

How Do You Spell Relief?

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Harvest Church 10/22/00

I. The Text: *"And God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments.*
Ex. 20:1-6 (NIV)

**Was God Kidding?*

II. It Appears that He Wasn't - Proof from the Scripture: Joshua 6 & 7

A. The Context

- 1. The Victory at Jericho**
- 2. The Defeat at Ai**

B. The Calamity - Joshua 7:4-5

- 1. Loss of life**
- 2. Loss of courage**
- 3. Loss of their witness before the infidel**

C. The Cause - Joshua 7:10-12

*** Achan's Idolatry**

- a. He feared that a "bear market" was in his future**
- b. He doubted that God was up to the task**
- c. He decided to trust in his 401K**

"All sin is rooted in the suspicion that God is not good." Oswald Chambers

D. The Cure - Joshua 7:14-15

- 1. Joshua earnestly sought the Lord**
- 2. He accepted God's diagnosis of the problem**
- 3. He immediately and completely dealt with the sin**

***The result - God's family (Israel) was restored to strength, and He delivered Ai into their hands. Joshua 8:1-23**

III. The Application - For your family

A. Is there *calamity* in your life?

- 1. Estrangement from your spouse**
- 2. The kids are haywire**
- 3. Work and even recreation are unfulfilling**
- 4. Ministry is non-existent**

B. Could the *cause* be idolatry? addiction? (the problems of pain and sin)

1. God's prescription for pain relief - "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*" Matt. 11:28

2. How do you spell *relief*? (alcohol, drugs, sex, gambling, rage, work, recreation, family, friends, TV, sports, exercise, vacations, investing, the internet, gossip, flirtation, control, perfectionism, etc.)

3. Fred, Quicken, and the Golden Calf

***To us some idols smell better than others, but to God all of them have the stench of death!**

"Do not be deceived; God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.
Gal. 6:7

C. Are you willing to be *cured*?

1. Own your sin

*** "*the truth will set you free*" John 8:32**

2. Humble yourself before God

*** "*apart from me you can do nothing*" John 15:5**

3. Ruthlessly eliminate the idols in your life

*** "*If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away*"**
Matt. 5:29

