

Parashat Pinchas

פרשת פינחס

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Our Tent, Our Bodies, and Sexual Sin

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Numbers 25:10-30:1

הפטרה: 1 Kings 18:46-19:21

הברית: John 15-17

החדשה

Triennial cycle: Bamidbar / Numbers 25:10-26:51

In this week's reading from Parashat Pinchas (*Bamidbar / Numbers 25:10-26:51*) the Lord speaks to Moshe saying that Pinchas, the son of Eleazar, has turned away His wrath from the sons of Yisrael because he was zealous for the Lord. Pinchas' Jealousy for the Lord is found in sefer *Bamidbar / Numbers 25:7-9*. Pinchas saw the sin of the sons of Yisrael and took action against a man of Yisrael וַיָּבֹא אַחַר אִישׁ-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-הַקִּבְּהָ וַיִּדְקֹר אֶת-שְׁנֵיהֶם אֶת אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת-הָאִשָּׁה אֶל-קִבְּתָהּ וַתַּעֲצֹר: *25:8 and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman, through the body. So the plague on the sons of Israel was checked. (NASB) 25:8.* While studying these Scriptures, it is interesting that in 25:8 the expressions אֶל-הַקִּבְּהָ and אֶל-קִבְּתָהּ are translated in the NASB as "into the tent" and "through the body," respectively. This catches our attention since the same word used here is translated in two entirely differing ways being used in the same sentence. The first expression אֶל-הַקִּבְּהָ is translated as "into the tent" in the KJV and NASB, "into the pavilion" in the RV version, "into the chamber" in the JPS, and "into the inner room" in the RSV. The second expression אֶל-קִבְּתָהּ is translated "through her belly" in the KJV, RV, and JPS bible versions. The word קִבְּתָהּ is from the root קבה meaning "stomach or belly" according to Brown-Drivers-Briggs Lexicon. This word is used elsewhere as a noun in the Hebrew Scriptures such as in *Devarim / Deuteronomy 18:3* - וְזֶה יְהִי מִלְשֹׁפֶט הַפְּהִיגִים מֵאֵת הָעַם מֵאֵת זִבְחֵי הַזֶּבֶחַ אִם-שׂוֹר אִם-: *18:3 Now this shall be the priests' due from the people, from those who offer a sacrifice, either an ox or a sheep, of which they shall give to the priest the shoulder and the two cheeks and the stomach. (NASB)* is translated referring to the stomach of an ox or sheep. In *Bamidbar 25:8* קִבְּתָהּ used as a noun is written in the feminine sense translated as "through her belly" (KJV) and is very interesting in regards to the sin the man and woman were committing. Specifically here in Parashat Pinchas the people are committing sexual sin with the women of Moab accompanied with idolatry. How do these scriptures on Pinchas' actions against the man and woman, coupled with the Hebrew word קבה translated as both tent and the belly, help us to understand sexual sin, and idolatry and the importance of walking in the spirit today? Let's look a little closer at these Scriptures.

פרשת פינחס ספר במדבר פרק

כה פסוק ז-ט

ז וַיֵּרָא פִּינְחָס בֶּן-אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן-אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן
וַיָּקָם מִתּוֹךְ הַעֵדָה וַיִּקַּח רֶמֶחַ בְּיָדוֹ: ח וַיָּבֵא אַחַר
אִישׁ-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-הַקִּבָּה וַיִּדְקֹר אֶת-שְׁנֵיהֶם אֶת
אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת-הָאִשָּׁה אֶל-קִבְתָּהּ וַתַּעֲצֹר
הַמַּגֵּפָה מֵעַל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: ט וַיְהִיו הַמֵּתִים בַּמַּגֵּפָה
אַרְבַּעַת וָעֶשְׂרִים אָלֶף:

Bamidbar / Numbers 25:7-9

25:7 When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he arose from the midst of the congregation and took a spear in his hand, 25:8 and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman, through the body. So the plague on the sons of Israel was checked. 25:9 Those who died by the plague were 24, 000. (NASB)

