

MONSTERS IN THE CLOSET

Confronting the Fears that Often
Hold Us Back in Our Spiritual Lives



THE MONSTER OF
MISUNDERSTANDING

IN THE STORY FOUND IN JOSHUA 22,
WE FIND SEVERAL REALITIES
REGARDING BEING MISUNDERSTOOD

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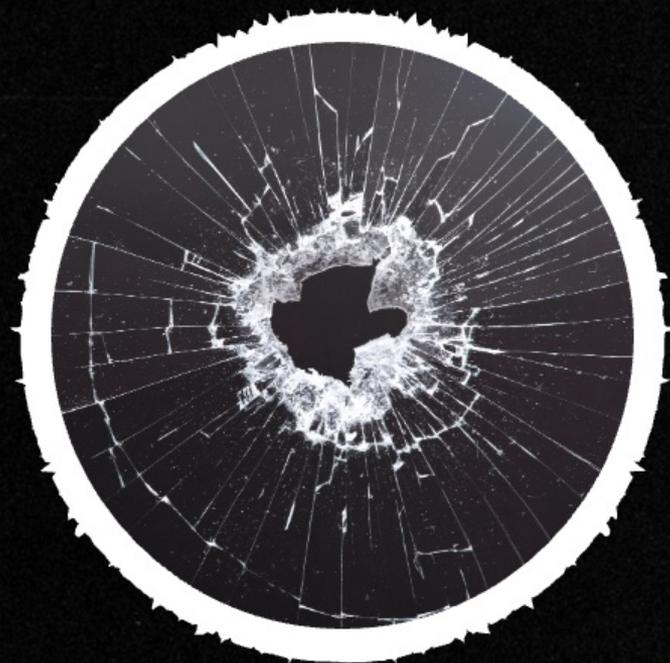


Misunderstanding
happens to everybody

¹Then Joshua called together the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. ²He told them, "You have done as Moses, the servant of the Lord, commanded you, and you have obeyed every order I have given you. ³During all this time you have not deserted the other tribes. You have been careful to obey the commands of the Lord your God right up to the present day.

JOSHUA 22:1-3 NLT

MISUNDERSTANDING
IS NOT A BREACH OF
MORAL CHARACTER



IN THE STORY FOUND IN JOSHUA 22, WE FIND SEVERAL REALITIES REGARDING BEING MISUNDERSTOOD



Misunderstanding happens to everybody



Misunderstanding leads to relational conflict

¹¹The rest of Israel heard that the people of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh had built an altar at Geliloth at the edge of the land of Canaan, on the west side of the Jordan River. ¹²So the whole community of Israel gathered at Shiloh and prepared to go to war against them.

JOSHUA 22:11-12 NLT

IN THE STORY FOUND IN JOSHUA 22, WE FIND SEVERAL REALITIES REGARDING BEING MISUNDERSTOOD



Misunderstanding happens to everybody



Misunderstanding leads to relational conflict



Misunderstanding leads to personal attack

¹⁶“The whole community of the Lord demands to know why you are betraying the God of Israel. How could you turn away from the Lord and build an altar for yourselves in rebellion against him?

¹⁸And yet today you are turning away from following the Lord. If you rebel against the Lord today, he will be angry with all of us tomorrow.

JOSHUA 22:16, 18 NLT

**THERE ARE TWO MAJOR FACTORS THAT
CONTRIBUTE TO MISUNDERSTANDING:**

THERE ARE TWO MAJOR FACTORS THAT
CONTRIBUTE TO MISUNDERSTANDING:

1

Poor

communication

THERE ARE TWO MAJOR FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO MISUNDERSTANDING:

1

Poor

communication

2

Unmet and

unrealistic

expectations



**FOUR PRINCIPLES TO HELP US
DEAL WITH THE MONSTER OF
MISUNDERSTANDING**

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO HELP US DEAL WITH THE MONSTER OF MISUNDERSTANDING

1

Honor one
another

¹⁹“If you need the altar because the land you possess is defiled, then join us in the Lord’s land, where the Tabernacle of the Lord is situated, and share our land with us. But do not rebel against the Lord or against us by building an altar other than the one true altar of the Lord our God.

JOSHUA 22:19 NLT

¹⁰Love each other with genuine affection,
and take delight in honoring each other.

ROMANS 12:10 NLT



**WE NEED TO DECIDE
TODAY TO BE PEOPLE
HONORING PEOPLE**

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO HELP US DEAL WITH THE MONSTER OF MISUNDERSTANDING

1

Honor one
another

2

Clarify
immediately

¹³First, however, they sent a delegation led by Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, to talk with the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. ¹⁴In this delegation were ten leaders of Israel, one from each of the ten tribes, and each the head of his family within the clans of Israel.

JOSHUA 22:13-14 NLT

FOUR PRINCIPLES TO HELP US DEAL WITH THE MONSTER OF MISUNDERSTANDING

1

Honor one
another

Trust the
Lord's
protection

3

2

Clarify
immediately

²¹Then the people of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh answered the heads of the clans of Israel: ²²“The Lord, the Mighty One, is God! The Lord, the Mighty One, is God! He knows the truth, and may Israel know it, too! We have not built the altar in treacherous rebellion against the Lord. If we have done so, do not spare our lives this day. ²³If we have built an altar for ourselves to turn away from the Lord or to offer burnt offerings or grain offerings or peace offerings, may the Lord himself punish us.

JOSHUA 22:21-23 NLT

AT THE END OF THE DAY,
THE LORD MUST BE OUR
VINDICATION, NOT US



FOUR PRINCIPLES TO HELP US DEAL WITH THE MONSTER OF MISUNDERSTANDING

1

Honor one
another

2

Clarify
immediately

Trust the
Lord's
protection

Rest in the
Lord's
affection

3

4

²⁴“The truth is, we have built this altar because we fear that in the future your descendants will say to ours, ‘What right do you have to worship the Lord, the God of Israel? ²⁵The Lord has placed the Jordan River as a barrier between our people and you people of Reuben and Gad. You have no claim to the Lord.’ So your descendants may prevent our descendants from worshiping the Lord.”

JOSHUA 22:24-28 NLT

²⁶“So we decided to build the altar, not for burnt offerings or sacrifices, ²⁷but as a memorial. It will remind our descendants and your descendants that we, too, have the right to worship the Lord at his sanctuary with our burnt offerings, sacrifices, and peace offerings. Then your descendants will not be able to say to ours, ‘You have no claim to the Lord.’

²⁸“If they say this, our descendants can reply, ‘Look at this copy of the Lord’s altar that our ancestors made. It is not for burnt offerings or sacrifices; it is a reminder of the relationship both of us have with the Lord.’

JOSHUA 22:24-28 NLT



WHEN I MISUNDERSTAND OR
HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD,
I RUN TO THE LORD AND REST
IN HIS AFFECTION AND WHAT
HE BELIEVES ABOUT ME.

³⁰When Phinehas the priest and the leaders of the community—the heads of the clans of the Israelites—heard what Reuben, Gad and Manasseh had to say, they were pleased.

³³They were glad to hear the report and praised God. And they talked no more about going to war against them to devastate the country where the Reubenites and the Gadites lived.

JOSHUA 22:30, 33 NLT