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YouTube Prayer Link

Brothers are like siblings, how to deal with the extermination of the tribes

Judges

Chapter 21

21:6 The Israelites repented for their brother Benjamin, saying that there was now an absolute tribe in Israel.

21:20 And he commanded the men of Benjamin, saying, Go, and lay an ambush in the vineyards.

21:21 And if he saw the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance, he went out of the vineyards, and took one of the daughters of Shiloh as his wife, and went back to his place in grace.

The Israelites began to feel remorse and grief because they were dissatisfied with the behavior of the Benjamite tribe. They decided to find a way to relieve the tribe of Benjam from extinction. Eventually, they came up with a plan to give both men and women of the Benjamin tribe to another tribe as wives in order to restore the population of the B Benjamin. This plan was accepted by the tribe of Benjam and carried out.

The anger of the moment seems to be an unavoidable part of human nature. When emotions and impulses take control of our thinking, we often make decisions that we regret. Perhaps in a moment of anger, we say hurtful words, or because of a moment of greed, we make a hasty choice. These actions may give some kind of satisfaction in the moment, but they are followed by deep remorse.

Regret is often accompanied by reflection on our own actions, allowing us to reflect on the past and face the future more wisely. When the breath of the moment is gone, we can see the whole picture, understand our own mistakes, and learn from them.

In the face of regret, we have two choices: one is to indulge in regret and constantly blame ourselves, and the other is to learn to forgive ourselves, accept past mistakes, and strive to improve the future. The latter may be harder, but it's the key to growth.

We can't completely avoid the regret that comes with being angry, but we can reduce the consequences by learning to control our emotions and thoughts. When we learn to think carefully and respond calmly, we will be better able to cope with challenges and avoid letting momentary emotions cloud our judgment.

Regret is a valuable experience that makes us more cautious about the choices we make in life. It is a reminder of the fragility and imperfection of human beings, and at the same time the driving force behind our growth and progress.

There are many passages in the Bible that teach people to think carefully and deal with them calmly. These verses provide wisdom and guidance to help people remain calm and rational in the face of challenges and decisions.

"A fool is seen as upright, but the wise see his way. (Proverbs 14:15).

"Stardness makes a man decay, and the heart is hasty, and there is great sorrow. (Proverbs 15:18).

"He that is not susceptible to anger prevaieth a mighty man, but he that subdueth his own heart is better than a city." (Proverbs 16:32).

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all men, and does not rebuke, and the Lord will give it to him. (James 1:5).

"Therefore, we do not lose heart. Although the outer body is destroyed, the inner body is new day by day. This light and ephemeral suffering will accomplish for us an incomparably heavier, everlasting glory. Therefore we do not look at what we see, but on what we do not see, for what we see is temporary, and what we do not see is eternal. (II Corinthians 4:16-18).

These verses emphasize wisdom, patience, and seeking God's wisdom and help to keep people calm and prudent in the face of life's circumstances in times of difficulty.

Christians should be guided by the teachings of the Bible in thinking carefully and calmly dealing with all kinds of things. This includes seeking wisdom, following God's will, and using the love and teachings of Jesus Christ as the standard for behavior and response.

Prayer and devotional: Regular fellowship with God and quiet listening to God's Word can help Christians stay calm and think clearly.

Follow the teachings of the Bible: The Bible is a guide for Christians and contains many wisdom and moral principles. By reading the Bible and the teachings of Jesus Christ in the Bible, we can help us make wise decisions in the face of difficulties.

Love and Forgiveness: Christianity emphasizes the importance of love and forgiveness. When we approach others with love and forgiveness, we are more likely to remain calm in the face of challenges and avoid impulsive and angry reactions.

Counsel with wise counselors: Communicating with trusted and wise Christian friends or church leaders can help us think critically from different perspectives when it comes to making important decisions.

Introspection and confession: When we make mistakes, Christians should be humble and willing to admit and correct them. This attitude of humility and admitting mistakes is an opportunity to grow.

In general, Christians should be guided by the teachings of the Bible and the love of Christ, and seek God's wisdom and guidance as they think carefully and calmly. This helps them make informed and deliberate choices when faced with various situations in their lives.

Let's pray together:

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for your wisdom and guidance to help us think carefully and calmly when facing challenges in our lives. Give us clarity of thought and rational judgment so that we are not swayed by our emotions but walk in Your grace and wisdom.

Help us to seek the guidance of the Holy Ghost so that we can listen to Your voice in our choices. Give us love and forgiveness to respond to others with the love of Christ and not to be controlled by anger or fear.

Give us the humility to admit our mistakes and correct them. Help us to treat everyone with wisdom and respect when communicating with others, and to be patient and calm when things are difficult.