In last week's study, Parashat Balak, Balak the king of Moab saw what Yisrael had done to the nations as they were making their way to the Promised Land. Balak formed an alliance with the people of Midian to rise up against Yisrael. Balak sought the help of Bilam to curse the people and offered money so that Bilam would help to prevent what will happen to him like what Yisrael was doing to the surrounding peoples. The Lord God did not allow Bilam to curse Yisrael. Since Bilam desired Balak's money, he devised a plan to cause Yisrael to sin. His plan was to use the Moabite women to cause Yisrael to sin at Peor (*Bamidbar / Numbers 25:1-18*) to engage with the women in physical fornication (harlotry) and worship their gods in spiritual fornication. Pinchas observing the sin of the people, and being on fire for the Mitzvot of the Lord, observed one man bringing a Moabite woman into the camp of the Lord. Pinchas entered into the tent of the Yisraelite and drove a spear through both the man and the woman that were engaged in the act of sexual sin. It is interesting here how the Moabites began with sinful deception and enticement to sexual sin which then progressed the to sinful worship in idolatry.

In *Bamidbar / Numbers 25:8* the expressions אֶל-הַקִּבָּה and אֶל-קִבְתָּהּ translated as “into the tent” and “through her belly” respectively, reveal the nature of sexual sin in a very Hebraic way. According to the Scriptures, the Mishkhan (Tabernacle, *Shemot / Exodus 36:8-39:43*) is a large tent constructed to be a meeting place (אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד, Tent of Meeting) for man to draw near to the Lord, seek the forgiveness of sins, and to know His will. In addition to this the Ketuvei Shelachim records the Apostle Paul saying our bodies are the dwelling place of God's Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit, *1 Corinthians 3:16-20, 6:19-20*). The body is also the way in which the Word of God yishkon (וַיִּשְׁכֶּן), dwelled / tabernacled amongst us according to *John 1:14* ¹⁴Καὶ ὁ λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ἐθεασάμεθα τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ, δόξαν ὡς μονογενοῦς παρὰ πατρός, πλήρης χάριτος καὶ ἀληθείας. והדבר נהיה בשר וישכן בתוכנו ונחזה תפארתו כתפארת בן יחיד לאביו רב. חסד ואמת: *1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.* (NASB) According to *Bamidbar / Numbers 25:8* the word קִבָּה illustrates this same principle of tabernacling that the body can also function as a tent and dwelling place for sexual sin. The most central place in our bodies is the belly and thus sexual sin is written to dwell in the belly. This is the understanding that the Apostle James had while writing on the sin of lust being conceived and giving birth according to *James 1:13-18*. The Greek text literally says “epithumia sullabousa” (ἐπιθυμία συλλαβούσα) meaning “desire having conceived” tiktei (τίκτει) “gives birth.” This illustration of birthing within the belly follows the Torah text on sexual sin being אֶל-קִבְתָּהּ in the belly of the body. The body gives birth to sin in the belly that leads to fornication (or adultery) and then to idolatry. Once sexual sin is conceived, one's thoughts are consistently thinking upon committing the act of sex.

ΙΑΚΩΒΟΥ 1:13-18

¹³μηδεὶς πειραζόμενος λεγέτω ὅτι Ἀπὸ θεοῦ πειράζομαι: ὁ γὰρ θεὸς ἀπειραστός ἐστιν κακῶν, πειράζει δὲ αὐτὸς οὐδένα. ¹⁴ἕκαστος δὲ πειράζεται ὑπὸ τῆς ἰδίας ἐπιθυμίας ἐξελκόμενος καὶ δελεαζόμενος: ¹⁵εἴτα ἡ ἐπιθυμία συλλαβοῦσα τίκτει ἁμαρτίαν, ἡ δὲ ἁμαρτία ἀποτελεσθεῖσα ἀποκύει θάνατον. ¹⁶Μὴ πλανᾶσθε, ἀδελφοί μου ἀγαπητοί.

James 1:13-18

1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 1:15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. 1:16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures. (NASB)

¹⁷πᾶσα δόσις ἀγαθὴ καὶ πᾶν δῶρημα τέλειον ἄνωθέν ἐστιν, καταβαῖνον ἀπὸ τοῦ πατρὸς τῶν φώτων, παρ' ᾧ οὐκ ἔνι παραλλαγὴ ἢ τροπῆς ἀποσκίασμα. ¹⁸βουληθεὶς ἀπεκύησεν ἡμᾶς λόγῳ ἀληθείας, εἰς τὸ εἶναι ἡμᾶς ἀπαρχὴν τινα τῶν αὐτοῦ κτισμάτων.

