



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Joshua 7-8
- II Corinthians 10:1-6
- John 15:11-17

Title:

Et tu, Joshua?

- A Friend's Betrayal
- Sin in the Camp
- Loyal Friendship

Friends don't do that. It's one of those labels that has been used and abused, like love. I love my car; I love my job; I love my house; I love my dog; I love football, etc. And, I have a friend; I know a friend; I can introduce you to a friend; my friend online, etc. Every acquaintance in your social circle is your friend? And every contact in your device is a friend? And every social media follower or followed... are friends? Guess what? They are NOT your friends.

Friendship is so deep, so intimate, so binding, that it alone sits next to love on our journey to divine-likeness. God is love; Y'shua said that. And here we have the path to that love. To your faith add virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, and brotherly kindness. Only then do we arrive at love, His divine nature. Did you catch it? Brotherly kindness is friendship; and you must add friendship to godliness before you can love! Friends know one another, understand one another, trust one another, believe in one another, and are faithful to one another. Friendship describes a closeness so close that it would surrender itself for another.

As such, you might now agree that you don't have any friends on your social media platforms; you aren't following actual friends in your "friend list." Neither are you being followed by friends! Maybe you have a friend or two in your thousands of device contacts, maybe, but that's about it.

All this, and yet Y'shua calls us friends. Abraham was called God's friend; Moses too was a friend of God. That is some pretty exclusive company. Y'shua kept Peter, James and John in His inner circle. That is why they alone were on the mountain with Him when He revealed what the future held for mankind; very exclusive company! All such deep intimacy, and still Y'shua includes us in His inner circle; He calls us friends.

And if friendship is such an exclusive binding relationship, how much does it hurt when a friend betrays you? How painful is it when the one who should know you best forgets who you are, has a lapse in memory about your history together, loses trust in you, or purposely separates from you? It's an awful thing to slip into the endless list of those "friended" online, those who don't really know you—those who NEVER knew you.

Joshua had an extensive history with Yahweh. He was there for it all. He stood by Moses' side. He spied out the land and returned with the good report. He witnessed every indescribable miracle during Israel's deliverance from Egypt, and every supernatural provision in the wilderness. He was the single man anointed to carry the torch into the promised land, and through him God orchestrated holding back the flood waters of the Jordan, so His people could pass over on dry ground. Joshua certainly had a victorious entry! The walls of Jericho had fallen and he was on the way to Israel's next conquest.

Then, there was one small setback and Joshua goes completely sideways! He sinks right to the bottom and joins the faceless list of those who have no history with God; he goes utterly blank. It feels like an absolute betrayal and Yahweh will

have NO part of it. “Get up Joshua, and stop your sniveling! Of all people, you should know better. We have an extensive history together! How can you forget My personal guarantee? ‘Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for Yahweh your God is with you wherever you go.’ Plus, you know very well how much I hate whining. Grumbling and complaining will get you nothing but a giant slap down. Get up, pull up your pants and be a big boy. Figure out what went wrong and fix it, or I will. Oh, and if I have to do it, it will be much, much worse for everyone!”

PROPHETIC SEED:

“And Joshua said, “Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? **Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!** O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name? So the Lord said to Joshua:

“Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?” Joshua 7:7-10 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.**” John 15:15 NKJV

A FRIEND’S BETRAYAL

1. Et tu, Brute?

A. Missing the obvious!

(1) First Mistake

(a) You let sin in the camp!

1. “But the **children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things**, for Achan ...of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the Lord burned against the children of Israel.” Joshua 7:1 NKJV

(b) No Plausible Deniability—Joshua knew!

1. “And you, **by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse**, and trouble it. But all **the silver and gold**, and vessels of **bronze and iron**, are consecrated to the Lord; they **shall come into the treasury of the Lord.**” Joshua 6:18-19 NKJV
2. “But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire [or did they?]. **Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury** of the house of the Lord.” Joshua 6:24 NKJV

(c) God hates refuse in the camp...

