



Bringing Light to Our Shadows: A Message of Hope

Read Joshua 7

Listen to the Message 'Bringing Light to Our Shadows: A Message of Hope' (29th September 2024) at www.elim.family/media

The sermon discusses the harm that hidden sin can cause and the importance of bringing it into the open before God. Through the story of Achan in Joshua 7, we see Achan's secret disobedience led to Israel's defeat at Ai, showing how hidden wrongdoing affects not just the individual but the wider community. The Israelites, confident after their victory at Jericho, neglected to seek God's guidance, and as a result, they faced unnecessary consequences due to Achan's actions.

The message encourages us to understand that when sin is kept hidden, it can quietly grow and impact not only our own lives but also those around us. Achan's actions led to fear and loss, serving as a reminder that even small things kept in the dark can have big effects. As Christians we need to seek healing and freedom by confessing our struggles and finding support through our faith, which reminds us that God's forgiveness and grace are available when we bring our burdens and sin to Him.

Questions for reflection:

Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Is there something in my life that I've been hiding, thinking it's not affecting anyone else?
2. How does my hidden sin or struggle impact my relationship with God and others?
3. What steps can I take today to bring my burdens or hidden struggles into the light?
4. How do I feel knowing that God's grace is available, no matter what I've kept hidden?
5. In what ways can I trust God more with the areas of my life I'm afraid to reveal?

Group Reflection Questions:

1. Why do you think it's hard for people to be open about their struggles or hidden sins?

2. How can we, as a group, create a safe and supportive environment for confession and healing?
3. What are some ways we can help each other walk in the freedom God offers?
4. How can we gently encourage others to seek forgiveness and healing when they're struggling in secret?
5. What practical steps can we take as a group to strengthen our relationships with God and each other by being more transparent?

If you have never accepted Jesus as your personal saviour and you would like to move from the margins to having a relationship with Him. Please speak to one of the pastors or leadership team, we would love to pray with you. Alternatively, go to www.elim.family/ihavedecided to find out more about giving your life to Jesus.