According to the Scriptures, idolatry seems to always be closely associated with sexual sin. The scriptures in Parashat Pinchas (*Bamidbar 25:8*) reveal that sexual sin is in fact a form of idolatry. When one continually dwells upon sexual immorality the person is committing all of one's faculties (both mental and physical abilities) being devoted to these thoughts. Sexual sin binds the will so that a person cannot focus or succeed in other matters; such a person yields his or her will to sin as a slave to lustful passion. Now you may have heard it said that when someone commits fornication or adultery such a person is unable to "keep it in their pants." It is important to realize that our sex organs are not the issue; the real issue is in the mind. The battle that is waged is in the mind. Our sex organs carry out the desires of the mind. This is why James said in *James 1:13-15* ¹³μηδεὶς πειραζόμενος λεγέτω ὅτι Ἀπὸ θεοῦ πειράζομαι: ὁ γὰρ θεὸς ἀπειραστός ἐστιν κακῶν, πειράζει δὲ αὐτὸς οὐδένα. ¹⁴ἕκαστος δὲ πειράζεται ὑπὸ τῆς ἰδίας ἐπιθυμίας ἐξελκόμενος καὶ δελεαζόμενος: ¹⁵εἴτα ἡ ἐπιθυμία συλλαβοῦσα τίκτει ἁμαρτίαν, ἡ δὲ ἁμαρτία ἀποτελεσθεῖσα ἀποκύει θάνατον. 1:13 *Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 1:15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. 1:16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. (NASB)* James is saying here that the temptation comes from within by our own lusts by the statement "when lust has conceived." When the mind conceives of the sin, it gives birth to sin, the giving birth that occurs in the belly (פֶּטֶר-לֵךְ). The natural birthing process is a process that is designed by God for reproduction between a man and a woman. The reproduction (birthing) process begins in the belly. Therefore, it is not surprising that the belly is used as the reference point for sexual sin and lust. If temptation, lust, and sexual sin are found within the body, how do we keep ourselves from living in the lust of our flesh?

Rav Shaul (the Apostle Paul) wrote in *Galatians 5* saying πνεύματι περιπατεῖτε "walk in the spirit." Two Greek words are juxtaposed together, "pneumati" from pneuma (πνεῦμα) "spirit" and "peripateite" "to walk" thus meaning "to walk in the spirit," we are not to not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

ΠΡΟΣ ΓΑΛΑΤΑΣ 5:15-17

¹⁴ὁ γὰρ πᾶς νόμος ἐν ἐνὶ λόγῳ πεπλήρωται, ἐν τῷ Ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον σου ὡς σεαυτόν. ¹⁵εἰ δὲ ἀλλήλους δάκνετε καὶ κατεσθίετε, βλέπετε μὴ ὑπ' ἀλλήλων ἀναλωθῆτε. ¹⁶Λέγω δέ, πνεύματι περιπατεῖτε καὶ ἐπιθυμίαν σαρκὸς οὐ μὴ τελέσητε. ¹⁷ἡ γὰρ σὰρξ ἐπιθυμεῖ κατὰ τοῦ πνεύματος, τὸ δὲ πνεῦμα κατὰ τῆς σαρκός: ταῦτα γὰρ ἀλλήλοις ἀντίκειται, ἵνα μὴ ἂ ἐὰν θέλητε ταῦτα ποιῆτε. ¹⁸εἰ δὲ πνεύματι ἄγεσθε, οὐκ ἐστὲ ὑπὸ νόμον. ¹⁹φανερὰ δὲ ἐστὶν τὰ ἔργα τῆς σαρκός, ἅτινά ἐστιν πορνεία, ἀκαθαρσία, ἀσέλγεια, ²⁰εἰδωλολατρία, φαρμακεία, ἔχθραι, ἔρις, ζῆλος, θυμοί, ἐριθείαι, διχοστασίαι, αἰρέσεις, ²¹φθόνοι, μέθαι, κῶμοι, καὶ τὰ ὅμοια τούτοις, ἃ προλέγω ὑμῖν καθὼς προεῖπον ὅτι οἱ τὰ τοιαῦτα πράσσοντες βασιλείαν θεοῦ οὐ κληρονομήσουσιν. ²²Ὁ δὲ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεύματός ἐστιν ἀγάπη, χαρὰ, εἰρήνη, μακροθυμία, χρηστότης, ἀγαθωσύνη, πίστις, ²³πραῦτης, ἐγκράτεια: κατὰ τῶν τοιούτων οὐκ ἔστιν νόμος. ²⁴οἱ δὲ τοῦ Χριστοῦ [Ἰησοῦ] τὴν σάρκα ἐσταύρωσαν σὺν τοῖς παθήμασιν καὶ ταῖς ἐπιθυμίαις. ²⁵εἰ ζῶμεν πνεύματι, πνεύματι καὶ στοιχῶμεν. ²⁶μὴ γινώμεθα κενόδοξοι, ἀλλήλους προκαλούμενοι, ἀλλήλοις φθονοῦντες.

