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## Daily Rice 2024 January 17

YouTube Prayer Link

Never sin against God: Fear the power of faith

1 Samuel 6

6:10 The Philistines did this, putting two cows with only milk in a cart and keeping the calves at home.

6:11 Put the chest of Jehovah's covenant and the box of the golden rat and the golden hemorrhoidal image in the car.

6:12 The oxen went straight on the main road to Beth-shemesh, and cried on one side, not to the right or to the right . The princes of the Philistines followed as far as the border of Beth-shemeel.

6:13 The men of Betheschmesh, while they were reaping wheat in the plains, lifted up their eyes and saw the ark of the covenant, and rejoiced.

A detailed summary of 1 Samuel 6

When the Philistines took the ark of God, their city was subjected to a great tribulation. They tried to return the Ark of the Covenant to Israel, but many died on the way because they touched it. They put the ark of the covenant on a stone for the Israelites to fetch it.

In Beth-Shemesh, some of the Israelites saw the Ark of the Covenant because it had reached their city. They celebrated and offered oxen as a sacrifice to the vehicle that brought the Ark of the Covenant back. But some died because they touched the Ark of the Covenant, so they asked, "Who can stand before God?" (6:20) Eventually, they decided to send the Ark of the Covenant to Giriath Jerim and keep it there.

"Never Sin Against God: The Power of Faith-Fear"

Throughout the long history of mankind, faith has been one of the forces that have led people forward. Whether it is religious belief or reverence for gods, this belief often transcends the

boundaries of the physical world and gives people spiritual sustenance and strength. However, in this pluralistic and complex society, we have to confront a universal notion that we must never offend God.

People find solace in faith and see faith as the backbone of their hearts. Whether it is Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, or other religions, believers have a high sense of reverence for gods or deities. This reverence does not only come from fear of God, but also from respect and gratitude for the divine being. When people are lost in the desert of life, faith is like a light that guides them to find meaning and direction in life.

However, when we discuss the proposition that you shall not sin against God, we think more from a moral and ethical perspective. In religious texts and in the traditions of various cultures, there is a reverence for the divine and a warning about the possible consequences of not fearing the gods. This kind of warning is not simply a fear of retribution, but more a reminder that people should abide by moral norms in order to maintain social harmony and stability.

In contemporary society, although the influence of religious belief may be relatively diminished, this concept of "shalt not offend God" still has profound revelatory value. This notion reminds us that while pursuing material satisfaction and personal rights, we should maintain respect for others and reverence for social values. Behind not offending God is a reflection on the good and evil of human nature, and an expectation of social stability.

The idea of "never sinning against God" transcends religious beliefs and becomes a universal value. This concept reminds us to maintain reverence in our lives, not only to the gods, but also to others and society. Such awe and belief may become the cornerstone of our construction of a harmonious society, allowing us to find more possibilities for inclusion and co-prosperity in modern society.

In the Christian scriptures, the Old Testament and the New Testament, there are many passages that emphasize the doctrine of the fear of God and the reverence for God. Here are some related chapters:

Old Testament:

Proverbs 9:10: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." ┘

Psalm 33:8: "Let the whole earth fear the Lord, and let the inhabitants of the earth fear him." ┘

Psalm 111:10: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and whoever does it is wise. Praise the LORD for ever. ┘

Isaiah 8:13 "Count all nations as nothing, for the interests of all nations are in his eyes, and his eyes are always on those who fear him, and his deeds are upon them." ┘

New Testament:

Matthew

10:28: Do not be afraid of him who kills the body, and cannot kill the soul, but fear him who throws the soul and the body to the ground

We pray,

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come to You and humbly ask for Your blessings and guidance. Thank You for giving us life and allowing us to find comfort and strength in Your love. We are deeply grateful that You have sent us Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lord, we pray for all Christians to keep their faith so that they can stand firm in the trials of the world. Give them wisdom to be guided by Your will in all aspects of their lives. Please give them the grace to walk with You so that they can draw near to You every day and know Your heart more deeply.

Boost our faith so that we can have faith in Your promises and love as we face life's challenges. Help us to turn away from all actions that may sin against You, and let our lives be a testimony to Your glory.

