they have sinned. God told Joshua to arise to deal with the sin to destroy the accursed thing and punished the man who had sinned. Joshua had to deal courageously with the sin problem although it is not a popular decision. The people must be sanctified to walk rightly with God. We must commit ourselves to holiness and not cover sin in our lives.