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YouTube Prayer Link

Those born with a spoon of gold: Blessed offspring

Joshua (Chapter 16)

16:4 And Manasseh, and Ephraim, the sons of Joseph, took possession of their land.

In this world, there are people who live in a soup made of golden spoons, and they carry this special gift lightly, as if they were born to enjoy superiority. Such a person can live comfortably in the bright light of wealth without struggle. Their difficulties are polished and their setbacks are thrown into the distance, because they never pass by difficulties, but spend each day in comfort and superiority.

Such a person may be taught from an early age how to control wealth and how to enjoy the benefits it brings. Their lives seem to be shrouded in a golden glow that makes everything so easy. However, this ease does not come from their efforts, but from the privilege they were born with, an innate sense of superiority.

Although they carry a golden spoon in their hands, they may not sometimes know that this wealth does not mean everything. The true meaning of life is often not the amount of wealth, but how we use our resources and opportunities, and how we share them with others.

Perhaps, we can also learn from these people who have golden spoons, instead of being jealous of their superiority. We can learn from them how to treat wealth, how to use it for the benefit of others, and how to treat what we have with humility and gratitude.

After all, no matter what kind of spoon you hold, the most important thing is the abundance and tolerance of your heart. This is a quality that cannot be bought with money, and it is what really defines a person's value. There are many passages in the Bible that emphasize the importance of

not being jealous of others, teaching people to learn to be content and grateful, rather than focusing on the superiority of others. These verses are mainly taken from different parts of the Old Testament and the New Testament:

Exodus 20:17 "Thou shalt not covet a neighbor's house, nor a lover's wife, nor his servant, nor his handmaid, nor his ox, nor his asses, or anything else he has. This is part of the Ten Commandments that teach people not to be jealous of what others have.

Prov. 14:30 "Quiet in heart is the life of the flesh; Jealousy is rot in the bones. This passage emphasizes the peace of mind and inner harmony and the damage that jealousy can do to the human heart.

I Corinthians 13:4 "Love is long-suffering and kind; Love is not jealousy. This is a reference to the qualities of love, which include not being jealous.

James 3:16 "Envy and selfishness cause confusion, and every evil follows it. This passage points out that jealousy and selfishness lead to confusion and wickedness.

These verses teach people to cherish what they have, to pursue inner peace and contentment, and not to set their minds on envy and envy the superiority of others. Replace it with a mindset of gratitude and love.

Making friends with people from different cultures and backgrounds can be a wonderful experience, although there may be some challenges. Here are some ways to foster friendships across cultures and backgrounds:

1. Respect and understanding

Respect differences: Valuing each other's culture and beliefs and avoiding prejudice or discrimination.

Learning and understanding: Try to understand each other's cultures, values, and customs, which can help build empathy and mutual respect.

2. Be open and communicative

Be open-minded: Be open to and respect different perspectives and lifestyles, and be willing to learn and try new things.

Positive communication: Building a friendly relationship requires active communication, including listening, sharing, and discussing.

3. Common interests and activities

Find common interests: Explore common hobbies or interests, such as sports, music, art, etc., which can help deepen your bonds.

Participate in diversity activities: Participating in multicultural events or festivals is a great opportunity to learn about each other's cultures and improve mutual understanding.

4. Acceptance and inclusion

Embrace differences: Accept each other's differences and uniqueness, and understand different ways of thinking and behavior.

Inclusive thinking: Be willing to tolerate each other's perspectives and habits and avoid judging each other by your own standards.

We pray

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You for Your love and grace in our lives. Help us not to despise ourselves, for we are Your precious creatures, created by You in unique ways. Help us understand that we are precious in Your eyes and that Your love will never change.

When we feel inferior, helpless, or worthless, ask Your Holy Spirit to remind us of Your infinite love and grace. Help us to let go of self-criticism and self-blame and to see ourselves with the love and forgiveness You have given us.

Give us the courage and wisdom to discover and use the talents and gifts You have given us. Let us use Your given power to love, care for others, and make a positive impact in this world.

May we live out the identity and value you have given us every day and be a testimony of Your love. Strengthen our faith so that we can trust in Your Word and promises forever.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

Joshua chapter 16

Jo. 16:1 The allotment for Joseph began at the Jordan of Jericho, east of the waters of Jericho, and went up from there through the desert into the hill country of Bethel.

Jo. 16:2 It went on from Bethel (that is, Luz), crossed over to the territory of the Arkites in Ataroth,

Jo. 16:3 descended westward to the territory of the Japhletites as far as the region of Lower Beth Horon and on to Gezer, ending at the sea.

Jo. 16:4 So Manasseh and Ephraim, the descendants of Joseph, received their inheritance.

Jo. 16:5 This was the territory of Ephraim, clan by clan: The boundary

of their inheritance went from Ataroth Addar in the east to

Upper Beth Horon

Jo. 16:6 and continued to the sea. From Micmethath on the north it curved eastward to Taanath Shiloh, passing by it to Janoah on the east.

