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## Daily Rice 2023 December 14

YouTube Prayer Link

Misunderstandings and disagreements can lead to conflict.

The Book of Joshua (Chapter 22)

22:11 And the Israelites heard that the Remikhites, and the Gadites and the men of the half-tribe of Manasseh, had built an altar near the Jordan by the Jordanians, on the side of the Israelites in the land of Canaan.

22:12 And when all the congregation heard this, they gathered themselves together at Shiloh to go up against them.

Misunderstandings and disagreements are common challenges in interpersonal interactions, and they can be a source of conflict. When people misunderstand in the communication process, they often have false assumptions or understandings, which can be due to language, cultural differences, or different communication styles. This misunderstanding can gradually evolve into a disagreement as everyone sticks to their own opinions and positions.

Disagreements can be based on differences in values, beliefs, culture, or experiences. When people realize that they have different perspectives, if left unaddressed, these differences can turn into seeds of conflict. A lack of respect and acceptance of each other's differences can lead to emotional discomfort and tension, ultimately exacerbating the potential for conflict.

The key to resolving misunderstandings and disagreements is effective communication and respect. This may include discussing points of view openly and honestly, trying to understand the other side's position, and being willing to compromise and accept the existence of different opinions. In addition, establishing good communication Xi and culture, including the improvement of listening and expression skills, is also an important part of resolving misunderstandings and differences.

In addition, education and understanding of differences in culture and values are also ways to reduce misunderstandings and differences. Through education and engagement, people are able to gain a deeper understanding of other people's perspectives and backgrounds, making them

more likely to build common ground and reduce the conflicts that can arise from misunderstandings and disagreements.

There are passages in the Bible that describe conflicts caused by misunderstandings and disagreements, and how to deal with these situations. Here are some verses related to this topic: Proverbs 15:1, "A mild answer subsides anger, and fierce words stir it." This passage emphasizes the power of words. A gentle, rational response can defuse conflict, while heated words can exacerbate disagreements and conflicts.

Matthew 18:15, "When your brother sinned against you, go and show him while he is alone with you." This passage mentions the importance of confronting problems and disagreements directly. When there is a misunderstanding or disagreement, communicating directly with the other person is the first step to resolving the issue.

Ephesians 4:26-27, "Be angry, but do not sin, do not be angry until the sun goes down." and do not leave a place for the devil. This passage reminds people to control their emotions when dealing with conflict and to avoid sin or exacerbation of conflict out of anger or hatred.

These verses provide guidance on how to deal with misunderstandings and disagreements and to resolve conflicts peacefully, gently, and directly, thereby promoting harmony and understanding. At the Christian and church level, it is important to reduce the occurrence of misunderstandings and disagreements that lead to conflict. Here are some ways to do it:

**Build a culture of open communication:** Churches and Christians can build a culture of communication that encourages openness, honesty, and respect. This includes learning how to express ideas effectively and being willing to listen to and understand the opinions of others.

**Teaching forgiveness and tolerance:** Christianity emphasizes the importance of forgiveness and tolerance. Within the church, teaching and practicing these values can help reduce conflict caused by misunderstandings and disagreements. This is not only forgiveness for others, but also forgiveness when oneself and others make mistakes.

**Building Consensus and Common Goals:** Churches and Christians can work together to develop clear consensus and common goals, which can help reduce disagreements and focus on a common mission.

**Teach each other respect and love:** Respect and love are the keys to reducing conflict. This means teaching parishioners how to respect each other's different perspectives and backgrounds, and to treat each other with love.

**Provide guidance on conflict resolution:** It is crucial to teach people how to resolve conflicts effectively. Provide skills and methods for dealing with conflicts calmly and encourage the search for reconciliation and mediation.

**Regular communication and feedback mechanisms:** Regular communication and feedback can help reduce potential misunderstandings and disagreements. Through regular meetings, group discussions, or feedback mechanisms, problems can be resolved in a timely manner to prevent them from escalating into conflicts.

These methods can help Christians and churches better deal with and reduce conflicts that can lead to misunderstandings and disagreements in their daily lives. Build a more harmonious and cooperative church environment through communication, respect, and forgiveness.

We pray together:

Dear God,

We come to You and ask for Your help and guidance on misunderstandings and disagreements that may arise in our relationships.

Give us wisdom and patience to help us treat one another with gentleness, tolerance, and love when we are confronted with different perspectives. Open our hearts to understand and respect each other's differences, and treat each other with respect and forgiveness.

Give us wise words to imbue our communication with constructive and peaceful power that can resolve misunderstandings and disagreements and avoid conflict.

Help us build harmonious relationships where love, respect, and forgiveness guide our actions and thoughts. Help us support and help each other in our churches and communities to build a better environment and team.

