

# From Persons to A People

11/22/09

## **Text:**

Joshua 7

## **Thesis:**

A Group of Individuals or Persons will find themselves frustrated and lacking in progress on the other hand a Team or A People will find themselves working together and easily achieving the ultimate goal.

## **Discussion:**

### **I) The Children of Israel – The New Generation**

#### a) Jericho The Victory

- 1) Joshua 6:15-27
- 2) The People took the city together.

#### b) The tragic error of the New Generation

- 1) Joshua 7:1
- 2) Notice the People called the “Children of Israel” committed a trespass!

### **II) What had failed the New Generation?**

#### a) Quickly we say it was not what but who? Achan! But was is that simple?

#### b) Did Achan demonstrate a lack of faith? Could this have been a symptom of a dormant disease about to become active again among the people?

#### c) There must have still been doubt. “Old Guard” influence.

#### d) Are there lessons we can learn from the New Generation of the Children of Israel?

- 1) God will direct and lead us through the challenges of life.
- 2) Satan will exaggerate any question we have concerning God’s lead.
- 3) When we start thinking of only our own we move from being one of A People to being a Person among people.
- 4) Pay attention when God shows us His way is working!

### **III) What happened the New Generation of the Children of Israel?**

#### a) A People started turning into Persons.

#### b) Moving On (Joshua 7:2-3)

- 1) We know we have one problem at this point.
- 2) Could we have two more problems?

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- c) SURPRISE! (Joshua 7:4-9)
  - 1) We have a whole new ball-game as we start this section. The tide of the game shifted....
    - (i) The men of war in Ai took the lives of 36 Israelites.
    - (ii) They chased the New Generation away from their gates to another land.
  - 2) Joshua is distraught.
  - 3) Joshua is prostrate before God....
  - 4) I wonder if the defeated New Generation went home to their tents and complained...
    - (i) If we had better leadership...
    - (ii) If we had a better plan...
    - (iii) If they would step up and do what they need to do...

### **IV) What was God's Response?**

- a) Joshua 7:10
- b) God tells Joshua what is the problem (Joshua 7:11-15).
  - 1) God tells Joshua there is sin in the camp.
  - 2) God Gives Joshua a plan to correct the situation.
- c) Joshua wastes no time getting to work. (Joshua 7:17-26).
  - 1) Achan was discovered.
  - 2) The individual sin was eradicated from the group.

### **V) God gave the New Generation His plan.**

- a) Joshua 8:1-21
- b) When the persons returned to have faith in God and follow the leadership He provided, they once again became A People.

### **Conclusion**

1. We should and can maintain faith in God which is belief in action.
2. God's plan always works, when we try to change it we are headed for failure.
3. I am accountable for my actions and my actions can determine whether we are simply a group of persons or A People for God.