Jo. 16:7 Then it went down from Janoah to Ataroth and Naarah, touched Jericho and came out at the Jordan.

Jo. 16:8 From Tappuah the border went west to the Kanah Ravine and ended at the sea. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the Ephraimites, clan by clan.

Jo. 16:9 It also included all the towns and their villages that were set aside for the Ephraimites within the inheritance of the Manassites.

Jo. 16:10 They did not dislodge the Canaanites living in Gezer; to this day the Canaanites live among the people of Ephraim but are required to do forced labour.

Chapter 16 describes the allocation of land to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, which were the descendants of Joseph. The chapter details the borders of their inheritance, including the cities and towns within those borders.

The chapter emphasizes that although the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh were given a large and fertile territory, they did not completely drive out the Canaanites from their land. As a result, the Canaanites remained in their midst as a constant threat and source of conflict.

The chapter also describes the failure of the tribe of Ephraim to fully conquer their allotted territory. Despite being given a rich and abundant land, the Ephraimites were unable to drive out the Canaanites from their midst, which would later prove to be a source of trouble for them.

The chapter reinforces the themes of obedience, diligence, and faithfulness in fulfilling the tasks that God has assigned to us. It also serves as a warning against complacency and compromise, which can lead to the failure to fully conquer the obstacles and challenges that we face.

Overall, Chapter 16 emphasizes the importance of faithfulness and obedience to God's commands in order to receive His blessings, and the need to be diligent and persistent in our efforts to fulfill the tasks that He has assigned to us.

Joshua chapter 16 describes the territory that was allotted to the tribe of Joseph, specifically the descendants of his son Ephraim. Here are some important verses from this chapter in the Christian Bible:

1. "So this was the allotment of the tribe of Ephraim by its clans: The boundary of their allotment went from Ataroth Addar in the east to Upper Beth Horon." (Joshua 16:5)
2. "Yet they did not dislodge the Canaanites living in Gezer; to this day the

Canaanites live among the people of Ephraim but are required to do forced labor." (Joshua 16:10)

These verses emphasize the boundaries of the territory allotted to the tribe of Ephraim and the fact that they did not fully drive out the Canaanites from their land. The mention of the Canaanites being required to do forced labor shows that there was some level of control exercised over them, but the fact that they still lived among the Israelites suggests that the conquest was not fully complete. This chapter also highlights the importance of obedience to the Lord's commands, as failure to fully dislodge the Canaanites would later lead to trouble for the Israelites. Overall, this chapter reinforces the themes of faithfulness and perseverance in the face of challenges, and the importance of obedience to the Lord's commands.

In Joshua chapter 16, we encounter the description of the territory allotted to the tribe of Ephraim and their failure to fully possess the land. This chapter provides us with insights into the consequences of incomplete obedience, the importance of perseverance, and the reminder of God's faithfulness in giving us opportunities for growth.

One of the central themes in this chapter is the consequences of incomplete obedience.

The tribe of Ephraim is given a portion of land, but they fail to fully drive out the Canaanite inhabitants from their territory. As a result, they are left with Canaanite influences and pockets of resistance within their boundaries. This highlights the importance of complete obedience to God's commands and the consequences that can arise from compromising or neglecting His instructions. It serves as a reminder that partial obedience can hinder us from fully experiencing the blessings and victories God has for us.

The chapter also emphasizes the importance of perseverance. Despite their initial failures, the tribe of Ephraim is not without hope. They are given another opportunity to possess the land and drive out the remaining inhabitants. This demonstrates God's grace and His willingness to give His people another chance. It encourages us to persevere in our journey of faith, even when we face setbacks or failures. It reminds us that God is patient with us and provides opportunities for growth and redemption.

Furthermore, the chapter serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness in giving us opportunities for growth. Despite the incomplete obedience of the tribe of Ephraim, God still provides them with a chance to rectify their mistakes and possess the land fully. This highlights God's commitment to His people's growth and His desire for them to fulfill their purpose. It encourages us to trust in God's faithfulness and guidance, knowing that He will provide us with opportunities to learn and grow in our faith.

In reflection, Joshua chapter 16 teaches us several important lessons. It warns us about the consequences of incomplete obedience, reminding us of the importance of wholehearted devotion and obedience to God's commands. It encourages us to persevere in our journey of faith, knowing that God grants us opportunities for growth and redemption, even in the face of failures or setbacks.

Additionally, the chapter underscores God's faithfulness in giving us chances for growth, reassuring us of His grace and patience in our spiritual development.

Moreover, the chapter prompts us to evaluate our own obedience and commitment to God's commands. It challenges us to examine areas of compromise or incomplete obedience in our lives and to take steps toward full surrender and obedience to God's will.

Overall, Joshua chapter 16 teaches us about the consequences of incomplete obedience, the importance of perseverance, and God's faithfulness in providing us with opportunities for growth. By reflecting on these lessons, we can strive for wholehearted devotion, persevere in our faith, and trust in God's faithfulness as we seek to fulfill His purposes in our lives.