

**Aim:** How does sin affect me?

God had told Israelites that they must not take anything from the city of Jericho for themselves.

**When Achan realised he was coveting the beautiful robe and the gold and silver what should he have done?**

When Achan realised that he was coveting the things and that he was tempted to take them he should have immediately left the area, then taken an animal to the priest to be sacrificed for his sin of coveting, and that would have been the end of it. Instead he stayed, stole the items and hid them in his family tent. As a result of his sin the Israelite army was badly defeated and several of them were killed.

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But what about when we sin?

**Romans 6:23<sup>NIV</sup> tells us that "the wages of sin is death" but Adam and Eve didn't die as soon as they sinned, and neither do we. So what does it mean?**

**What are some things that happen because of sin?** (Death, hate, anger, violence, old age etc)

God repeatedly told the Israelites that if they obeyed Him things would go well for them, but if they didn't obey Him then bad things would happen.

**Read Deuteronomy 11:26-28**

We each have a choice.

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But doing the right thing is not always easy.

**Read Romans 7:19 – Do you ever feel like Paul?**

No matter how hard you try, you will fail sometimes, but does that mean you should just give up? (Romans 6:1, 2)

Read John 14:15 says "If you love me obey My commandments" – If we love God, you will want to try to do what He wants. That means you have to make an effort.

Achan could have made the effort and immediately moved away from the temptation. That same day or even the next morning, he could have taken the stolen items to Joshua or the priest and confessed his sin; but he didn't.

**Matthew 5:30 talks about avoiding temptation.**

Does God want us to cut off our hands or eyes? I don't think so – God gave us our bodies and He wants them to be His temple. But the verse shows us just how bad sins are.

**Other than cutting off your hands, what could you do if you are tempted to steal something?** (Pray and ask God to give you strength, leave immediately, avoid the place, hang around different people etc.)

**What are some other things you might be tempted to do and what could you do about them?**

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Whenever you are tempted remember 1 Corinthians 10:13

"The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure." <sup>NLT</sup>