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YouTube Prayer Link

Why temptation is so beautiful

Judges Chapter 8:

8:33 After Gideon's death, the Israelites went and followed all Baals in their sexual immorality, and made the land of Baalbeli their God.

8:34 The Israelites did not remember the God of Jehovah, but they delivered them from the hand of their enemies around them.

When people talk about temptation, it often seems to describe a mysterious and fascinating power, a feeling that makes people feel fascinated. The beauty of seduction lies in its diversity and far-reaching impact, its ability to penetrate people's hearts in a silent way, triggering the resonance of emotions and desires.

First of all, the beauty of seduction comes from its obscurity and enigma. It's always presented in a captivating way that is impossible to fully resist. Whether it's from a beautiful painting, a piece of music, or an elegant gesture, seduction can emanate into the subtleties of mesmerizing vibes. Second, the beauty of seduction stems from its power and influence. It has the power to change people's emotions and behaviors, and it can touch our deepest desires and desires. Sometimes temptation can be a challenge that tests people's willpower and morality, while other times it is a guide that inspires us to pursue better things and experiences.

Finally, the beauty of seduction lies in its contradiction and duality. It has both an alluring side and a hidden danger. People are always torn between fascination and vigilance, looking for a balance. This duality makes seduction a fascinating presence that invites people to explore and think.

The beauty of seduction is an irresistible charm that comes from its mysterious, powerful, and contradictory qualities. It intoxicates people, and at the same time, it also prompts people to constantly reflect and explore the true meaning and value of it.

There are many accounts of Israel's temptations in the Bible, but one of the more famous examples is found in the Old Testament book of Exodus, which records the Israelites being tempted to create a golden calf some time after Moses left them.

Exodus 32 records this story. When Moses went up to Mount Sinai to talk with God and receive the Ten Commandments, the Israelites were upset without a leader and began to wonder if Moses would ever return. So, they asked Aaron to make an idol of a god for them to represent God. Aaron complied with their request and made a golden calf. The Israelites began to worship this idol as the god who brought them out of Egypt.

This event illustrates the wavering and temptation of the Israelites in their faith in the face of uncertainty and waiting. They desperately longed for a god that they could see and touch, but they did not want to believe in the invisible God that Moses had brought to them.

However, this account is also a test of faith, faith, and patience. It teaches people to persevere in their faith and to hold fast to their truth and faith even in times of difficulty and waiting. It also shows that people are sometimes tempted by anxiety, impatience, or uncertainty to turn to something else, ignoring the truth and guidance that faith brings.

The Bible contains many principles that teach people how to face and avoid temptation. Here are some of them:

Watch and pray: The Bible teaches people to be vigilant and to pray at all times. In Matthew 26:41, Jesus told his disciples, "Watch and pray, so that you do not fall into temptation." Your spirit is willing, but your flesh is weak. Prayer can help people stay connected to God and gain strength to resist temptation.

Seek God's Word: The Bible is seen as God's revelation that contains wisdom and guidance. In Psalm 119:11, it is written, "I have hidden your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you." By reading the Bible, people can learn Xi God's mind and gain wisdom and courage to face temptation.

Rely on God's strength: The Bible emphasizes that believers rely on God's strength, not on their own strength. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." This reminds us that when faced with temptation, we can trust in God's help and rely on His strength to resist it.

Escape and Resistance: The Bible also teaches people to take action to avoid temptation and not to be controlled by it. James 4:7 wrote, "Submit yourselves therefore to God." Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. This means that when faced with temptation, we should choose to run away and resist, and stand firmly on the right side.

In general, the Bible teaches people to face and resist temptation through prayer, God's Word, relying on God's strength, and taking action. These principles provide the foundation and guidance of faith and help people stand firm in the face of temptation.

We pray together

Dear God, give us a vigilant heart that will enable us to recognize temptation to come. Help us not to be deceived in the face of temptation, so that we can stand firmly on the side of truth and justice.

Strengthen our will so that we can resist the power of temptation. With your strength and wisdom, we are willing to walk with you, away from those things that may tempt us, and seek your guidance and protection.

May your Holy Spirit fill us with keen insight so that we can discern right from wrong and choose the right path. Ask your grace to give us strength in our time of weakness so that we can stand steadfast in your presence.

