



27 SHAVAT 5776 FEB 6TH 2016
PARASHAH 18 MISHPATIM (RULINGS)

TORAH

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Be very very careful what you let your Ears and Eyes Digest

When you hear something, read something, or watch something, does it leave you feeling fearful? Anxious? Confused? Do you experience nightmares or dream peacefully? Are you filled with chaos or shalom and trust? Do you embrace the future or dread it? Is your focus on the problems or the solutions? Are you 'dis-couraged' or 'en-couraged'? When things are going well for you do you get that nagging feeling that it can't last? The source of the message will determine whether you react negatively or respond with trust. That's why so many people both believers and non-believers are paralyzed with fear and anxiety about the future, why? Because they either don't know or forget whose hands it is in. They don't fully understand when he says in Torah "There is no fear in love. On the contrary, love that has achieved its goal gets rid of fear, because fear has to do with punishment; the person who keeps fearing has not been brought to maturity in regard to love". Let me break that down into bite sized pieces. Ahavah or unconditional love neutralizes All Fear! It completely removes it from the equation by inserting forgiveness of our sins and thereby cancelling any punishment. In fact it warns that fear is evidence of immaturity and a sign that love hasn't yet been fully activated in that person's life.

In this age of information overload we need discernment more than ever. Conspiracy theories abound and spread like wildfire, as do rumours, but what do they achieve? What is the fruit they produce in peoples lives? Panic? Resignation? Apathy? Or turn us toward Yahveh and his word for answers and strategies for dealing with them, based on trust in him and complete reassurance? 'End time' books and movies have made their authors big money, but they have also produced a cynical, pessimistic generation of worriers rather than warriors, focusing on 'Doomsday theories' rather than Messiahs certain return. Any soldier or sportsperson will tell you that fear 'paralyzes' shutting you down with its icy grip. Ahavah on the other hand releases you, it sets you free, it gives you a spiritual boldness to carry out and complete any task no matter how daunting. Kefa (Peter) was paralyzed by fear as he looked at the waves around him, sheer terror threatened to swallow him up until he asked for help and Yeshua reached out to him. Did the storm stop? No! Did the waves get smaller? No! The circumstances stayed the same but Kefa put his eyes and his trust back where they belonged, and focused on Yeshua who saved him from being completely overwhelmed by the perceived threat and the negative outcome facing him.

Yeshua himself when he faced certain death cried out to his Abba “Why have you abandoned me?” but he again called out and gave his spirit to the only one trustworthy enough to receive it, his Abba. After this the Talmidim faced a totally dominant Roman Empire who had just killed their leader, and a religious elite who told them to be quiet and go home and give up, no hope, it was all over. Their response? They asked for help and Abba reached out to them by giving them the boldness they needed. Feelings of fear and anxiety need to be starved to death, not fed on a diet of media junk food based on the ‘What ifs, perhaps, maybes, and nagging doubts. Forgiveness eliminates punishment, allowing trust and Ahavah (love) to rule in our lives, removing the doubts that stunt our growth and taking away the double mindedness that makes us unstable and immature.

So what is this Ahavah, this love that has to achieve its goal, and get rid of fear look and sound like? “Ahavah is patient and kind, not jealous, not boastful, not proud, rude or selfish, not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Ahavah does not gloat over other people’s sins but takes its delight in the truth. Ahavah always bears up, always trusts, always hopes, always endures. Ahavah never ends; but prophecies will pass, tongues will cease, knowledge will pass. For our knowledge is partial, and our prophecy partial; but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, thought like a child, argued like a child; now that I have become a man, I have finished with childish ways. For now we see obscurely in a mirror, but then it will be face to face. Now I know partly; then I will know fully, just as Yahveh has fully known me. But for now, three things last - Betach - trust, Tikvah - hope, Ahavah – unconditional love; and the greatest of these of course is Ahavah” why? Because Yahveh is! Ahavah and the other two are produced by it.

Interestingly there are several different Hebrew words behind the English word "trust" which is an abstract (cannot be sensed by the five senses), but remember Hebrew is a concrete oriented language where each word is associated with something that can be sensed by one or more of the five senses, a key to uncovering meanings that can aid in interpreting the various passages they are found in. Chasah is a Rock or fortress. Betach that we have used here is to trust with no fear, or to cling. Yachal, to know for absolute sure he will protect. And Aman, to stand firm incorporated in the word Amen that literally means I ‘stand firm’ and agree on this prayer. Hope of course as in Ha Tikvah ‘The Hope’ is the name of Israel’s national anthem.

So if the websites, TV channels, Books, CDs, and other materials you encounter have even a mild or profoundly negative effect on your life and don’t encourage you then they are definitely not Kingdom and Torah based but are absolutely straight from the enemies little bag of destructive tricks. I don’t care how well known or charismatic the presenters and authors are, they are still wolves in sheep’s clothing, recognizable by the fruit produced in people’s lives. Also as Yeshua says “Whoever hears the message about the kingdom, but doesn’t understand it, is like the seed sown along the path - the evil one comes and seizes what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is like a person who hears the message and accepts it with joy at once, but has no root in himself. So he stays on for a while; but as soon as some trouble or persecution arises on account of the message, he immediately falls away. Now the seed sown among thorns stands for someone who hears the message, but it is choked by the worries of the world and the deceitful glamor of wealth, so that it produces nothing. However, what was sown on rich soil is the one who hears the message and understands it; such a person will surely bear fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

The crucial factor of course is the root source of the message. If it is Kingdom based and by default Torah based it will guarantee a positive response and outcome, if not a destructive negative process will be set off like a domino effect. The answer to the problems? Reach out to Yahveh, ask for help and he will reach out to you helping you to refocus your eyes and ears back onto him, the solution.

Shalom Betach – No Fear/Trust/Cling Shalom