

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

**8771 FM 35
Union Valley, TX**

Pastor: Steve Bishop

MISSION STATEMENT

***Ride out and round up the lost cowboys and cowgirls
Everywhere so they can know our Savior, Jesus Christ.***

January 3, 2016 – Riding Fences

When we ride our horses, we generally cool them down by riding fences, looking for trees on the fence, gates left open by hunters or creek crossings that are washed out. We're looking for liabilities – cows and horses are assets – and we're trying to eliminate the liabilities – where the cows or horses might get out.

The wall around Jericho was 6 feet side, had 30 foot high towers, also had the first stair case in history and predated the Egyptian pyramids by 4,000 years! God was clear that when you take the City of Jericho, must march around it once each day for 6 days, on the 7th, march around it seven times. On the 7th time, have the priests blow the rams horns and all the people shout and the walls will come down. God also instructed them not to take anything...leave everything.

Story of Achen – he took a robe, silver and gold and hid it under the corner of his tent.

Joshua 7:2-13 ***2*** Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the East of Bethel, and told them, “Go up and spy out the region.” So the men went up and spied out Ai. ***3*** When they returned to Joshua, they said, “Not all the people will have to up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary all the people, for only a few men are there.” ***4*** So about three thousand men went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, ***5*** who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted and became like water. ***6*** Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell face down in the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. ***7*** And Joshua said, “Ah, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! ***8*** O Lord, what can I say, now that Israel has been

routed by its enemies? ⁹ The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?"

¹⁰ The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on you doing down on your face?"

In other words, God is saying to Joshua, this is no time to JUST pray, you need to do something about this, you can pray while you're walking and solving this problem.

¹¹ Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted (these are things that God said, treat like it's an offering to him) things; they have stolen, they have put them with their own possessions. ¹² That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction. ¹³ "Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: That which is devoted is among you, O Israel, You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove it.

They lost the battle over one guy's sin. Thirty-six died, the whole nation suffered because of one guy's sin. God had them come by tribe, clan, family and then by individual. Eventually, if you keep reading, Achan, his wife, his sons, daughters, donkeys, sheep, his ten and everything he owned were destroyed.

We have become very intolerant of irresponsibility ...Eventually everybody connected to the irresponsible person pays. Are you riding the fences of your family, community, church?

Question: Are you hiding behind your prayers? Is it time to quit praying about something and do something about it?

Test: Is it already covered in God's word? Honesty, sex outside of marriage?

Are you trying to pray your way out of something you behaved your way into?

Are their areas of your life you pray about that if people knew they would say, "I don't see you making much effort!"

"This passage leads to some difficult conversations..."