Thank you for your promise that in you we can prevail. Help us to be watchful and pray, and walk with you so that we do not be troubled by temptation. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

Judges Chapter 8

Ju. 8:1 Now the Ephraimites asked Gideon, “Why have you treated us like this? Why didn’t you call us when you went to fight Midian?” And they criticised him sharply.

Ju. 8:2 But he answered them, “What have I accomplished compared to you? Aren’t the gleanings of Ephraim’s grapes better than the full grape harvest of Abiezer?”

Ju. 8:3 God gave Oreb and Zeeb, the Midianite leaders, into your hands. What was I able to do compared to you?” At this, their resentment against him subsided.

Ju. 8:4 Gideon and his three hundred men, exhausted yet keeping up the pursuit, came to the Jordan and crossed it.

Ju. 8:5 He said to the men of Succoth, “Give my troops some bread; they are worn out, and I am still pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian.”

Ju. 8:6 But the officials of Succoth said, “Do you already have the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna in your possession? Why should we give bread to your troops?”

Ju. 8:7 Then Gideon replied, “Just for that, when the LORD has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I will tear your flesh with desert thorns and briers.”

Ju. 8:8 From there he went up to Peniel and made the same request of them, but they answered as the men of Succoth had.

Ju. 8:9 So he said to the men of Peniel, “When I return in triumph, I will tear down this tower.”

Ju. 8:10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor with a force of about fifteen thousand men, all that were left of the armies of the eastern peoples; a hundred and twenty thousand swordsmen had fallen.

Ju. 8:11 Gideon went up by the route of the nomads east of Nobah and Jogbehah and fell upon the unsuspecting army.

Ju. 8:12 Zebah and Zalmunna, the two kings of Midian, fled, but he pursued them and captured them, routing their entire army.

Ju. 8:13 Gideon son of Joash then returned from the battle by the Pass of Heres.

Ju. 8:14 He caught a young man of Succoth and questioned him, and the young man wrote down for him the names of the seventy seven officials of Succoth, the elders of the town.

Ju. 8:15 Then Gideon came and said to the men of Succoth, “Here are

Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you taunted me by saying, ‘Do you already have the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna in your possession? Why should we give bread to your exhausted men?’”

Ju. 8:16 He took the elders of the town and taught the men of

Succoth a lesson by punishing them with desert thorns and briers.

Ju. 8:17 He also pulled down the tower of Peniel and killed the men of the town.

Ju. 8:18 Then he asked Zebah and Zalmunna, “What kind of men did you kill at Tabor?” “Men like you,” they answered, “each one with the bearing of a prince.”

Ju. 8:19 Gideon replied, “Those were my brothers, the sons of my own mother. As surely as the LORD lives, if you had spared their lives, I would not kill you.”

Ju. 8:20 Turning to Jether, his oldest son, he said, “Kill them!” But Jether did not draw his sword, because he was only a boy and was afraid.

Ju. 8:21 Zebah and Zalmunna said, “Come, do it yourself. ‘As is the man, so is his strength.’” So Gideon stepped forward and killed them, and took the ornaments off their camels’ necks. Ju.

8:22 The Israelites said to Gideon, “Rule over us — you, your son and your grandson — because you have saved us out of the hand of Midian.”

Ju. 8:23 But Gideon told them, “I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The LORD will rule over you.”

Ju. 8:24 And he said, “I do have one request, that each of you give me an ear-ring from your share of the plunder.” (It was the custom of the Ishmaelites to wear gold ear-rings.)

Ju. 8:25 They answered, “We’ll be glad to give them.” So they spread out a garment, and each man threw a ring from his plunder onto it.

Ju. 8:26 The weight of the gold rings he asked for came to seventeen hundred shekels, not counting the ornaments, the pendants and the purple garments worn by the kings of Midian or the chains that were on their camels’ necks.

Ju. 8:27 Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshipping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family.

Ju. 8:28 Thus Midian was subdued before the Israelites and did not raise its head again. During Gideon's lifetime, the land enjoyed peace for forty years.

Ju. 8:29 Jerub-Baal son of Joash went back home to live.

Ju. 8:30 He had seventy sons of his own, for he had many wives. Ju. 8:31 His concubine, who lived in Shechem, also bore him a son, whom he named Abimelech.