ספר אל-הגלטיים פרק ה פסוק טו-טז

טו אבל אם תנשכו ותאכלו איש את אחיו ראו פן תכלו

איש על ידי רעהו: והנני אמר התהלכו ברוח ולא תמלאו את תאות הבשר: טז כי הבשר מתאוה הפך מן הרוח והרוח הפך מן הבשר ושניהם מתקוממים זה לזה עד שלא תוכלו לעשות את אשר תחפצו:

The Hebrew translation of the Greek text says “those who walk like men of the spirit (התהלכו ברוח) then they will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” (ולא תמלאו את תאות הבשר), What does it mean to walk in the spirit? How do we know when we are walking in the spirit and when we are not? Paul wrote again in *Ephesians 5:15-17* saying ¹⁵Βλέπετε οὖν ἀκριβῶς πῶς περιπατεῖτε, μὴ ὡς ἄσοφοι ἀλλ' ὡς σοφοί, ¹⁶ἐξαγοραζόμενοι τὸν καιρὸν, ὅτι αἱ ἡμέραι πονηραὶ εἰσιν. ¹⁷διὰ τοῦτο μὴ γίνεσθε ἄφρονες, ἀλλὰ συνίετε τί τὸ θέλημα τοῦ κυρίου. *5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 5:16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (NASB)* This sounds a lot like what Solomon wrote in *Mishley / Proverbs 6:32*: לֹא-יְבֹזֵזוּ לְגַבֵּב כִּי יִגְנוֹב לְמִלָּא נַפְשׁוֹ כִּי יִרְעֵב: *6:32 The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it. (NASB)* thus the person involved in sexual sin is unwise and looking to destroy his or her self by doing so. Paul says that we are to be walking in the spirit; essentially we need to be using our time each day during the week studying the Holy Scriptures. We need to fill our time with activities that are centered on God, his Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) and on Yeshua God's Son. By doing this, we become busy not giving opportunity for

Galatians 5:14-25

5:14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 5:17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 5:21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 5:24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (NASB)

the flesh to sin or carry out its desires. Paul noted the fruits of the flesh in *Galatians 5:19* saying
¹⁹φανερὰ δὲ ἐστὶν τὰ ἔργα τῆς σαρκός, ἅτινά ἐστιν πορνεία, ἀκαθαρσία, ἀσέλγεια,
²⁰εἰδωλολατρία, φαρμακεία, ἔχθραι, ἔρις, ζῆλος, θυμοί, ἐριθείαι, διχοστασίαι, αἰρέσεις,
²¹φθόνοι, μέθαι, κῶμοι, καὶ τὰ ὅμοια τούτοις, ἃ προλέγω ὑμῖν καθὼς προεῖπον ὅτι οἱ τὰ
τοιαῦτα πράσσοντες βασιλείαν θεοῦ οὐ κληρονομήσουσιν. ²²Ὁ δὲ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεύματος
ἐστὶν ἀγάπη, χαρὰ, εἰρήνη, μακροθυμία, χρηστότης, ἀγαθωσύνη, πίστις, ²³πραῦτης,
ἐγκράτεια: κατὰ τῶν τοιούτων οὐκ ἔστιν νόμος. *5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 5:21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. And similarly, walking by the spirit produces the fruit of the spirit which are 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