1. “...**therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you**, and turn away from you.” Deuteronomy 23:14 NKJV

a) You are NEVER permitted to bring unclean things into the camp! (See [Seeker Friendly](#))

(2) Second Mistake

- (a) Joshua is too busy making up his own strategy of what to do next to have noticed “sin in the camp.”

1. "Now **Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai**, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, **and spoke to them, saying, "Go up and spy** out the country." So the men went up and spied out Ai. And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few.'" Joshua 7:2-3 NKJV

(b) Pause: Previous Spy Experience

1. "And **the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Send men to spy** out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.'" Numbers 13:1-2 NKJV

(c) The New Spy Report:

1. "And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "**Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go** up and attack Ai. **Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few.**"' Joshua 7:3 NKJV

(d) The Results:

1. "So about **three thousand men went up** there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai. And **the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men**, for they **chased them** from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore **the hearts of the people melted** and became like water." Joshua 7:4-5 NKJV
2. Thus says the Lord: "**Cursed is the man who trusts in man** And makes flesh his strength, ..."**Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord**, And whose hope is the Lord. ..."**The heart is deceitful** above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:5-9 NKJV

(3) Third Mistake

(a) Some Background: God hates when leaders don't take responsibility... Aaron and his earrings...

1. "Now **when the people** saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "**Come, make us gods** that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." And **Aaron said to them, "Break off the golden earrings** which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And **he received** the gold from their hand, and **he fashioned** it with an engraving tool, and **made a molded calf**. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" Exodus 32:1-4 NKJV

(b) When you are in trouble...blame others!

1. "And **Moses said to Aaron**, "What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?" So Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my Lord become hot. **You know the people, that they are set on evil**. For **they said to me, 'Make us gods** that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' **And I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.'** So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out.'" Exodus 32:21-24 NKJV

(c) Important information... Joshua was there and witnessed the whole thing.

1. “And **when Joshua heard the noise** of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “There is a noise of war in the camp.” But he [Moses] said: “**It is not the noise of the shout of victory, Nor the noise of the cry of defeat, But the sound of singing I hear.**”” Exodus 32:17-18 NKJV

(d) Another perfect example of neglected leadership...Saul and his bleating sheep...

1. “Now [Saul] go and attack Amalek, **and utterly destroy all that they have**, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’ ” I Samuel 15:3 NKJV
2. “Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the Lord! **I have performed the commandment of the Lord.**” But Samuel said, “**What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?**” And Saul said, “**They** have brought them from the Amalekites; for **the people** spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, **to sacrifice to the Lord your God**; and **the rest we have utterly destroyed.**”” I Samuel 15:13-15 NKJV
3. “**Why then did you not obey** the voice of the Lord? **Why did you swoop down on the spoil**, and **do evil** in the sight of the Lord?” And Saul said to Samuel, “**But I have obeyed** the voice of the Lord, **and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me**, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; **I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took** of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things **which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God** in Gilgal.”” I Samuel 15:19-21 NKJV

(e) Joshua goes into some religious showing instead of recognizing what happened.

1. “Then **Joshua tore his clothes**, and **fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening**, he and the elders of Israel; and they **put dust on their heads**. And **Joshua said**, “Alas, Lord God, **why have You** brought this people **over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand** of the Amorites, to **destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!** O Lord, **what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies?** For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and **cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?**”” Joshua 7:6-9 NKJV

A. Yahweh will have NONE of it...

(1) Of all people, Joshua should know better!

(a) The Slap Down: Get up and take responsibility. Stop this ridiculous display.

1. “So the Lord said to Joshua: “**Get up!** Why do you lie thus on your face?” Joshua 7:10 NKJV

(2) Joshua’s calling. He was THE ONE man called to continue the work of Moses!

(a) Moses’ right hand man...

1. “So Joshua the son of Nun, **Moses’ assistant, one of his choice men...**” Numbers 11:28-29 NKJV

(b) Joshua is anointed to take over...

