

Parashat Shelach Lekha / פרשת שלח-לך

Shabbat Sivan 23, 5767, June 9, 2007

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This Weeks Reading List:

Torah: Num 13:1-15:41

Haftarah: Josh 2:1-2:24

B'rit HaChadashah: Heb 3:7-4:1

Numbers 13:25-14:3

13:25 Forty days later, they returned from reconnoitering the land 13:26 and went to Moshe, Aharon and the entire community of the people of Isra'el at Kadesh in the Pa'ran Desert, where they brought back word to them and to the entire community and showed them the fruit of the land. 13:27 What they told him was this: "We entered the land where you sent us, and indeed it does flow with milk and honey - here is its fruit 13:28 However the people living in the land are fierce, and the cities are fortified and very large. Moreover, we saw the 'Anakim there. 13:29 'Amalek lives in the area of the Negev; the Hitti, the Y'vusi and the Emori live in the hills; and the Kena'ani live by the sea and alongside the Yarden." 13:30 Kalev silenced the people around Moshe and said, "We ought to go up immediately and take possession of it; there is no question that we can conquer it." 13:31 But the men who had gone with him said, "We can't attack those people, because they are stronger than we are"; 13:32 and they spread a negative report about the land they had reconnoitered for the people of Isra'el by saying, "The land we passed through in order to spy it out is a land that devours its inhabitants. All the people we saw there were giant 13:33 We saw the N'filim, the descendants of 'Ana! k, who was from the N'filim; to ourselves we looked like grass hoppers by comparison, and we looked that way to them too!" 14:1 At this all the people of Isra'el cried out in dismay and wept all night long. 14:2 Moreover, all the people of Isra'el began grumbling against Moshe and Aharon; the whole community told them, "We wish we had died in the land of Egypt! or that we had died here in the desert! 14:3 Why is ADONAI bringing us to this land, where we will die by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will be taken as booty! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?" (CJB)

Here we can see the diabolical plan of the deceiver (HaSatan) trying to get Israel to not hear the voice of God through doubt. Doubt can place road blocks into our relationship with God, in our spiritual growth, it can even stand in the way of our receiving God's plan and blessing in our lives, and lead to continued unanswered prayer. In parsha Shelach Lekha, we see how doubt and stubbornness caused the children of Israel to fall out of God's will for their lives.

This area where doubt reared its ugly legs is in Israel's relationship with the Lord. Another relationship where doubt can work is in the marriage relationship. Some of us are in a relationship which has gone on for years and years that is dysfunctional; such as a lack of love, respect, understanding, and steadfastness. I have even heard brothers in the

faith make statements like: "At least I am not someone who stays and remains in a relationship that is a lost cause." The point I want to talk about is doubt. In this example, if you believe something is a lost cause why bother even praying? All the prayer in the world is not going to do anything until we once again believe in the power of God and God's ability to work miracles. Not only working miracles in our hearts and in our lives emotionally speaking, but also physically in our bodies. I would go as far as to say don't even bother praying for people if your heart is not right towards them. This is why Yeshua taught if you held something against your brother go make it right before offering your sacrifice before the Lord in the Temple. (*Matt5:23-24 So if you are offering your gift at the Temple altar and you remember there that your brother has something against you, leave your gift where it is by the altar, and go, make peace with your brother. Then come back and offer your gift. (CJB)*)

One thing we can do is ask the Lord to increase our faith and to help perfect our faith without doubt in his power and abilities.

The scriptures have a lot to say about relationships, this is the whole point of our created purpose, to have a relationship with God. The scriptures also talk about the marriage relationship. Ephesians chapter 5 starts out by telling us to live a life of love just as Yeshua loved us. The chapter ends speaking about the marriage relationship, between a husband and wife. How the wives should submit to their husbands, and how the husbands should love their wives. Notice how more is said to the husband, than what is said to the wife.

Ephesians5:1-31

5:1 So imitate God, as his dear children; 5:2 and live a life of love, just as also the Messiah loved us, indeed, on our behalf gave himself up as an offering, as a slaughtered sacrifice to God with a pleasing fragrance. 5:3 Among you there should not even be mentioned sexual immorality, or any kind of impurity, or greed; these are utterly inappropriate for God's holy people. 5:4 Also out of place are obscenity and stupid talk or coarse language; instead, you should be giving thanks. 5:5 For of this you can be sure: every sexually immoral, impure or greedy person - that is, every idol-worshipper - has no share in the Kingdom of the Messiah and of God. 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty talk; for it is because of these things that God's judgment is coming on those who disobey him. 5:7 So don't become partners with them! 5:8 For you used to be darkness; but now, united with the Lord, you are light. Live like children of light, 5:9 for the fruit of the light is in every kind of goodness, rightness and truth - 5:10 try to determine what will please the Lord. 5:11 Have nothing to do with the deeds produced by darkness, but instead expose them, 5:12 for it is shameful even to speak of the things these people do in secret. 5:13 But everything exposed to the light is revealed clearly for what it is, 5:14 since anything revealed is a light. This is why it says, "Get up, sleeper! Arise from the dead, and the Messiah will shine on you!" 5:15 Therefore, pay careful attention to how you conduct your life - live wisely, not unwisely. 5:16 Use your time well, for these are evil days. 5:17 So don't be foolish, but try to understand what the will of the Lord is. 5:18

