

What promise of the Scriptures was nevertheless exemplified in Joshua's experience? James 4. 8.

Practical Teachings.

Sin always involves others besides the sinner. Have you found it so?

Sin delights in exposing the sinner. Satan would have only half a victory if he could not bring disgrace upon the sinner.

Covetousness takes many forms: Achan "saw," that was not wrong; "took," that was; "hid," that was cowardly. A thief is always a coward—he was a sneak-thief. We do not all do like Achan. But—do we covet? The only thing that can separate us from God is sin.

Hints for Home Study.

1. Read chap. 6 from ver. 17 through.
2. Read all of chap. 7.
3. How many things are said about Joshua in this lesson? Can you find more than six?
4. How many joined in this mourning?
5. Find a proof of God's omniscience in this lesson.
6. Read Psa. 90. 8.
7. Write ten questions which will tell what you think about this lesson.

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. The Defeated Army.

Of what act of disobedience was Achan guilty? What was "the accursed thing" here spoken of? Chap. 6. 17.

What sorrow did Achan's sin bring on the people? Whither did Joshua send out spies? What advice did the spies give on their return? How many men were sent against Ai? What was the result of the attack? How many of the men of Israel fell? How far did the men of Ai pursue? What effect had this defeat on the Israelites? What reason had they for expecting defeat? Deut. 28. 15, 25.

2. The Despairing Cry.

How did Joshua and the elders show their grief? What question of despair did Joshua ask? What foolish regret did he utter? What did he fear from the Canaanites? What did the Lord say to Joshua about his complaints? What charge did he bring against Israel? Why had they been defeated at Ai? How only could they secure God's continued presence? What is our defense against the sin of Achan? (Golden Text.)

Teachings of the Lesson.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. The hatefulness of sin?
2. The harmfulness of sin?
3. The sure punishment of sin?

Hints for Home Study.

Learn how Achan's sin was found out, what he took from Jericho, and how he was punished. Find two New Testament warnings against the sin of covetousness.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

What warning was given to the Israelites when they took Jericho? **Not to take the silver and gold for themselves.**

Did all obey? **One man disobeyed.** What was his name? **Achan.** Did Joshua know Achan's sin? **Not at first.** What small city was near Jericho? **Ai.** What did the Israelites think? **That they could easily take it.**

How many men went to take it? **Three thousand.** What happened? **They were defeated.** Why did this trouble Joshua? **He knew that God must be angry with them.**

What did the Lord show Joshua? **That there was sin in the camp.**

What had this caused? **Lack of faith, and fear.** When do our enemies always defeat us? **When God is not on our side.**

What did the Lord tell Joshua to do? **To search out the sin and destroy it.**

What is the penalty of sin? **Death.** What is the gift of God? **Eternal life.**

Words with Little People.

Answer to yourself— Is it true that sin is the accursed thing? Do I love it? Am I in danger of being destroyed? Do I really believe God's word about this? "The soul that sinneth, it shall die."

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

[For the entire school.]

1. What was Joshua's next military attempt? **The capture of Ai.**
2. What was the result? **Defeat, and loss of thirty-six men.**
3. What was the effect upon the people? **They were greatly frightened.**
4. What was Joshua's first act? **He gave way to grief.**
5. What did God tell him was the cause? **The sin of the people.**
6. What ought this lesson to make each of us pray? **"Incline my heart," etc.**

CATECHISM QUESTION.

5. Why were they commanded not to eat of this fruit? **To try them whether they would obey God or not.**
6. Wherein lay the evil of eating the forbidden fruit? **In the spirit of disobedience to God, unto whom, as their Creator and Benefactor and Lord, they ought to have been in entire submission.**

ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE.

"Your Sin will Find You Out."

I. IN THE ANGER OF GOD.

The anger of the Lord, v. 1.
"God is angry.... every day." Psa. 7. 11.
"Set our iniquities before thee." Psa. 90. 8.

II. IN INFLUENCE UPON CONDUCT.

They fled before the men of Ai, v. 4.
"Delivered.... hands of spoilers," Judg. 2. 14.
"Wicked flee.... righteous are bold," Psa. 38. 1.

III. IN SHAME TO GOD'S CAUSE.

O Lord, what shall I say, v. 8.
"Name of God is blasphemed," Rom. 2. 24.
"A reproach to any people," Prov. 14. 34.

IV. IN DISCOVERY.

Achan.... was taken, v. 18.
"Our secret sins in the light," Psa. 90. 8.
"Evil pursue sinners," Prov. 13. 21.

V. IN HARM TO OTHERS.

His sons and his daughters, v. 24.
"Iniquity... upon the children," Exod. 30. 5.
"Seed of evil-doers," Isa. 14. 20.

VI. IN PENALTY.

Stoned him.... burned them, v. 25.
"Will recompense their iniquity," Jer. 16. 18.
"Wages of sin is death," Rom. 6. 23.

VII. IN MEMORIES.

Called, The Valley of Achor, v. 26.
"Valley of Achor.... door of hope," Hos. 2. 15.
"Name of the wicked shall rot," Prov. 10. 7.

THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Sin Among God's People.

1. Sin is often to be found among God's people. There was a Judas among the twelve; there was an Ananias in the apostolic Church; there is often an Achan in the camp, v. 1.

2. Sin generally enters among God's people through self-desire, the spirit of covetousness, which puts gold in the place of God. How many Christians have lost their love of God through love of gold! v. 1.

3. Sin among God's people kindles God's anger. God is more displeased at the sins of saints than at the