1. “And the Lord said to Moses: “**Take Joshua** the son of Nun with you, a man **in whom is the Spirit**, and **lay your hand on him; ...and inaugurate him** in their sight. And you shall **give some of your authority** to him, ... And **he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him**, just as the Lord commanded by the hand of Moses.” Numbers 27:18-23 NKJV

(c) Moses tells the people that Joshua is the one who will take you into the promised land.

1. "Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. And he said to them: "I am one hundred and twenty years old today. I can no longer go out and come in. ... **Joshua himself crosses over before you**, just as the Lord has said." Deuteronomy 31:1-3 NKJV
- (d) God is going with you; don't have a single worry. You'd think he was solid.
 1. "**Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of good courage**, for you must go with this people to the land ...the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed. **Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him...**" Deuteronomy 31:7-9 NKJV
- (e) Yahweh to Joshua: Go over—"Every place that the sole of your foot will tread is yours!"
 1. "After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that **the Lord spoke to Joshua** the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, **arise, go over this Jordan**, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. **Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.**" Joshua 1:1-3 NKJV
- (f) Yahweh to Joshua—more details!
 1. "**No man shall be able to stand before** you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. **Be strong and of good courage**, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. **Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law** which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. **This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.** For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**" Joshua 1:5-9 NKJV
- (3) Joshua's LONG history as WITNESS for it all! (A History of Complaining)
 - (a) At the Red Sea Crossing—"we would have been better off in Egypt!" (Joshua was there!)
 1. "..."**Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.**" Exodus 14:10-12 NKJV
 - (b) Three days into the wilderness—no water!
 1. "So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; ...they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ... **And the people complained** against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" ...There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them, and said, "**If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord** your God and do what is right in His sight, **give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes**, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you." Exodus 15:22-26 NKJV
 - (c) They just continue to complain. And later on—no water, again!

1. "Then **the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron** ... "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, **when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full!** For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Exodus 16:2-3 NKJV
 2. "...camped in Rephidim; but there was **no water** for the people to drink. Therefore the people contended with Moses, ... "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"... Exodus 17:1-4 NKJV
- (d) We already looked at the Golden Calf incident in Exodus 32. (Joshua was there!)
1. "And when **Joshua heard the noise...**" Exodus 32:17-18 NKJV
- (e) After they leave Sinai—the people complain, and God hates complaining! (Joshua was there!)
1. "**Now when the people complained, it displeased the Lord;** for the Lord heard it, **and His anger was aroused.** So the fire of the Lord burned among them, and **consumed some in the outskirts** of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the Lord, the fire was quenched." Numbers 11:1-2 NKJV
- (f) No Meat to eat and they complained again!
1. "Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "**Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;** but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" Numbers 11:4-6 NKJV
- (g) Moses is ready to quit over the whole complaining thing...
1. "Then **Moses heard the people weeping...** So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have You afflicted Your servant? ... Did I conceive all these people? ... **Where am I to get meat ... I am not able to bear all these people alone... If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now—...**" Numbers 11:10-15 NKJV
 2. "...while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, **the wrath of the Lord was aroused against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague.**" Numbers 11:31-33 NKJV (Joshua was there!)
- (h) They choose to believe the bad spy report instead of the good one! (See Numbers 13)
1. "So all the congregation **lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron,** and the whole congregation said to them, "**If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!** Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children **should become victims?** Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" So they said to one another, "**Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.**" Numbers 14:1-4 NKJV
 - a) Moses did something similar
 - b) Joshua was there for all of it, which makes this reaction all the worse! "*Then **Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. And Joshua said, "Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been***

content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?'" Joshua 7:6-9 NKJV

B. Et tu, Joshua?

(1) Disobedience and loss of faith is worse when it's a friend!

(a) Friend of God...Abraham!

