

Parashat Kedoshim / פרשת קדשים

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Patience and Holiness?

This Weeks Reading List:

Torah: Leviticus 19:1-20:27

Haftarah: Amos 9:7-9:15

B'rit HaChadashah: 1 Corinthians 6:9-20 1 Peter 1:13-16

Certainly the scriptures teach that unrighteous people will have no share in the kingdom of G-d. The word used is literally "inherit" in *1 Corinthians 6:9 Don't you know that unrighteous people will have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don't delude yourselves - people who engage in sex before marriage, who worship idols, who engage in sex after marriage with someone other than their spouse, who engage in active or passive homosexuality, (CJB)* (*הָאֵם לֹא יִדְעוּתָם כִּי בְנֵי-עוֹלָה לֹא יִירָשׁוּ אֶת-מַלְכוּת הָאֱלֹהִים אֲלֵהֶם אֵלֶּהֶם אֲלֵהֶם אֶת-נַפְשָׁם כָּל-בֶּן זְנוּנִים אוֹ עַבְדֵי אֱלֹהִים אוֹ-מְנַאֲפֵי אוֹ-קַדְוָשִׁים (אוֹ-נִתְּנֵי שְׂכָרָתָם בְּזָכָר :*) In 1 Corinthians Shaul (the apostle Paul) is not saying that a single infraction (infringement, contravention, breach, violation, transgression) will cause a person to lose his salvation rather, a person who continually leads a life of sin who are habitual sinners who go on committing one or more of the enumerated sins, sexual immorality etc and refuse to give up their sin and move forward towards a holy and sanctified life; this person will not inherit the kingdom of G-d. The point is the person shows by their behavior they are not part of HaShem's people. *1 John 3:9 No one who has God as his Father keeps on sinning, because the seed planted by God remains in him. That is, he cannot continue sinning, because he has God as his Father. (CJB)* Mere mental acceptance to doctrines found in the scriptures such as the Messiah-ship of Yeshua is not sufficient because as the scriptures say "Faith without actions is dead" (see James 2:26). We must live out what we believe, if we do not live out (our faith) what we say that we believe it has not become real in our lives. I believe this is the primary reason why HaShem commanded the people to be holy. Once one places their faith in Yeshua that his blood was shed for our transgressions, our lives change, and we begin to live holy before a Holy G-d.

Leviticus 19:1-2

19:1 ADONAI said to Moshe, 19:2 "Speak to the entire community of Isra'el; tell them, 'You people are to be holy because I, ADONAI your God, am holy. 19:3 "Every one of you is to revere his father and mother, and you are to keep my Shabbats; I am ADONAI your God. (CJB)

Leviticus 19:2

דִּבֶּר אֱלֹהִים-כָּל-עֲצַת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם קֹדֶשׁ תִּהְיֶינּוּ כִּי קֹדֶשׁ וְשׁ אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:

The Hebrew word used here in *Leviticus 19:2* is “תהייו” which means to be, take place, become, turn into; the Hebrew scriptures are telling us to become holy “because I, Adonai your G-d is Holy.” This commandment is twofold; (i) it demonstrates our physical condition and separation from a Holy G-d and that we need to be consciously living a holy life and (ii) we need “to be holy.” This is a scriptural pointer or indicator of what is going to take place in our lives. Becoming holy is a process that HaShem is working in all our lives. However, have you ever considered that we can be outwardly holy but not so much inwardly, kind of like going through the motions? While reading further into the parsha, through *Leviticus 19:11-16* verse 14 spoke to me about inward holiness:

Leviticus 19:11-16

19:11 "Do not steal from, defraud or lie to each other. 19:12 Do not swear by my name falsely, which would be profaning the name of your God; I am ADONAI. 19:13 Do not oppress or rob your neighbor; specifically, you are not to keep back the wages of a hired worker all night until morning. 19:14 "Do not speak a curse against a deaf person or place an obstacle in the way of a blind person; rather, fear your God; I am ADONAI. 19:15 "Do not be unjust in judging - show neither partiality to the poor nor deference to the mighty, but with justice judge your neighbor. 19:16 "Do not go around spreading slander among your people, but! also don't stand idly by when your neighbor's life is at stake; I am ADONAI. (CJB)

My curiosity was peeked in verse 14 because I am wondering why there would need to be a command to not curse against a deaf person and not to put an obstacle in the way of a blind person; furthermore, why these commands would be juxtaposed to fear G-d.

Is the wickedness of man so horrible to intentionally despise someone for being deaf and blind to curse and cause hardship?

I am sure there may be someone out there who would be like this, however, its application to a broader community of people I believe deals with selfishness and patience towards others. In our selfish and impatient attitudes it is very easy to despise someone in our heart.

Patience

We all struggle with being impatient. I believe being impatient and falling into sin follow hand in hand. Impatience leads to anger, which leads to hatred, when uncontrolled can lead to murder. Impatience always leads to unhealthy choices, for example, Moshe was on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights and eventually the children of Israel grew impatient while Moshe delayed and decided to create a god for themselves out of gold.

It is Hashem's power in our lives that develops patience towards others like it says

in *Colossians 1:11* "We pray that you will be continually strengthened with all the power that comes from his glorious might; so that you will be able to persevere and be patient in any situation, joyfully." (לְהִתְאַזֵּר בְּכֹל-עֹז כְּעִז כְּבוֹדוֹ לְכָל-תּוֹחֶלֶת וְאֵיךְ רוּחַ בְּלֵב שְׂמֵחַ:) Patience is an essential part of our walk in Yeshua the Messiah. Take the following examples:

Examples of patience

- (i) Trusting in HaShem's goodness, and his divine providence.
- (ii) Allowing trials to purify our character
- (iii) Resting in HaShem's timing, and
- (iv) Waiting for Yeshua's glorious return develops patience and perseverance in our lives.

In the Torah we see how impatience leads itself both against the Lord and against His servant Moshe. Expressions of discontentment, dissatisfaction, and resentment cause distraction and lead to divisions. Patience is having a contentment of heart looking to the lord of the covenant. Though HaShem is working in our lives to develop patience towards others, we have to also play an active role in this process which follows with his command to us to be holy as He is Holy.

Remember, if we are dwelling in Him (Yeshua) and He in us, then He has given us His Spirit (Ruach) and so should have a desire to live holy before the Lord. Now, in Yeshua we are counted righteous before G-d, but living a holy life is another story. Are we counted holy if we are not living a holy life according to the Torah? The challenge is to live out our lives in holiness the question is how do we live in holiness? It is easy to accept doctrine; it is difficult to live out our faith. Praise G-d we have such a wonderful salvation in His Messiah Yeshua but remember, it doesn't end there, we must live a life of faith, and to live a life of faith is to live a life of holiness before a Holy God.

Be Blessed in Yeshua 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