Lord, guide our hearts and minds so that our words and deeds may glorify Your name. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to pray. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, amen.

Judges Chapter 21

Ju. 21:1 The men of Israel had taken an oath at Mizpah: "Not one of us will give his daughter in marriage to a Benjamite."

Ju. 21:2 The people went to Bethel, where they sat before God until evening, raising their voices and weeping bitterly.

Ju. 21:3 “O LORD, the God of Israel,” they cried, “why has this happened to Israel? Why should one tribe be missing from

Israel today?”

Ju. 21:4 Early the next day the people built an altar and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings.

Ju. 21:5 Then the Israelites asked, “Who from all the tribes of Israel has failed to assemble before the LORD?” For they had taken a solemn oath that anyone who failed to assemble before the LORD at Mizpah should certainly be put to death.

Ju. 21:6 Now the Israelites grieved for their brothers, the Benjamites.

“Today one tribe is cut off from Israel,” they said.

Ju. 21:7 “How can we provide wives for those who are left, since we have taken an oath by the LORD not to give them any of our daughters in marriage?”

Ju. 21:8 Then they asked, “Which one of the tribes of Israel failed to assemble before the LORD at Mizpah?” They discovered that no-one from Jabesh Gilead had come to the camp for the assembly.

Ju. 21:9 For when they counted the people, they found that none of the people of Jabesh Gilead were there.

Ju. 21:10 So the assembly sent twelve thousand fighting men with instructions to go to Jabesh Gilead and put to the sword those living there, including the women and children.

Ju. 21:11 “This is what you are to do,” they said. “Kill every male and every woman who is not a virgin.”

Ju. 21:12 They found among the people living in Jabesh Gilead four hundred young women who had never slept with a man, and they took them to the camp at Shiloh in Canaan.

Ju. 21:13 Then the whole assembly sent an offer of peace to the Benjamites at the rock of Rimmon.

Ju. 21:14 So the Benjamites returned at that time and were given the women of Jabesh Gilead who had been spared. But there were not enough for all of them.

Ju. 21:15 The people grieved for Benjamin, because the LORD had made a gap in the tribes of Israel.

Ju. 21:16 And the elders of the assembly said, “With the women of Benjamin destroyed, how shall we provide wives for the men who are left?”

Ju. 21:17 The Benjamite survivors must have heirs,” they said, “so that a tribe of Israel will not be wiped out.”

Ju. 21:18 We can't give them our daughters as wives, since we Israelites have taken this oath: 'Cursed be anyone who gives a wife to a Benjamite.'

Ju. 21:19 But look, there is the annual festival of the LORD in Shiloh, to the north of Bethel, and east of the road that goes from Bethel to Shechem, and to the south of Lebonah.”

Ju. 21:20 So they instructed the Benjamites, saying, “Go and hide in the vineyards

Ju. 21:21 and watch. When the girls of Shiloh come out to join in the dancing, then rush from the vineyards and each of you seize a wife from the girls of Shiloh and go to the land of Benjamin.

Ju. 21:22 When their fathers or brothers complain to us, we will say to them, 'Do us a kindness by helping them, because we did not get wives for them during the war, and you are innocent, since you did not give your daughters to them.'“

Ju. 21:23 So that is what the Benjamites did. While the girls were dancing, each man caught one and carried her off to be his wife. Then they returned to their inheritance and rebuilt the towns and settled in them.

Ju. 21:24 At that time the Israelites left that place and went home to their tribes and clans, each to his own inheritance.

Ju. 21:25 In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit

The Book of Judges, Chapter 21 in the Christian Bible concludes the story of the events that occurred in the aftermath of the rape and murder of the Levite's concubine in the town of Gibeah, as recounted in Chapter 19.

The chapter begins with the tribes of Israel lamenting the heavy losses suffered during the war with the tribe of Benjamin. The other tribes of Israel had made an oath not to allow their daughters to marry the men of Benjamin, but they were concerned about the future of the tribe and the risk of it dying out.

To resolve the issue, the elders of Israel gathered together to devise a plan. They decided to attack the town of Jabesh-gilead, which had not participated in the war, and to kill all of its inhabitants except for the virgin women, whom they would take as wives for the men of Benjamin.

After carrying out the plan, the tribes of Israel returned to their land and gave the surviving women to the men of Benjamin. However, there were not enough women to go around, and some men remained without wives.

The chapter concludes with the elders of Israel suggesting that the men of Benjamin kidnap women who were dancing at the annual festival in Shiloh and take them as their wives. The chapter ends with the statement that there was no king in Israel, and everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

Chapter 21 of The Book of Judges presents a somber reflection on the consequences of sin and the failure of leadership. The oath made by the tribes of Israel not to allow their daughters to marry the men of Benjamin was a result of their anger and desire for revenge, rather than a commitment to justice and righteousness. The elders of Israel, who were responsible for leading the people, failed to uphold God's laws and instead resorted to violence and abduction to resolve the issue. The chapter concludes with a sobering reminder of the absence of a king in Israel and the consequences of everyone doing what is right in their own eyes, highlighting the need for strong and just leadership.

