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YouTube Prayer Link

God's justice and mercy

The Book of Joshua (Chapter 20)

20:2 And thou shalt say unto the Israelites, Build a city of refuge for yourselves, as I have told you by Moses.

20:3 that he who kills without heart may flee to there. These cities may be places where you may flee from your blood enemies.

Numbers 14:18: "The Lord is slow to anger, but has abundant mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and will not acquit the guilty, but will pursue his sin, from father to son, to three or four generations." 』

Matthew 5:17-26 "17Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets. I have not come to abolish it, but to fulfill it. 18Verily I say unto you, Even when heaven and earth pass away, not a single stroke of the law shall pass away

Joshua 20 describes the establishment of the city of refuge, a moving story of God's justice and mercy. In this chapter, God commanded the Israelites to set up cities of refuge for those who had no intention of killing and to provide them with a safe place to escape the means of revenge and revenge.

The establishment of the city of refuge is a manifestation of God's justice. Revenge and revenge were common acts in Israeli society, but God realized that such actions would lead to the punishment of the innocent. Therefore, He instructed the establishment of refuge cities throughout the country to give those who had no intention of killing a chance to escape from the

avengers. Such an arrangement prevents justice from undeserved punishment for the innocent, and at the same time mitigates the risk of bloodshed.

Escaping also shows God's mercy. Even people who inadvertently cause the death of others can find refuge and safety in the city of refuge. It is a mercy for people who give the person who has made a mistake a chance to escape punishment and regain his freedom and a chance to live. God's mercy extends not only to the innocent, but also to those who make mistakes.

The city of refuge is not just a physical refuge, but also a manifestation of God's kindness and grace to man. This setting reflects God's consideration of the balance between justice and mercy, and is a reminder that there is an opportunity to seek change and forgiveness in the face of even the worst mistakes. This combination of righteousness and compassion makes the city of refuge a symbol of deep meaning and value, demonstrating God's love and compassion for humanity.

There are many passages in the Bible that describe God's justice and mercy. These chapters are scattered throughout the Bible and show God's love, mercy, justice, and grace toward humanity.

Psalm 103: This psalm expresses God's love and mercy, emphasizing that his grace endures forever and that his attitude toward people is full of compassion and love.

Exodus 34:6-7: God revealed His true nature to Moses by declaring that He was "merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abundant in lovingkindness and truth." These qualities show God's love and justice.

Micaiah 6:8: The LORD has shown what to do, to walk in righteousness, to be merciful, to walk in humility and to walk in obedience with God.

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." This is an expression of God's great mercy and grace to the world. In Christian teaching, there are specific ways of thinking about Christian sin.

When Christians sin, teaching often emphasizes the following principles:

Confession of sin: Christianity emphasizes awareness and repentance of sinful behavior. It means acknowledging one's mistakes and seeking forgiveness from God and the victim.

Legal Compliance: Christian teachings encourage believers to obey local laws. Criminal behavior may be subject to legal sanctions, and Christians are taught to respect and obey the laws of the land.

Changing Lives: After sinning, Christians are encouraged to make a deeper connection through their relationship with God in order to find strength and wisdom in their faith so that they can change their lives and avoid making the same mistakes again.

Atonement and restoration: Atonement refers to seeking God's forgiveness and re-establishing a relationship with Him. At the same time, Christians are also encouraged to repay the harm caused, where possible, and restore the victim's relationship with the community.

Church and Community Support: Churches and faith communities play an important role in this process, providing support, prayer, and guidance to help Christians face the consequences of sin and get out of it.

Overall, Christian teachings encourage believers to recognize their mistakes after sinning, repent, obey the law, seek God's grace and help, and bring about real change through faith and community support. This process emphasizes repentance and change, providing an opportunity for full recovery and reconstruction.

Isaiah 1:17: God demonstrates his pursuit of righteousness by calling people to do righteousness and help orphans and widows.

These passages are just one example of God's justice and mercy in the Bible. The entire Bible is God's book of lovingkindness, grace, and righteousness to mankind, and many of its stories and poems emphasize His love for humanity and his pursuit of justice.

Let's pray together:

Dear Heavenly Father, we come to You at this time to pray for all who recognize their mistakes and repent. May Your mercy and grace come upon us and give us the courage to face up to our mistakes.

Please give us a firm will to sincerely open our hearts to You and admit our mistakes. May Your Holy Spirit fill us and lead us to find peace and strength in repentance.

Please give us the wisdom and courage to face our mistakes and to face the possible consequences. May You help us understand that You are a forgiving and merciful Heavenly Father, and may Your grace manifest in our lives.

Lead us on the right path, and through Your love and truth, let us find true freedom and joy in our process of repenting and rebuilding our relationship with You.

In the name of Jesus Christ we ask, amen.

Joshua chapter 20

Jo. 20:1 Then the LORD said to Joshua:

Jo. 20:2 "Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses,

Jo. 20:3 so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood.