Lord, we pray carefully in Your lovingkindness that we may always remain in the fear of You and not sin Your holiness. May all our deeds be a dedication to Your glory, and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, let our lives be testimonies of Your radiance.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

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## 1 SAMUEL

### CHAPTER 6

1Sa. 6:1 When the ark of the LORD had been in Philistine territory for seven months,

1Sa. 6:2 the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us how we should send it back to its place."

1Sa. 6:3 They answered, "If you return the ark of the god of Israel, do not send it away empty, but by all means send a guilt offering to him. Then you will be healed, and you will know why his hand has not been lifted from you."

1Sa. 6:4 The Philistines asked, "What guilt offering should we send to him?" They replied, "Five gold tumours and five gold rats, according to the number of the Philistine rulers, because the same plague has struck both you and your rulers.

1Sa. 6:5 Make models of the tumours and of the rats that are destroying the country, and pay honour to Israel's god.

Perhaps he will lift his hand from you and your gods and your land.

1Sa. 6:6 Why do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh did? When he [That is, God] treated them harshly, did they not send the Israelites out so that they could go on their way?

1Sa. 6:7 "Now then, get a new cart ready, with two cows that have calved and have never been yoked. Hitch the cows to the cart, but take their calves away and pen them up.

1Sa. 6:8 Take the ark of the LORD and put it on the cart, and in a

chest beside it put the gold objects you are sending back to him as a guilt offering. Send it on its way,

1Sa. 6:9 but keep watching it. If it goes up to its own territory, towards Beth Shemesh, then the LORD has brought this great disaster on us. But if it does not, then we shall know that it was not his hand that struck us and that it happened to us by chance.”

1Sa. 6:10 So they did this. They took two such cows and hitched them to the cart and penned up their calves.

1Sa. 6:11 They placed the ark of the LORD on the cart and along with it the chest containing the gold rats and the models of the tumours.

1Sa. 6:12 Then the cows went straight up towards Beth Shemesh, keeping on the road and lowing all the way; they did not turn to the right or to the left. The rulers of the Philistines followed them as far as the border of Beth Shemesh.

1Sa. 6:13 Now the people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting their wheat in the valley, and when they looked up and saw the ark, they rejoiced at the sight.

1Sa. 6:14 The cart came to the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and there it stopped beside a large rock. The people chopped up the wood of the cart and sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD.

1Sa. 6:15 The Levites took down the ark of the LORD, together with the chest containing the gold objects, and placed them on the large rock. On that day the people of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices to the LORD.

1Sa. 6:16 The five rulers of the Philistines saw all this and then returned that same day to Ekron.

1Sa. 6:17 These are the gold tumours the Philistines sent as a guilt offering to the LORD — one each for Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron.

1Sa. 6:18 And the number of the gold rats was according to the number of Philistine towns belonging to the five rulers — the fortified towns with their country villages. The large rock, on which [A few Hebrew manuscripts (see also Septuagint); most Hebrew manuscripts villages as far as Greater Abel, where] they set the ark of the LORD, is a witness to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh.

1Sa. 6:19 But God struck down some of the men of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy [A few Hebrew manuscripts; most Hebrew manuscripts and Septuagint 50,070] of them to death because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. The people

mourned because of the heavy blow the LORD had dealt them,

1Sa. 6:20 and the men of Beth Shemesh asked, “Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?”

1Sa. 6:21 Then they sent messengers to the people of Kiriath Jearim, saying, “The Philistines have returned the ark of the LORD. Come down and take it up to your place.”

Chapter 6 continues the story of the return of the Ark of the Covenant to Israel. The people of Beth-shemesh, who received the Ark, send messengers to the town of Kiriath-jearim to tell them of its arrival. The men of Kiriath-jearim come and take the Ark to their town, where it remains for twenty years.

The Philistines, meanwhile, continue to suffer from the plagues and disasters that began when they took the Ark. Their priests and diviners advise them to send the Ark back to Israel with gifts as an offering to the God of Israel. They make gold models of the tumors and rats that had afflicted them, and put them in a chest alongside the gifts. They also add five gold mice as an additional offering.

They then hitch two cows to a cart carrying the chest, and let the cows go where they will. The cows go straight to the Israelite town of Beth-shemesh, and the people there rejoice at the return of the Ark. They take the chest from the cart and burn the cart and the cows as a sacrifice to the Lord.

