Sin in the Camp
Joshua 7:1-5

Introduction:
A. Israel's success at Jericho.
B. Israel's problem at Ai.
   1. Instead of easy victory, demoralizing defeat. (7:3-9)
   2. Caused by greed of one man - Achan. (7:20,21).
      a. Sinned at Jericho. (6:17-19)
      b. All Israel effected. (7:1)
C. Israel's defeat shows God's attitude toward "sin in the camp" of His People.
   1. This can serve as a warning to us today.
   2. This can also be encouraging – one defeat did not destroy God’s nation.
   3. This can be seen in examples of sin in the camp in the early church.

Discussion:
I. Lying In The Camp At Jerusalem (Acts 5:1-11)
   A. Greed, Pride, and Conspiracy to deceive.
   B. Results:
      1. For the couple: Death and destruction.
      2. For the church: Fear and unity. (vs. 11,12)
II. Carnality In The Camp At Corinth (1 Cor. 3:1-3)
   A. Manifested by various divisions, cliches and factions divisions (1:10ff; 11:18; 12:25).
      1. Caused by placing faith in man and human wisdom. (3:4-7; 18-23; 4:6)
      2. Caused by Jealousies. (1 Cor. 12)
      3. Caused by carnal use of God's assembly. (1 Cor. 11:18ff)
   B. Manifested by an immoral member and churches failure to discipline them.
   C. Manifested by a denial of the resurrection by some. (1 Cor. 15:12,33).
III. Disorderliness In The Camp At Thessalonica (2 Thess. 3:11)
   A. Specific disorderliness was working not at all (free-loading implied) and busybodying.
      1. Idleness is not a synonym for disorderly.
      2. Idleness is a specific kind of disorderliness.
   B. Told first to warn them (1 Thess. 5:14), then withdraw (2 Thess. 3:6)
IV. Partiality In The Camp At Antioch (Gal. 2:11-13)
   A. Special attention to brethren because of economic, social or racial status. (cf. James 2:1-13)
      1. Cliches and factions often formed along such lines.
      2. Association with other Christians often along these lines. (cf. Gal. 2:14ff)
   B. Partiality in dealing with problems and sins among brethren. (1 Tim. 5:17-21)
V. Preeminence Loving In The Camp At Some Place (3 John 9)
   A. Causes some to become dictators.
   B. Causes some to take too much upon themselves.
      1. Push themselves ahead of others more experienced and qualified.
      2. Assume work that belongs uniquely to elders.
      3. In absence of elders speak and act for congregation on their own.
   C. Causes some to deceive themselves as to what their role should be.
      1. Think "limelighting" is leadership and "performing" is preaching.
      2. Think ends justifies means - usurp and abuse authority if necessary to get job done - Forget that God gives the increase.
   D. Causes some to "politic" way into preeminence. (cf. Absalom 2 Sam. 15:1-6)

Conclusion:
A. We need to correct any sin within the camp – starting with ourselves.
B. We do not need to let sin from within defeat us – church has survived for 2,000 years after 1st century sins.