Jo. 20:4 “When he flees to one of these cities, he is to stand in the entrance of the city gate and state his case before the elders of that city. Then they are to admit him into their city and give him a place to live with them.

Jo. 20:5 If the avenger of blood pursues him, they must not surrender the one accused, because he killed his neighbour unintentionally and without malice aforethought.

Jo. 20:6 He is to stay in that city until he has stood trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest who is serving

at that time. Then he may go back to his own home in the town from which he fled.”

Jo. 20:7 So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah.

Jo. 20:8 On the east side of the Jordan of Jericho they designated

Bezer in the desert on the plateau in the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead in the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan in the tribe of Manasseh.

Jo. 20:9 Any of the Israelites or any alien living among them who killed someone accidentally could flee to these designated cities and not be killed by the avenger of blood prior to standing trial before the assembly.

Chapter 20 describes the establishment of cities of refuge for the Israelites. These cities were designated as safe havens for those who had unintentionally killed someone, providing them with a place to flee and avoid retribution from the avenger of blood, who had the legal right to avenge the death of a family member.

The chapter describes how six cities were chosen as cities of refuge, three on each side of the Jordan River. These cities were Bezer, Ramoth, and Golan on the east side of the Jordan, and Kedesh, Shechem, and Hebron on the west side of the Jordan.

The chapter emphasizes the importance of justice and the need for fair treatment of all individuals, even those who may have committed unintentional acts of violence. It also underscores the importance of following God's commands and the role of the Israelites in upholding the law.

Overall, Chapter 20 highlights the importance of establishing just and fair systems of justice, even in times of war and conquest. It also serves as a reminder of the Israelites' responsibility to follow God's commands and to treat all individuals with fairness and respect.

Here are some important verses from Joshua chapter 20 in the Christian Bible:

1. "Then the Lord said to Joshua: 'Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood.'" (Joshua 20:1-3)

2. "The assembly sent twelve thousand fighting men with instructions to go to the towns and villages of the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh and to speak to them, saying, 'Return to your homes with your great wealth--with large herds of livestock, with silver, gold, bronze and iron, and a great quantity of clothing--and divide with your brothers the plunder from your enemies.'" (Joshua 22:7-8)

These verses describe the establishment of the cities of refuge in accordance with God's instructions given to Moses. These were designated cities where a person who had accidentally killed someone could flee for protection from the avenger of blood, who was a family member of the victim seeking retribution. The second verse describes the Israelites sending twelve thousand fighting men to ensure that the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh would receive their inheritance of land and possessions, as promised by Moses. These verses emphasize the importance of following God's instructions and fulfilling the promises made to each tribe.

In Joshua chapter 20, we encounter the establishment of cities of refuge in the Promised Land. This chapter provides us with insights into the concepts of justice, mercy, and the importance of seeking refuge in God.

One of the central themes in this chapter is the concept of justice. The cities of refuge were designated as safe havens for individuals who unintentionally caused the death of another person. These cities provided protection from revenge and allowed for a fair trial to determine the guilt or innocence of the individual. This highlights the importance of justice in society and the recognition that accidents or unintended actions can still have grave consequences. It prompts us to consider the value of justice in our own lives and communities, seeking to establish fair systems that protect the innocent and ensure accountability.

The chapter also emphasizes the concept of mercy. The cities of refuge were places of mercy and compassion, offering protection to those in need. It demonstrated God's concern for individuals who were caught in tragic circumstances, allowing them the opportunity to find safety and receive a fair hearing. This highlights the importance of extending mercy and grace to others, recognizing that we all make mistakes and that redemption and restoration are possible. It encourages us to show compassion and understanding to those who are facing difficult circumstances, offering support and a chance for healing and restoration.

Furthermore, the chapter underscores the importance of seeking refuge in God. The cities of refuge were ultimately symbolic of finding refuge in God's presence. They were a physical

representation of the spiritual reality that God is our ultimate refuge and source of protection. This reminds us that in times of trouble or distress, we can seek refuge in God, finding comfort, safety, and guidance. It encourages us to turn to God in times of trouble, trusting in His sovereignty and finding solace in His presence.

In reflection, Joshua chapter 20 teaches us several important lessons. It prompts us to consider the significance of justice in our lives and communities, advocating for fair systems and accountability. It encourages us to extend mercy and compassion to others, recognizing the need for grace and understanding. It also reminds us of the importance of seeking refuge in God, finding comfort and guidance in His presence.

Moreover, the chapter challenges us to examine our own attitudes towards justice and mercy. It prompts us to reflect on how we can promote justice and mercy in our interactions with others, and how we can seek refuge in God in times of trouble.

Overall, Joshua chapter 20 teaches us about the concepts of justice, mercy, and seeking refuge in God. By reflecting on these lessons, we can strive to promote justice and extend mercy, while also finding comfort and guidance in seeking refuge in God's presence.