Thank you for hearing our prayers, and we ask in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

## Joshua chapter 22

Jo. 22:1 Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh

Jo. 22:2 and said to them, “You have done all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and you have obeyed me in everything I commanded.

Jo. 22:3 For a long time now — to this very day — you have not deserted your brothers but have carried out the mission the LORD your God gave you.

Jo. 22:4 Now that the LORD your God has given your brothers rest as he promised, return to your homes in the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan.

Jo. 22:5 But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul.”

Jo. 22:6 Then Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their homes.

Jo. 22:7 (To the half-tribe of Manasseh Moses had given land in Bashan, and to the other half of the tribe Joshua gave land on the west side of the Jordan with their brothers.) When Joshua sent them home, he blessed them,

Jo. 22:8 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.”

Jo. 22:9 So the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh left the Israelites at Shiloh in Canaan to return to Gilead, their own land, which they had acquired in accordance with the command of the LORD through Moses.

Jo. 22:10 When they came to Geliloth near the Jordan in the land of Canaan, the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh built an imposing altar there by the Jordan.

Jo. 22:11 And when the Israelites heard that they had built the altar on the border of Canaan at Geliloth near the Jordan on the

Israelite side,

Jo. 22:12 the whole assembly of Israel gathered at Shiloh to go to war against them.

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Jo. 22:13 So the Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, to the land of Gilead — to Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

Jo. 22:14 With him they sent ten of the chief men, one for each of the tribes of Israel, each the head of a family division among the Israelite clans.

Jo. 22:15 When they went to Gilead — to Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh — they said to them:

Jo. 22:16 “The whole assembly of the LORD says: `How could you break faith with the God of Israel like this? How could you turn away from the LORD and build yourselves an altar in rebellion against him now?

Jo. 22:17 Was not the sin of Peor enough for us? Up to this very day we have not cleansed ourselves from that sin, even though a plague fell on the community of the LORD!

Jo. 22:18 And are you now turning away from the LORD? “If you rebel against the LORD today, tomorrow he will be angry with the whole community of Israel.

Jo. 22:19 If the land you possess is defiled, come over to the LORD’s land, where the LORD’s tabernacle stands, and share the land with us. But do not rebel against the LORD or against us by building an altar for yourselves, other than the altar of the LORD our God.

Jo. 22:20 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.”“

Jo. 22:21 Then Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh replied to the heads of the clans of Israel:

Jo. 22:22 “The Mighty One, God, the LORD! The Mighty One, God, the LORD! He knows! And let Israel know! If this has been in rebellion or disobedience to the LORD, do not spare us this day.

Jo. 22:23 If we have built our own altar to turn away from the LORD and to offer burnt offerings and grain offerings, or to sacrifice fellowship offerings on it, may the LORD himself call us to account.

Jo. 22:24 “No! We did it for fear that some day your descendants might say to ours, `What do you have to do with the LORD, the God of Israel?

Jo. 22:25 The LORD has made the Jordan a boundary between us and you — you Reubenites and Gadites! You have no share in the LORD.’ So your descendants might cause ours to stop fearing the LORD.

Jo. 22:26 “That is why we said, ‘Let us get ready and build an altar — but not for burnt offerings or sacrifices.’

Jo. 22:27 On the contrary, it is to be a witness between us and you and the generations that follow, that we will worship the LORD at his sanctuary with our burnt offerings, sacrifices and fellowship offerings. Then in the future your descendants will not be able to say to ours, ‘You have no share in the LORD.’ Jo. 22:28 “And we said, ‘If they ever say this to us, or to our descendants, we will answer: Look at the replica of the LORD’s altar, which our fathers built, not for burnt offerings and sacrifices, but as a witness between us and you.’

Jo. 22:29 “Far be it from us to rebel against the LORD and turn away from him today by building an altar for burnt offerings, grain offerings and sacrifices, other than the altar of the LORD our

God that stands before his tabernacle.”

Jo. 22:30 When Phinehas the priest and the leaders of the community — the heads of the clans of the Israelites — heard what Reuben, Gad and Manasseh had to say, they were pleased. Jo.

22:31 And Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, said to Reuben, Gad and Manasseh, “Today we know that the LORD is with us, because you have not acted unfaithfully towards the LORD in this matter. Now you have rescued the Israelites from the

LORD’s hand.”

Jo. 22:32 Then Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, and the leaders returned to Canaan from their meeting with the Reubenites and Gadites in Gilead and reported to the Israelites.

Jo. 22:33 They were glad to hear the report and praised God. And they talked no more about going to war against them to devastate the country where the Reubenites and the Gadites lived.

Jo. 22:34 And the Reubenites and the Gadites gave the altar this name: A Witness Between Us that the LORD is God.

