

## Get Back on Track!

Joshua 8:1-35

A central theme of Joshua is:

There is no failure or mistake that cannot be remedied through the grace of God.

The issue is not whose side the Lord is on, but whether we are on the Lord's side!

To get back on track:

### I. WE NEED TO REMEMBER GOD NEVER FORSAKES HIS CHILDREN NO MATTER HOW THEY FAIL HIM! **Joshua 8:1a**

a. After we have sinned, the Devil loves to tell us,

*“You messed up big time and God can never use you again.”*

b. Undoubtedly that is where Joshua was, following the humiliating defeat.

c. It is reassuring to understand that God does not permanently withdraw His blessings when we fail Him.

### II. WE NEED TO LEARN NOT TO REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKES!

**Joshua 8:1b** *Take all your fighting men and attack Ai,*

a. The primary cause of defeat at Ai was Achan's sin. **Joshua 7:1a, b**

b. Contributing factors were:

Underestimating the enemy, overestimating themselves & presuming upon the power of the Lord.

### III. WE NEED TO BE READY TO RETURN TO THE SCENE OF OUR DEFEAT! **Joshua 8:1c-2**

a. Joshua is told to return to the place of defeat.

1. Now because they were in a right position with the Lord,

2. God promises to turn the place of defeat into a place of victory.

b. Israel learned they must have God's power even for the “smaller battles”.

1. With the power of God even Jericho could be taken.

2. Without His power even the seemingly insignificant Ai could not be taken.

3. How utterly dependent God's people are on God's power for any success!

c. Not only would there be victory in the place of defeat, there would also be additional reward.

1. Ironically had Achan waited and not allowed himself to be guided by greed.

2. He would have been able to take all he wanted and needed when they captured Ai.

### IV. WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT THE RECOVERY OF LOST GROUND IS ALWAYS PAINFUL AND COSTLY. **Joshua 8:3-8**

The Lord's utilizes the Israelites previous defeat to their advantage.

God is able to turn the humiliating mistakes in our life to our good.

a. That doesn't mean we will not experience the negative effects of our failures.

b. But God changed all of that for Israel.

He can do that for us too. He can turn our blunders into blessings.

### IV. WE NEED TO REMEMBER THE SOURCE OF BLESSINGS. **Joshua 8:30-35**

Joshua had the people travel to the valley between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim.

1. He built an altar and carried out a renewal service:

2. A service in recognition that their success was entirely dependent on being obedient to God.