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YouTube Prayer Link

Thou shalt not be an idol and become God

Judges

Chapter 17

17:4 And Micah returned the silver to his mother, who gave two hundred shekels of silver to the silversmith, and carved an image of it, and cast it into an image, and laid it in Micah's house.

17:5 And this Micah had a church, and made the gods of the ephod and the house, and appointed one of his sons to be a priest.

17:6 At that time there was no king in Israel, and every man did as he pleased

Micah turned his house into a family of priests, and he hired a young Levite as his personal priest.

Seeing idols as gods comes with many potential dangers and problems. First of all, this kind of deification of idols can easily make people lose their rationality, blindly follow and worship, and ignore the humanity and possible mistakes of idols. This can lead to excessive expectations of idols, causing them unbearable pressure and making followers' disappointment with idols extreme.

In addition, seeing idols as gods also poses a threat to personal freedom and independent thinking. When people blindly worship idols, they may lose the ability to judge their own beliefs and values, and rely entirely on the words and deeds of idols and ignore their inner voices.

Worse still, seeing idols as gods can lead to an extreme belief system and even lead to rejection and hostility to other beliefs or views, which in turn can lead to social divisions and disharmony. Idols are dead things, and the Spirit of God is living gods

In bible, idols are seen as dead things, while the Spirit of God is seen as a living, eternal being. This distinction emphasizes the fundamental difference between gods and idols.

Idols are usually inanimate things made of matter that represent or symbolize a certain belief or deity. However, the Spirit of God is a living, conscious being that transcends the physical world and possesses infinite power and wisdom.

This distinction reminds us that faith and worship should not stop at material images or artificially created idols. Rather, it should be a spiritual experience and connection to transcend physical boundaries, an experience in which a relationship with God is based on faith, spirituality, and consciousness.

Thus, this view emphasizes that the Spirit of God is a living, eternal being, as distinct from the dead things represented by idols. It is also the embodiment of the purity and transcendence of reverence and fear of God in many religious beliefs.

According to the Bible, the Israelites made idols many times throughout their history, and these actions went against God's will and caused God's displeasure. Perhaps the most famous of these is that after the Exodus, the Israelites made their own golden bull idols to worship while Moses left them to commune with God on the mountain.

This event is described as the Israelites losing patience for Moses' return and creating their own idol of the Golden Bull as their god. This was considered a betrayal of God, because God had explicitly told them not to make any idols to worship other gods, but to honor God. This act was seen as a departure from the core principles of the faith and caused God's wrath and punishment.

These stories in the Bible are seen as a lesson to the people, a reminder not to follow false gods, and an emphasis on true faith and reverence for God. This has also been interpreted as admonishing people not to limit, substitute, or distort their understanding and belief in supernatural gods with material images.

The reverence and understanding of faith should be based on spirituality, spirituality, not material imagery. Through inner spiritual experiences and faith practices, one can gain a deeper understanding of divinity and connection to God, rather than representing or defining the existence of God through material idols.

Here are some passages from the Bible about not worshipping idolatry:

Exodus 20:3-6: This is one of the Ten Commandments, "Let no other god be before me." Thou shalt not make an image of thyself..... Thou shalt not bow down to those images, nor serve them. This was an instruction to the Israelites not to make or worship idols of any other god, but to honor only the one true God.

Deuteronomy 5:7-9: This is also one of the records of the Ten Commandments, which calls people not to make or worship any idols, emphasizing the dignity of the one true God.

Isaiah 42:8: The emphasis here is that God does not share glory with idols, and He is the only one worthy of worship and reverence.

Acts 15:20: This is a teaching in the New Testament that asks new believers to stay away from idols and sacrificed objects and to insist on honoring the one true God.

These verses emphasize not to make or worship any idols, but to give one's heart and soul completely to the one true God. These principles are seen as important teachings for establishing pure faith, turning away from false gods, and honoring God.

Let's pray together:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for giving us life, wisdom, and grace. We gather here to pray to You. Give us the strength and wisdom to hold fast to Your teachings and not to worship any idols or contradict Your teachings. Help us to devote yourself to the one true God and to base our faith on Your Word.

Help us to keep our hearts pure and not to allow any idol or material thing to become a dependence on our faith. Give us the spiritual sensitivity to discern truth from false beliefs that may deceive us.

Lead us so that our worship and faith can conform to Your will. Let us not forget that You are a living God, and that Your Spirit is always present and gives us life and hope.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

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Judges Chapter 17

Ju. 17:1 Now a man named Micah from the hill country of Ephraim Ju. 17:2 said to his mother, "The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you and about which I heard you utter a curse — I have that silver with me; I took it." Then his mother said, "The LORD bless you, my son!"

Ju. 17:3 When he returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, she said, "I solemnly consecrate my silver to the LORD for my son to make a carved image and a cast idol. I will give it back to you."