Ju. 8:32 Gideon son of Joash died at a good old age and was buried in the tomb of his father Joash in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. Ju. 8:33 No sooner had Gideon died than the Israelites again prostituted themselves to the Baals. They set up Baal-Berith as their god and

Ju. 8:34 did not remember the LORD their God, who had rescued them from the hands of all their enemies on every side.

Ju. 8:35 They also failed to show kindness to the family of Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) for all the good things he had done for them.

The Book of Judges, Chapter 8 in the Christian Bible talks about the aftermath of the victory of Gideon and his men over the Midianites. After the battle, Gideon pursued the remaining Midianite leaders, Zebah and Zalmunna, and captured them. However, Gideon faced opposition from the Ephraimites, who accused him of not including them in the battle and claimed that they should have received a share of the spoils.

Gideon appeased the Ephraimites by acknowledging their contribution and offering them a share of the spoil. Gideon then executed Zebah and Zalmunna and returned to his home in peace.

However, Gideon's success did not last long, as he later created an ephod, which was a vestment worn by the high priest, and placed it in his hometown. This act led the Israelites to worship the ephod, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family. The chapter concludes with Gideon's death, and the Israelites returning to their idolatrous ways, forgetting the Lord and His deliverance.

The story of Gideon in Chapter 8 of The Book of Judges shows the consequences of forgetting the Lord and His deliverance, and how even the greatest heroes of the faith can falter and fall into sin. It also serves as a warning against the dangers of idolatry and the temptation to trust in human strength or resources rather than relying on the Lord.

Here are some key verses from chapter 8 of The Book of Judges in the Christian Bible:

- "Then the men of Ephraim said to him, "What is this that you have done to us, not to call us when you went to fight against Midian?" And they accused him fiercely." (Judges 8:1)

- "Then Gideon and the three hundred men who were with him came to the Jordan and crossed over, weary yet pursuing." (Judges 8:4)
- "And Gideon said to them, "I would request of you, that each of you give me an earring from his spoil." (For they had gold earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.)" (Judges 8:24)
- "Then Gideon made it into an ephod and placed it in his city, Ophrah, and all Israel played the harlot with it there, so that it became a snare to Gideon and his household." (Judges 8:27)

These verses showcase Gideon's leadership and the challenges he faced as a military leader. They also reveal his flaws and mistakes, such as creating an idol that ultimately became a snare to his own household.

Judges chapter 8 provides a reflection on the aftermath of Gideon's victory over the Midianites and the challenges he faces as a leader. It reveals both positive and negative aspects of Gideon's character and offers insights into the consequences of his actions.

After defeating the Midianites, the Israelites approach Gideon and request that he become their ruler. Gideon accepts the role but refuses to establish a hereditary monarchy, stating that the Lord alone will rule over them. This decision reflects Gideon's humility and desire to maintain the sovereignty of God over Israel.

Gideon's leadership is tested when the Ephraimites confront him for not including them in the initial battle against the Midianites. Gideon responds with diplomacy and calmness, appeasing their anger and preventing a conflict within the nation. This demonstrates Gideon's ability to navigate internal tensions and maintain unity among the tribes.

However, Gideon's character also reveals flaws. After the victory, he requests gold earrings from the spoils of war, which he uses to create an ephod, a priestly garment. The ephod becomes an object of idolatrous worship for the Israelites, drawing their attention away from the true worship of God. Gideon's actions contribute to the temptation and spiritual downfall of the people.

Another reflection in Judges chapter 8 comes in the form of Gideon's request for kingship. Despite his initial refusal to establish a monarchy, Gideon eventually requests that the people give him gold, which he uses to create an ephod and establish a cultic center. This request reveals Gideon's desire for personal power and influence, contradicting his earlier commitment to God's sovereignty.

The chapter also highlights the consequences of Gideon's actions. The Israelites fall into idolatry, worshiping the ephod and forgetting their covenant with God. Gideon's family also becomes a source of conflict and strife, leading to further consequences for the nation.

The reflection in Judges chapter 8 reminds us of the complexities of human character and leadership. It showcases Gideon's strengths as a humble and diplomatic leader, as well as his weaknesses and failures. It serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of idolatry and the consequences of seeking personal power and influence.

Ultimately, the chapter encourages believers to remain steadfast in their devotion to God, to avoid idolatry and the pursuit of personal gain, and to recognize the importance of God's sovereignty in all aspects of life and leadership.