Based upon my own experience an idle mind gravitates towards sin. When we are walking by the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit), using our time according to God's will, the flesh does not have opportunity for a chance to sin. Scripture says that ⁷διότι τὸ φρόνημα τῆς σαρκὸς ἔχθρα εἰς θεόν, τῷ γὰρ νόμῳ τοῦ θεοῦ οὐχ ὑποτάσσεται, οὐδὲ γὰρ δύναται: ⁸οἱ δὲ ἐν σαρκὶ ὄντες θεῷ ἀρέσαι οὐ δύνανται. *"because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so and those who are in the flesh cannot please God."* (Romans 8:7-8, NASB) therefore, the Scriptures are clear, the way we keep ourselves from sin, and specifically sexual sin is by walking in the Ruach HaKodesh to seek God's will in the use of our time and then focusing our minds on using our time to study God's Word. This takes a daily determination to set ourselves on a path that is centered in God's will. As mentioned in last week's study, the Scriptures are given to us to teach us about God's plan for salvation, how to draw near to the Lord and how we should be living as the children of God. The very reason God gives us His Word is to educate us, this is why it is so important to study God's word. The Hebrew word for educate, train, guide, and schooling is **חֲנוּךְ** (chinukh) it is also interesting that the word for "dedication" shares the same Hebrew root **חָנַךְ** (Chanukah). So to educate, train, and study the Word of God appears to be synonymous with the dedication of our lives to the Lord according to the Hebrew language. This is exactly what we are supposed to do, to set our lives in a direction that is dedicated wholly to the Lord. Our being educated by the scriptures is foundational to our living and remaining in the Messiah Yeshua. All those who follow Yeshua are called **תַּלְמִידִים** (talmidim, students) whose Hebrew root comes from the word **לָמַד** (lamad) meaning "to learn" and is the Hebrew word translated as "disciple" in the Hebrew NT. The very nature of our being the disciples of Yeshua is to learn, study, and be schooled in God's Word. There is much depth in meaning and understanding of who we are in Christ which only comes by our actually taking the time to study God's Word. The very act of studying God's Word is to walk in the spirit as Paul is describing in the Scriptures. The scriptures say *"Your Word is my shield and protection,"* and that literally is the case for protection from deception. In addition to this, studying, educating, and training ourselves in God's Word is characteristic of who we are in Yeshua the Messiah! If you want to be uncharacteristic as a believer and remain completely defeated in your walk before the Lord, stop studying the Word of God, stop reading your bible, and stop believing that the Scriptures are relevant for your life today.

If we are honest about it we have committed each one of these sins in our heart at some point in our lifetime. Oh what a wretched man that I am! I completely understand how the Apostle Paul felt in Romans chapter 7. How great is our need for a Savior, for Yeshua (Jesus)!

