

## Sunday Night Message

January 21, 2018

### Joshua 8 – *The Victory Against Ai*

Series – Joshua

Text – Joshua 8

After the disaster of chapter seven, God will now direct Israel to go back into Ai, this time victoriously. An important lesson that we can all learn from this passage and many others like it is that humanly, we are going to blow it often, but God is not through with us; we can get back up and try again. Obviously, there may be some exceptions to that general rule, but God is always gracious and merciful with His children.

#### **I Inspiration from the Lord (vs. 1 – 2)**

Notice that this time there is communication between Joshua and God, but back in chapter seven, there was no communication between Joshua and God until after they lost the battle and lost thirty-six men.

God gives them:

A Chance to Make Things Right

A Change in Orders – now they could take the spoil and the cattle

A Charge to Lay an Ambush

#### **II Instruction from Joshua (vs. 3 – 9)**

Joshua had to persuade the people that God was with them this time.

Joshua was in a precarious situation here. He previously led the people into defeat. Now, he had to convince them that this time they would be victorious. He had to take responsibility for the previous failure.

Joshua participated with the people. He led from the front. He led by example.

Notice all of the people go to war this time, not just three thousand.

#### **III Implementation of the Plan (vs. 10 – 29)**

In the middle of the implementation of the plan (v. 18), God reassures Joshua that he was with them.

#### **IV Indication of Their Devotion to the Lord (vs. 30 – 35)**

Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim were twenty or so miles to the north of Ai (see map), near the city of Shechem; near Jacob's well and Joseph's tomb. (See also Deuteronomy 17:14 – 20 regarding writing a copy of the Book of the Law.)