1. **"But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham **My friend.**"** Isaiah 41:8 NKJV
2. **"Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of **Abraham Your friend forever?**"** II Chronicles 20:7 NKJV
3. **"And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "**Abraham** believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness [Genesis 15:6]." And **he was called the friend of God** [Isaiah 41:8; II Chronicles 20:7]." James 2:23 NKJV**

(b) Friend of God...Moses! (Joshua was there!)

1. **"So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.** And he would return to the camp, but **his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.**" Exodus 33:11 NKJV

(c) Friend of God...You!

1. **"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life **for his friends. You are My friends** if you do whatever I command you. {15} **No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.** You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another. John 15:11-17 NKJV**

(2) Judas

(a) With "friends" like this, who needs enemies?

1. **"And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now **His betrayer** had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him." Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" **and kissed Him.** But Jesus said to him, "**Friend, why have you come?**" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him." Matthew 26:47-50 NKJV**

(b) Peter denies Christ! (Luke 22:54-62)

1. **"And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "**Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.**" So Peter went out and wept bitterly." Luke 22:61-62 NKJV**

(c) Anyone Faking it... "Depart from me I never knew you!" Who? Those who disobey!

1. ““Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**’” Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV

(d) Joshua, your faith has betrayed you...

1. “So the Lord said to Joshua: “**Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?**” Joshua 7:10 NKJV

SIN IN THE CAMP

2. Spoiled Spoils

A. Joshua, you fix it, or I (Yahweh) will!

(1) And if I have to do it, it will be much worse!

(a) Why was the mission unsuccessful?

1. “**Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them.** For **they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived;** and they have also **put it among their own stuff.** Therefore the children of Israel **could not stand before their enemies,** but turned their backs before their enemies, **because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you **destroy the accursed from among you.**” Joshua 7:11-12 NKJV**

(2) Here is what you must do...

(a) Search out the problem...

1. “Get up, sanctify the people, and say, ‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the Lord God of Israel: “**There is an accursed thing in your midst,** O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies **until you take away the accursed thing from among you.**” In the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the Lord takes shall come according to families; and the family which the Lord takes shall come by households; and the household which the Lord takes shall come man by man. **Then it shall be that he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire,** he and all that he has, **because he has transgressed the covenant** of the Lord, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.’ ” Joshua 7:13-15 NKJV

B. Exposed and Found Wanting

(1) This what was Joshua found out...

(a) Achan (the tribe of Judah)

1. “So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken. ... and Achan ...was taken.” Joshua 7:16-18 NKJV

(b) It's the moment of truth...

1. “Now Joshua said to Achan, “My son, **I beg you, give glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and **tell me now what you have done; do not hide** it from me.”” Joshua 7:19 NKJV**

(c) Confession...

1. “And Achan answered Joshua and said, “**Indeed I have sinned** against the Lord God of Israel, and **this is what I have done:** When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver,

and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, **I coveted** them and took them. And there **they are, hidden** in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.” Joshua 7:20-21 NKJV

a) **“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”** James 5:16 NKJV

(d) Confirmed...

1. “So Joshua **sent messengers**, and they ran to the tent; and there **it was, hidden in his tent**, with the silver under it. And they took them from the midst of the tent, **brought them to Joshua** and to all the children of Israel, and **laid them out before the Lord.**” Joshua 7:22-23 NKJV

a) Joshua gathers the evidence and lays it out before the people and God!

(e) “Consequences”: the consequences of coveting!

1. “Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan ...the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, [*and his family, animals, belongings*] to the Valley of Achor [trouble]. And Joshua said, **“Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day.”** So all Israel **stoned him** with stones; and they **burned them** with fire after they had stoned them with stones. Then they raised over him **a great heap of stones**, still there to this day. **So the Lord turned from the fierceness of His anger.** Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day.” Joshua 7:24-26 NKJV

a) You are **“doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you **destroy the accursed from among you.**”** Joshua 7:12

(2) Definitive Judgement for abusing God’s treasure...