Yeshua gave a parable to the people in *Mark 7:14-16* saying ¹⁴Καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος πάλιν τὸν ὄχλον ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς, Ἀκούσατέ μου πάντες καὶ σύνετε. ¹⁵οὐδέν ἐστιν ἔξωθεν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου εἰσπορευόμενον εἰς αὐτὸν ὃ δύναται κοινῶσαι αὐτόν: ἀλλὰ τὰ ἐκ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐκπορευόμενά ἐστιν τὰ κοινῶντα τὸν ἄνθρωπον. ¹⁶Καὶ ¹⁷ὅτε εἰσῆλθεν εἰς οἶκον ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄχλου, ἐπηρώτων αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ τὴν παραβολήν. *7:14 After He called the crowd to Him again, He began saying to them, 'Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: 7:15 there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man. 7:16 'If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.'* (NASB) The talmudim (disciples) did not understand Yeshua and asked the meaning of this very short parable saying ¹⁷ὅτε εἰσῆλθεν εἰς οἶκον ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄχλου, ἐπηρώτων αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ τὴν παραβολήν. ¹⁸καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς, Οὕτως καὶ ὑμεῖς ἀσύνετοί ἐστε; οὐ νοεῖτε ὅτι πᾶν τὸ ἔξωθεν εἰσπορευόμενον εἰς τὸν ἄνθρωπον οὐ δύναται αὐτὸν κοινῶσαι, ¹⁹ὅτι οὐκ εἰσπορεύεται αὐτοῦ εἰς τὴν καρδίαν ἀλλ' εἰς τὴν κοιλίαν, καὶ εἰς τὸν ἀφεδρῶνα ἐκπορεύεται; καθαρίζων πάντα τὰ βρώματα. ²⁰ἔλεγεν δὲ ὅτι Τὸ ἐκ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐκπορευόμενον ἐκεῖνο κοινοῖ τὸν ἄνθρωπον: ²¹ἔσωθεν γὰρ ἐκ τῆς καρδίας τῶν ἀνθρώπων οἱ διαλογισμοὶ οἱ κακοὶ ἐκπορεύονται, πορνεῖαι, κλοπαί, φόνοι, ²²μοιχεῖαι, πλεονεξίαι, πονηρίαι, δόλος, ἀσέλγεια, ὀφθαλμὸς πονηρός, βλασφημία, ὑπερηφανία, ἀφροσύνη: ²³πάντα ταῦτα τὰ πονηρὰ ἔσωθεν ἐκπορεύεται καὶ κοινοῖ τὸν ἄνθρωπον. *7:17 When he had left the crowd and entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the parable. 7:18 And He said to them, 'Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, 7:19 because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?' 7:20 And He was saying, 'That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. 7:21 'For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 7:22 deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. 7:23 'All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.'* (NASB) Here, Yeshua (Jesus) raises the bar and speaks of the thing that truly defiles a man is what comes from within and from out of the heart of men. If we go through that list in *7:21-22*, and if we are truly honest about what we read, we are all guilty of each one of these things. Each of these begins as it is written in sefer *Bamidbar / Numbers* in the expressions -לְךָ הִקְבֵּה “in the tent” and לְךָ הִקְבֵּה “through her belly” which reveal the nature of sin, it begins from within and from out of our hearts just as Yeshua said in *Mark 7:14-23*. Each of these sins is “epithumia sullabousa tikei” (ἐπιθυμία συλλαβούσα τίκει) the “*desire having given birth*” from within the heart and mind once it is conceived. The illustration that Yeshua gave is not only very Hebraic but also very Torah based. Not only is Yeshua raising the bar from the traditional understanding of Judaism in his day, he is using this illustration to show the very depth of sins wickedness which proceeds from the heart that leads to certain death. This is why it is so important to study God’s Word and to walk according to the spirit daily! Do you want victory from sin in your life today? If you want victory from sin, if you want to begin living according to the spirit as the Apostle Paul wrote, you can begin by placing your faith in Yeshua the Messiah today, right this moment. Begin to walk in God’s ways by taking the first steps of faith. The first step begins by faith in God and in His Messiah, Yeshua, God’s only begotten Son. Also, for those who already believe in Yeshua, if you want to begin new, come say the following prayer with me. Let’s pray!

Heavenly Father,

Your Word is truly a light unto our feet! Lord, I recognize the depth and wickedness of sin within my heart. Please have mercy upon me. I take the first steps in faith, that You sent Your Son

to make and everlasting covenant in His blood upon the cross. Please have mercy on me Lord; please forgive me of my sins because of what Yeshua (Jesus) has done on my behalf. I believe Yeshua died for my sins and that He is the promised Messiah! Cleanse me from all sin Lord in Yeshua's name. Help me set my feet on the path of righteousness and walk in the spirit by the help of Your Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit). I want to be Your disciple and Your dwelling place, I want to be filled with all of You Lord. I am tired of being filled with wickedness in my heart. Lord, beginning today I want to sanctify your Name, Your Word, Your Son, and all that You are in my body for Your glory. Help me to begin living according to Your will. I no longer want to defile this body, the holy place of God. Sanctify me in Your Word and in Your Son Yeshua. Thank You Lord for everything You have done for me. In all things, I give You the glory, the honor, and the praise forever and ever.

In Yeshua's (Jesus') Name I pray!

Amen

What to pray:

- *Ask the Lord to increase your faith and joy that is found in Him.*
- *Ask the Lord to help you to set your feet on the path of righteousness, the straight and narrow path.*
- *Thank the Lord for lifting the burden of sin and revealing His truth in this day and age of unbelief.*

Be Blessed in Yeshua, Christ our Messiah!

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
"Yeshua" King Messiah forever and ever