Don't get drunk with wine, because it makes you lose control. Instead, keep on being filled with the Spirit 5:19 sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to each other; sing to the Lord and make music in your heart to him; 5:20 always give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah. 5:21 Submit to one another in fear of the Messiah. 5:22 Wives should submit to their husbands as they do to the Lord; 5:23 because the husband is head of the wife, just as the Messiah, as head of the Messianic Community, is himself the one who keeps the body safe. 5:24 Just as the Messianic Community submits to the Messiah, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 5:25 As for husbands, love your wives, just as the Messiah loved the Messianic Community, indeed, gave himself up on its behalf, 5:26 in order to set it apart for God, making it clean through immersion in the mikveh, so to speak, 5:27 in order to present the Messianic Community to himself as a bride to be proud of, without a spot, wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and without defect. 5:28 This is how husbands ought to love their wives - like their own bodies; for the man who loves his wife is loving himself. 5:29 Why, no one ever hated his own flesh! On the contrary, he feeds it well and takes care of it, just as the Messiah does the Messianic Community, 5:30 because we are parts of his Body. 5:31 "Therefore a man will leave his father and mother and remain with his wife, and the two will become one." 5:32 There is profound truth hidden here, which I say concerns the Messiah and the Messianic Community. 5:33 However, the text also applies to each of you individually: let each man love his wife as he does himself, and see that the wife respects her husband. (CJB)

Doubt leads to complaining, and complaining angers the Lord. When we doubt and then complain we are essentially taking our sin and spreading it amongst our brothers and sisters, friends and/or family. Similarly, in the Torah, the people complained in doubt and spread doubt amongst the children of Israel. Then, God begins to work in our lives, in his form of corporal punishment. In order to get our attention, the Lord needs to cause some difficulty in our lives to wake us up. Most of the time, difficulties bring us back to repentance and we then turn from the way of sin in our lives and return to a right relationship with the Lord. In parsha shelach lekha the Lord does this by sending them into the desert for 40 years and the people who complained were not allowed to enter the Promised Land.

Numbers 14:20-34

14:20 ADONAI answered, "I have forgiven, as you have asked. 14:21 But as sure as I live, and that the whole earth is filled with the glory of ADONAI, 14:22 none of the people who saw my glory and the signs I did in Egypt and in the desert, yet tested me these ten times and did not listen to my voice, 14:23 will see the land I swore to their ancestors! None of those who treated me with contempt will see it. 14:24 But my servant Kalev, because he had a different Spirit with him and has fully followed me - him I will bring into the land he entered, and it will belong to his descendants. 14:25 "Now, since the 'Amaleki and the Kena'ani are living in the valley, tomorrow turn around and get yourselves into the desert along the way to the Sea of Suf." 14:26 ADONAI said to Moshe and Aharon, 14:27 "How long am I to put up with this evil community who keep grumbling about me? I have heard the complaints of the people of Isra'el, which they continue to raise against me. 14:28 Tell them this: 'As surely as I live, ADONAI swears,

as surely as you have spoken in my ears, I will do this to you: 14:29 your carcasses will fall in this desert! Every single one of you who were included in the census over the age of twenty, you who have complained against me, 14:30 will certainly not enter the land about which I raised my hand to swear that I would have you live in it - except for Kalev the son of Y'funeh and Y'hoshua the son of Nun. 14:31 But your little ones, who you said would be taken as booty - them I will bring in. They will know the land you have rejected. 14:32 But you, your carcasses will fall in this desert; 14:33 and your children will wander about in the desert for forty years bearing the consequences of your prostitutions until the desert eats up your carcasses. 14:34 It will be a year for every day you spent reconnoitering the land that you will bear the consequences of your offenses - forty days, forty years. Then you will know what it means to oppose me! (CJB)

In conclusion, Kalev and Yehoshua both had a different spirit, a spirit that fully followed the Lord. This spirit is one which does not doubt but completely believes in the power of God to deliver Israel from anything that may come their way. In Kalev and Yehoshua's case, they had to endure 40 years in the desert because of the sin of their brothers and sisters. We do not hear Kalev and Yehoshua complain about these peoples sin, or complain that they had to endure the 40 year journey in the wilderness. Only that after persevering 40 years they realized the blessing of God by entering into the Promised Land and taking their inheritance. In other words, Kalev and Yehoshua waited in obedience for God's plan to be fulfilled.

In the same way, as children of God in Yeshua Hamoshiach, it does not matter what may come our way in our life, we serve a mighty and all powerful God. Nothing is impossible to overcome or endure in our lives in Yeshua. Just like Kalev and Yehoshua, we have to take a stand for the Lord and persevere in obedience to God. If you persevere long enough, God is going to reward you greatly by seeing your friends, and family come to the Lord. I do not believe anyone is a lost cause. Doubt may come your way because of a relationship that is not perfect but God is working out and calling your spouse, your parents, and your friends by your example. I encourage you to continue keeping on in faith, and in love in Yeshua Hamoshiach.

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
"Yeshua" King Messiah for ever and ever