(a) The Writing is on the Wall

1. “Then the fingers of the hand were sent from Him, and this writing was written. “And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; TEKEL: **You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting;** PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”” Daniel 5:24-28 NKJV

(3) You are God’s treasure (His personal possession)

(a) You are his treasure in earthen vessels...

1. “But we have this **treasure in earthen vessels**, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” II Corinthians 4:7 NKJV

(b) You are His personal possession...

1. “And the Lord has today declared you to be His people, **His personal possession** [*special people, treasured possession*], just as He promised you, and that **you are to keep all His commandments;**” Deuteronomy 26:18 NASB2020

2. “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **a people for God’s own possession**, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has **called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**” 1 Peter 2:9 NASB2020

3. “But in a great house **there are not only vessels of gold and silver**, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore **if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor,**

sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. Flee also youthful lusts; but **pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace** with those who call on the Lord out of **a pure heart.**" II Timothy 2:20-22 NKJV

(c) You do not belong to yourself anymore!

1. "I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20 NKJV

(d) Lay aside everything that will hinder you!

1. "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us,** and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us," Hebrews 12:1 NKJV

(e) Let God's word purify you!

1. "For **the word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and **is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but **all things are naked and open** to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV

(f) Finally, about treasure! Don't bury yours...(see Matthew 25:14-30)

1. **Matthew 25:24-30 (the One talent):** "'Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, **reaping where you have not sown,** and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And **I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground.** Look, there you have what is yours.' "But his Lord answered and said to him, '**You wicked and lazy servant,** you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. **Therefore take the talent from him,** and give it to him who has ten talents. 'For to **everyone who has, more will be given,** and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. **And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness.** There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"
 2. "*When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, **I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth** in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.*" Joshua 7:21 NKJV
 - a) Why? "**For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.**" Romans 11:29 NKJV

LOYAL FRIENDSHIP

3. You are My friends if...

A. You obey!

(1) Friends don't betray (disobey) friends!

- (a) Stay close to Him and He will make all things known!

1. **“You are My friends** if you **do whatever I command** you. No longer do I call you servants, for **a servant does not know what his master is doing**; but I have called you friends, for **all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.**” John 15:14-15 NKJV
2. “But also for this very reason, **giving all diligence, add to** your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, **to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.** For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” II Peter 1:5-8 NKJV
3. *“A man **who has friends** must himself be friendly, But **there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**”*
Proverbs 18:24 NKJV

B. The permanent fix: Obedience

(1) By the Book (The Law: everywhere you want it to be)

(a) And then he set Joshua up for success in the land.

1. “So Moses wrote this law and delivered it to the priests, ...commanded them, saying: “At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles, ...read this law before all Israel in their hearing. ... **that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the Lord your God and carefully observe all the words of this law,** and that their children, who have not known it, may **hear and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land** which you cross the Jordan to possess.””
Deuteronomy 31:9-13 NKJV

2. “So **Moses came with Joshua** the son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people. Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel, and he said to them: “**Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe—all the words of this law.** For it is not a futile thing for you, because **it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan** to possess.”” Deuteronomy 32:44-47 NKJV

(b) Joshua continued the tradition...

1. “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you **shall meditate in it day and night,** that you **may observe to do according to all that is written in it.** For then you will **make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**” Joshua 1:8 NKJV

(c) Joshua Renews his resolve to get it right!

1. “And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. **There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel,** with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.” Joshua 8:34-35 NKJV

(d) We must have the same resolve with the Achans in our lives!

1. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, **and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,** that the man of God may be **complete, thoroughly equipped** for every good work.” II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

(2) Second Chances

(a) God says...Get up and take responsibility. Stop this ridiculous display. Fix what’s in your camp or I will!

1. "So the Lord said to Joshua: "**Get up!** Why do you lie thus on your face?" Joshua 7:10 NKJV
- (b) You say...Lord, I am ready to be obedient, and I am ready to punish Achan!
 1. "Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds**, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**, and being **ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.**" II Corinthians 10:1-6 NKJV