Here are some key verses from chapter 21 of the Book of Judges in the Christian Bible in English:

- "The men of Israel had taken an oath at Mizpah: 'Not one of us will give his daughter in marriage to a Benjamite.'" (Judges 21:1)
- "Then they asked, 'Which one of the tribes of Israel failed to assemble before the Lord at Mizpah?' They discovered that no one from Jabesh Gilead had come to the camp for the assembly." (Judges 21:8)
- "So the assembly sent twelve thousand fighting men with instructions to go to Jabesh Gilead and put to the sword those living there, including the women and children." (Judges 21:10)
- "Then the elders and leaders of the assembly said, 'With the women of Benjamin destroyed, how shall we provide wives for the men who are left?'" (Judges 21:16)
- "So they instructed the Benjamites, saying, 'Go and hide in the vineyards and watch. When the young women of Shiloh come out to join in the dancing, rush from the vineyards and each of you seize a wife from the young women of Shiloh and go to the land of Benjamin.'" (Judges 21:20-21)

These verses describe the aftermath of the civil war between the tribes of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. The Israelites had taken an oath not to give their daughters in marriage to the Benjamites, but then they realized that this meant the tribe of Benjamin would not have any women to marry. They decided to find a way to provide wives for the Benjamites and ultimately resorted to a violent and controversial solution.

Judges chapter 21 provides a reflection on the tragic aftermath of the events in the previous chapters, highlighting the consequences of unchecked violence, the importance of preserving the tribe of Benjamin, and the need for justice tempered with mercy.

The chapter begins with the remaining tribes of Israel realizing that one tribe, Benjamin, has been nearly wiped out as a result of their collective punishment for the crime committed in Gibeah. They express deep remorse and grief over the potential loss of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. In their determination to ensure the survival of Benjamin, they seek a solution to provide wives for the surviving Benjamite men.

The Israelites discover that the city of Jabesh-gilead did not participate in the gathering against Benjamin, and they decide to punish Jabesh-gilead for their neutrality by killing all its inhabitants, except for four hundred virgins who are given to the Benjamites as wives. Even with this provision, they realize that not all Benjamite men will have wives, so they devise a plan for the remaining men to capture additional wives during a yearly feast at Shiloh.

The reflection in Judges chapter 21 brings attention to the devastating consequences of unchecked violence and the lengths to which the Israelites are willing to go to preserve the tribe of Benjamin. It demonstrates the deep concern for tribal identity and the desire to ensure the continuation of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. However, the methods chosen to secure wives for the Benjamite men, including the destruction of Jabesh-gilead and the kidnapping of women, raise ethical and moral questions.

The chapter also highlights the complexity of justice and the tension between justice and mercy. While the Israelites initially acted with great zeal in punishing Benjamin for their wickedness, they later find themselves grappling with the consequences of their actions and seeking a way to rectify the situation without completely eradicating the tribe. This reflects the importance of balancing justice with compassion and considering the longterm implications of punitive measures.

Furthermore, the story raises questions about the treatment of women and the need for their voices to be heard and their dignity respected. The actions taken to secure wives for the Benjamite men through force and coercion reflect a disregard for the rights and autonomy of the women involved. It serves as a reminder of the importance of valuing and respecting the inherent worth and dignity of all individuals, regardless of gender.

Overall, Judges chapter 21 provides a reflection on the tragic aftermath of the events, highlighting the consequences of unchecked violence, the complex nature of justice, and the need to uphold the dignity and rights of all individuals. It prompts believers to consider the ethical implications of their actions, to pursue justice tempered with mercy, and to value and respect the worth of every person.

Notes:

There are several difficult questions in the Book of Judges that have no clear answer:

1. What was the nature of the "spirit of the Lord" that came upon the judges? (Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 14:6, etc.) Was it a divine force or a psychological state of mind?
2. Why did God allow Jephthah to sacrifice his daughter? (Judges 11:29-40) Was it a test of Jephthah's faith or a tragic misunderstanding?
3. Why did Samson reveal the secret of his strength to Delilah, leading to his downfall? (Judges 16:4-21) Was he truly in love with her or was he trying to test her loyalty?
4. Why did the tribe of Benjamin almost get destroyed by the other Israelite tribes? (Judges 19-21) Was it due to the sins of the Benjamites or was it a result of a breakdown of the social order?

These are some of the most difficult questions in the Book of Judges, and scholars continue to debate their meaning and significance.