Chapter 22 describes the return of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh to their lands east of the Jordan River. These tribes had been granted permission by Moses to settle in this area on the condition that they help their fellow Israelites conquer the Promised Land west of the Jordan.

Before they left, the Israelites built an altar on the east side of the Jordan River as a reminder of their covenant with God. When the other tribes learned of this altar, they were concerned that it

would be used for idolatrous worship and that it would lead to God's judgment upon the entire community.

In response, the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh explained that the altar was not for sacrificial worship, but rather as a symbol of their commitment to the covenant with God. They assured the other tribes that they remained faithful to the God of Israel and that the altar was intended as a witness to their shared faith.

The other tribes were satisfied with this explanation and praised God for the unity of the community. The chapter ends with a reminder of God's faithfulness to the Israelites and the importance of remaining faithful to their covenant with him.

Overall, Chapter 22 highlights the importance of communication and understanding within the community of Israel. It also emphasizes the significance of the covenant with God and the need for all the tribes to remain faithful to him. Finally, it serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness and the importance of trust and unity within the community.

Here are some important verses from Joshua chapter 22 in the Christian Bible:

1. "Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh and said to them, "You have done all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded, and you have obeyed me in everything I commanded. For a long time now—to this very day—you have not deserted your fellow Israelites but have carried out the mission the Lord your God gave you. Now that the Lord your God has given them rest as he promised, return to your homes in the land that

Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan." (Joshua 22:2-4)

2. "But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul." (Joshua 22:5)

3. "But if your own land is defiled, cross over to the Lord's land, where the Lord's tabernacle stands, and share the land with us. But do not rebel against the Lord or against us by building an altar for yourselves, other than the altar of the Lord our God." (Joshua 22:19)

These verses describe Joshua's instructions to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half-tribe of Manasseh, who were given land on the east side of the Jordan River. Joshua reminds them of their obedience to God's commands and instructions, and urges them to continue to follow them as they return to their own land. He also warns them to be careful not to rebel against God or the other Israelite tribes by building their own altar for worship. These verses emphasize the importance of obedience to God's commands and the need for unity among God's people.

In Joshua chapter 22, we encounter the account of the Eastern tribes of Israel returning to their allotted land on the other side of the Jordan River. This chapter provides us with insights into the importance of unity, communication, and avoiding misunderstandings among God's people.

One of the central themes in this chapter is the importance of unity among the tribes of Israel. The Eastern tribes, who had received their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan River, returned to their families and tribes after the conquest of the Promised Land. Upon their return, they built an altar near the Jordan River, which raised concerns among the other tribes. The other tribes initially assumed that the altar was an act of rebellion against the Lord and a replication of the forbidden altars. This led to potential division and conflict within the Israelite community. However, before jumping to conclusions or taking hasty action, they decided to send a delegation to seek clarification from the Eastern tribes. This shows the importance of maintaining unity among God's people and the need for open communication to address any misunderstandings or potential conflicts.

The chapter also emphasizes the significance of communication in avoiding misunderstandings. The other tribes demonstrated wisdom by sending a delegation to the Eastern tribes to understand the reason behind the altar. They chose dialogue over confrontation and sought to resolve the situation peacefully. Through communication, the misunderstanding was cleared, and it was revealed that the altar was not intended for sacrificial purposes but as a symbol of their shared faith and unity with the rest of Israel. This highlights the importance of open and honest communication among believers, as it allows for clarity, understanding, and the prevention of unnecessary division or conflicts.

Furthermore, the chapter serves as a reminder of the importance of remaining faithful to the Lord and His commandments. The Eastern tribes built the altar as a witness and reminder of their devotion to the Lord and their connection to the rest of Israel. They affirmed their commitment to worship the Lord in unity with their fellow Israelites. This encourages us to stay faithful to God's Word, to seek unity among believers, and to be diligent in our worship and obedience to the Lord.

In reflection, Joshua chapter 22 teaches us several important lessons. It emphasizes the importance of unity among God's people and the need for open communication to address misunderstandings and prevent division. It prompts us to approach potential conflicts with wisdom and seek clarification through dialogue and understanding. It also reminds us of the significance of remaining faithful to the Lord's commandments and cultivating a spirit of unity and worship among believers.

Moreover, the chapter challenges us to examine our own attitudes towards unity and communication. It prompts us to prioritize unity among believers, to be proactive in addressing misunderstandings, and to remain faithful to God's Word in our actions and worship.

Overall, Joshua chapter 22 teaches us about the importance of unity, communication, and avoiding misunderstandings among God's people. By reflecting on these lessons, we can strive to maintain unity, foster open communication, and remain faithful to God's commands in our relationships and interactions with fellow believers.