Ju. 17:4 So he returned the silver to his mother, and she took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to a silversmith, who made them into the image and the idol. And they were put in Micah's house.

Ju. 17:5 Now this man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and some idols and installed one of his sons as his priest.

Ju. 17:6 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit. Ju. 17:7 A young Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, who had been living within the clan of Judah,

Ju. 17:8 left that town in search of some other place to stay. On his way he came to Micah's house in the hill country of Ephraim.

Ju. 17:9 Micah asked him, "Where are you from?" "I'm a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah," he said, "and I'm looking for a place to stay."

Ju. 17:10 Then Micah said to him, "Live with me and be my father and priest, and I'll give you ten shekels of silver a year, your clothes and your food."

Ju. 17:11 So the Levite agreed to live with him, and the young man was to him like one of his sons.

Ju. 17:12 Then Micah installed the Levite, and the young man became his priest and lived in his house.

Ju. 17:13 And Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will be good to me, since this Levite has become my priest."

The Book of Judges, Chapter 17 in the Christian Bible is a story about a man named Micah who creates his own idolatrous shrine and hires a Levite to be his personal priest. The chapter begins with Micah admitting to his mother that he stole 1,100 pieces of silver from her. She curses the thief, but Micah confesses and returns the money. Micah's mother dedicates some of the silver to the Lord and has an idol made, which Micah places in his own shrine. He makes some household gods and hires a Levite from Bethlehem to be his personal priest.

The Levite is pleased to accept the position, and Micah considers himself blessed to have a Levite serving in his own house. The chapter concludes with a brief statement that there was no king in Israel at the time, and everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Chapter 17 of The Book of Judges highlights the spiritual decay and moral confusion that existed during the time of the judges. Micah's actions demonstrate how far the Israelites had strayed from their faith in God and the worship of the true God. The fact that Micah creates his own shrine and hires a Levite to be his personal priest shows how the Israelites had deviated from the centralized worship system that God had established through Moses.

The chapter also underscores the absence of leadership and authority in Israel during this period, as there was no king to rule over the people and enforce God's law. This led to a moral vacuum and widespread moral relativism, where people did what was right in their own eyes rather than following God's commands.

Here are some key verses from Judges 17:

- "Now a man named Micah from the hill country of Ephraim said to his mother, 'The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you and about which I heard you utter a curse—I have that silver with me; I took it.'" (Judges 17:1)
- "Then Micah said, 'Now I know that the Lord will be good to me, since this Levite has become my priest.'" (Judges 17:13)
- "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit." (Judges 17:6) These verses introduce us to Micah, a man who stole money from his mother and then returned it after she had cursed whoever had taken it. Micah's mother then used the silver to make an idol, and Micah hired a Levite to be his priest. This chapter also highlights the fact that there was no king in Israel during this time, and that people were doing whatever they wanted without any centralized authority.

Judges chapter 17 provides a reflection on the idolatrous practices and moral decline that existed among the Israelites during the time of the judges, showcasing the dangers of spiritual compromise and the need for true worship of God.

The chapter begins by introducing a man named Micah who confesses to his mother that he had stolen a significant amount of silver from her. In an unexpected response, his mother blesses him and dedicates the silver for the purpose of making a carved image and a molten image, which she gives back to Micah.

Micah then sets up a shrine in his house, complete with an ephod and household gods. He appoints one of his sons as a priest and establishes a religious system for himself and his family. Later, a Levite from Bethlehem arrives, and Micah offers him a position as his personal priest, which the Levite accepts.

The reflection in Judges chapter 17 brings attention to the moral and spiritual corruption that had infiltrated Israel during this time. The actions of Micah and his mother illustrate a distorted understanding of worship, as they engage in idolatry and create their own religious system outside of the established practices of Israel. This highlights the danger of syncretism and compromising one's faith by mixing it with elements of other religions or personal preferences.

The story also reveals the lack of true leadership and guidance among the Israelites. The fact that Micah appoints his own son as a priest and later recruits a Levite to serve as his personal priest reflects the absence of centralized worship and the breakdown of the priestly system. It demonstrates the spiritual confusion and moral decline that permeated the nation during this period.

Additionally, the chapter raises questions about the nature of true worship and the importance of obedience to God's commands. The worship practices in Micah's shrine were centered on personal desires and convenience, rather than seeking to honor and obey God. This reflection prompts us to examine our own worship practices and ensure that they align with God's revealed will and not our own preferences or cultural influences.

Overall, Judges chapter 17 provides a reflection on the idolatrous practices and moral decline that plagued the Israelites during the time of the judges. It serves as a warning against spiritual compromise, syncretism, and the dangers of deviating from true worship. It encourages believers to seek true obedience to God's commands and to remain vigilant in preserving the purity and integrity of their worship practices.