

SCCC – LISTENING IS NOT ENOUGH

S – Scriptures

“But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.” Joshua 6: 18

C – Consideration

God had given him in detail the strategy to conquer the town of Jericho. Joshua instructed the people about the plunder of Jericho, given to him by Lord “The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury.” The words were very explicit with no place for doubts. However, in chapter seven, Israel got into trouble against a very small group of Canaanite warriors who killed about thirty-six Hebrew soldiers. Why? Because one man disobeyed the commandments. “But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the Lord’s anger burned against Israel”

C – Commitment

What lessons can I take from this narrative, is the crucial question. People might say that this had happened in Old Testament times, and we are under grace not law; however, the incident shows me how I can take God’s words into my life. Achan, after being caught in his sin, said that he saw the plunder and he coveted it. He heard the divine orders, but his own desires blinded and hardened his heart. He had no faith to believe in the consequences as described in the following verse, “But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.” Paul wrote to the Galatians, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” Sin will bring consequences and unfortunately Achan’s sins affected the entire nation as well. Achan’s error was that he heard the word, but didn’t keep it. He chose to hide in his tent and in his heart gold, silver and clothes, instead of God’s words. James quoted, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” The Psalmist wrote, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

C – Call

My God, thank You for Your word this morning, that reminded me of Your holiness, and also to open my eyes that I should make the right choices, looking into the right directions, desiring the everlasting treasures. Deliver me Lord from the evil traps that Satan places before my eyes, deliver me from his lies like he told Eve in the Garden. Give me understanding to obey, keep, and do what Your word tells me to do. In Jesus’ name. Amen.