***Courageous: Why So Serious?***

Joshua 7:1-8:2

*Bible Reading Questions:*

* What do I like about this Scripture?
* What do I not like about this Scripture?
* What do I learn about man’s character in this Scripture?
* What do I learn about God’s character in this Scripture?
* What does God want me to do based on this Scripture?

**Achan: My choices are serious.** (Joshua 7:16-23)

* I cannot hide anything from the LORD.

**Hebrews 4:13 (NIV)**
Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

* Be careful little eyes what you see! (Sin begins on the inside!)

**Genesis 3:6 (NIV)**

When *the woman saw* that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, *she took some* and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

* My choices have consequences for others!

**Joshua 22:20 (NIV)**
When Achan son of Zerah acted unfaithfully regarding the devoted things, did not wrath come upon the whole community of Israel? He was not the only one who died for his sin.

*Who will die because of my unfaithfulness?*

*Each man’s life touches so many other lives….*

**Joshua: Following the LORD is a serious challenge.**

* Discipleship shows.
* Discouragement grows.

*Don’t forget God’s past faithfulness!*

* Displacement throws (blame).

*The fault is not divine, the fault is mine!*

*We want, in fact, not so much a Father in Heaven as a grandfather in heaven — a senile benevolence who, as they say, ‘liked to see young people enjoying themselves,’ and whose plan for the universe was simply that it might be truly said at the end of each day, ‘a good time was had by all.’ -* C. S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

**The LORD: My God is serious.**

* The same God Who offers me “no condemnation” also desires “no contamination.”
* The LORD expects me to take a stand.

*Where does God want me to stand?*

**Isaiah 65:10 (NIV)**

Sharon will become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a resting place for herds, for my people who seek me.

**John 11:49-52 (NIV)**
49  Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! 50  You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."