However, the Lord strikes down seventy men from the town who look inside the chest, showing that his power and presence cannot be treated casually or irreverently.

The people of Beth-shemesh are afraid and ask the men of Kiriath-jearim to come and take the Ark. The Ark remains in Kiriath-jearim for twenty years, during which time Samuel becomes a prophet and leader in Israel.

Chapter 6 emphasizes the holiness and power of the God of Israel and the importance of treating his presence and symbols with reverence. It also shows how the Philistines, who were enemies of Israel, came to recognize the power of the God of Israel and the need to offer him respect and worship. The chapter highlights the continuing importance of the Ark of the Covenant as a symbol of God's presence among his people, and sets the stage for the rise of Samuel as a prophet and leader in Israel.

Chapter 6 of 1 Samuel recounts the return of the Ark of the Covenant to the Israelites after it had been captured by the Philistines. Some important verses in this chapter include:

- 1 Samuel 6:2: "The Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, 'What shall we do with the ark of the Lord? Tell us how we should send it back to its place.'"
- 1 Samuel 6:7-9: "Now then, get a new cart ready, with two cows that have calved and have never been yoked. Hitch the cows to the cart, but take their calves away and pen them up. Take the ark of the Lord and put it on the cart, and in a chest beside it put the gold objects you are sending back to him as a guilt offering. Send it on its way, but keep watching it. If it goes up to its own territory, toward Beth Shemesh, then the Lord has brought this great disaster on us."

But if it does not, then we will know that it was not his hand that struck us but that it happened to us by chance."

- 1 Samuel 6:14-15: "The cart came to the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and there it stopped beside a large rock. The people chopped up the wood of the cart and sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the Lord."

These verses demonstrate the Philistines' recognition of the power of the God of the Israelites and their desire to make amends for having taken the Ark. The instructions for the return of the Ark also highlight the importance of following God's commands and the consequences of disobedience. The Israelites' response to the Ark's return, including the sacrifice of the cows, shows their reverence for the presence of God among them.

1 Samuel chapter 6 continues the narrative of the Ark of the Covenant and the consequences faced by the Philistines for capturing it. This chapter focuses on the return of the Ark to the Israelites and explores themes of repentance, humility, and the recognition of God's power.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the recognition of God's holiness and the need for repentance. The Philistines, plagued by various afflictions and recognizing the power of the God of Israel, seek counsel from their priests and diviners. They acknowledge their wrongdoing in capturing the Ark and devise a plan to return it to the Israelites, accompanied by offerings to make amends for their actions.

This chapter emphasizes the importance of humility and repentance in our relationship with God. The Philistines demonstrate a willingness to admit their wrongs and seek reconciliation with the true God. Their actions serve as a reminder that when we recognize our sins and turn away from them, seeking forgiveness and restoration, God is gracious and ready to receive us.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 6 reveals the awe-inspiring power and holiness of God. As the Ark is returned to the Israelites, it becomes evident that God's presence is not to be treated lightly. The people of Beth-shemesh, upon seeing the Ark, are struck with fear and reverence. However, some of them fail to maintain the proper respect for the holiness of the Ark, and as a result, they are struck down by God.

This chapter serves as a reminder of the need to approach God with reverence and respect. It shows that our actions and attitudes toward His presence have consequences. It challenges us to consider our own approach to God and ensure that we honor Him with genuine reverence, recognizing His holiness and power.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 6 highlights the providence and guidance of God. Through a series of events involving cows, a cart, and a path that leads straight to the land of the Israelites, God orchestrates the return of the Ark. This demonstrates His sovereignty over all creation and His ability to work through unexpected means to accomplish His purposes.

This chapter encourages us to trust in God's guidance and providence in our own lives. It reminds us that God can use ordinary circumstances and even unlikely sources to bring about

His plans. It calls us to rely on His leading and to surrender our own desires and agendas, knowing that His ways are higher and His plans are perfect.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 6 highlights the themes of repentance, humility, and the recognition of God's power and holiness. It reminds us of the importance of approaching God with reverence, seeking His forgiveness when we err, and trusting in His providence and guidance. May we learn from the example of the Philistines and the people of Beth-shemesh, recognizing God's holiness, repenting of our sins, and entrusting our lives to His sovereign care..