



## CALVARY CHAPEL

### Altar-Cation

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***Joshua 22:10-12** When they came to Geliloth near the Jordan in the land of Canaan, the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh built an imposing altar there by the Jordan. **11** And when the Israelites heard that they had built the altar on the border of Canaan at Geliloth near the Jordan on the Israelite side, **12** the whole assembly of Israel gathered at Shiloh to go to war against them.*

***Deuteronomy 13:13-15** (if you hear) that troublemakers have arisen among you and have led the people of their town astray, saying, “Let us go and worship other gods”, then you must inquire, probe and investigate it thoroughly. And if it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing has been done among you, you must certainly put to the sword all who live in that town.*

- **Main Point #1** Don't let your initial reaction (feelings) about something cause a hasty **action**. Let the Holy Spirit calm you.

***Joshua 22:13-14** So the Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, to the land of Gilead—to Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh. **14** With him they sent ten of the chief men, one from each of the tribes of Israel, each the head of a family division among the Israelite clans.*

***Romans 10:2-3** ...they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.*

***Joshua 22:15-16** When they went to Gilead—to Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh—they said to them: **16** “The whole assembly of the LORD says: ‘How could you break faith with the God of Israel like this? How could you turn away from the LORD and build yourselves an altar in rebellion against him now?’*

- **Main Point #2:** Our eyes can sometimes deceive us. Make sure you get “the whole picture” (the facts) before accusing anyone

***Joshua 22:17-18** Was not the sin of Peor enough for us? Up to this very day we have not cleansed ourselves from that sin, even though a plague fell on the community of the LORD! **18** And are you now turning away from the LORD? “If you rebel against the LORD today, tomorrow he will be angry with the whole community of Israel.*

***Numbers 25:1-3** the men (of Israel) began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed*

down before these gods. So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the LORD's anger burned against them.

**Numbers 25:11** "Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites. Since he was as zealous for my honor among them as I am, I did not put an end to them in my zeal.

- **Main Point #3** When you are "under" a leader (teaching/serving), make sure they have a heart for the people they oversee.

**Joshua 22:19-22a** If the land you possess is defiled, come over to the LORD's land, where the LORD's tabernacle stands, and share the land with us. But do not rebel against the LORD or against us by building an altar for yourselves, other than the altar of the LORD our God. **20** When Achan son of Zerah was unfaithful in regard to the devoted things, did not wrath come on the whole community of Israel? He was not the only one who died for his sin." **21** Then Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh replied to the heads of the clans of Israel: **22a** "The Mighty One, God, the LORD! The Mighty One, God, the LORD! He knows!

- **Main Point #4** When we are falsely accused, God KNOWS. Trust God, He will make things right.

**Joshua 22:22b-27a** And let Israel know! If this has been in rebellion or disobedience to the LORD, do not spare us this day. **23** If we have built our own altar to turn away from the LORD and to offer burnt offerings and grain offerings, or to sacrifice fellowship offerings on it, may the LORD himself call us to account. **24** "No! We did it for fear that some day your descendants might say to ours, 'What do you have to do with the LORD, the God of Israel? **25** The LORD has made the Jordan a boundary between us and you—you Reubenites and Gadites! You have no share in the LORD.' So your descendants might cause ours to stop fearing the LORD. **26** "That is why we said, 'Let us get ready and build an altar—but not for burnt offerings or sacrifices.' **27a** On the contrary, it is to be a witness between us and you and the generations that follow, that we will worship the LORD at his sanctuary with our burnt offerings, sacrifices and fellowship offerings.

**Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)** But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

**Joshua 22:27b-31** Then in the future your descendants will not be able to say to ours, 'You have no share in the LORD.' **28** "And we said, 'If they ever say this to us, or to our descendants, we will answer: Look at the replica of the LORD's altar, which our ancestors built, not for burnt offerings and sacrifices, but as a witness between us and you.' **29** "Far be it from us to rebel against the LORD and turn away from him today by building an altar for burnt offerings, grain offerings and sacrifices, other than the altar of the LORD our God that stands before his tabernacle." **30** When 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. **31** And Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, said to Reuben, Gad and Manasseh, "Today we know that the LORD is with us, because you have not been unfaithful to the LORD in this matter. Now you have rescued the

*Israelites from the LORD's hand."*

***Colossians 3:12-13 (NLT)** Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you.*

***Joshua 22:32-34** Then Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, and the leaders returned to Canaan from their meeting with the Reubenites and Gadites in Gilead and reported to the Israelites. **33** They 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. **34** And the Reubenites and the Gadites gave the altar this name: A Witness Between Us—that the LORD is God.*

***1 Chronicles 5:26 (NLT)** So the God of Israel caused King Pul of Assyria (also known as Tiglath-Pileser) to invade the land and take away the people of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh as captives. The Assyrians exiled them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the Gozan River, where they remain to this day.*

- Call **321.574.6970** if you have chosen to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

All Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. NLT = New Living Translation.