

## Parashat Yitro / פרשת יתרו

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### What is the church neglecting today?

#### **This Weeks Reading List:**

Torah: Exodus 18:1-20:23

Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6 9:5-9:6

B'rit HaChadashah: Matthew 5:8-20

Parashat Yitro is a very special one to me because it reminds me of the great importance of HaShem's Torah in our lives. In this week's parsha I want to talk to you about a problem that I find in the evangelistic methods of the church today. Did you know greater than 90% of those who are placing their faith in Yeshua in the church today, after 10 years have fallen away from their faith? Statistics have shown the dropout rate is even higher. What is wrong with normal modern evangelistic methods in the church today? The problem is the approach that church uses today as compared to the way Yeshua taught? An example of this method can be found in Mark chapter 10 when the rich young ruler come up to him and asked what he must do to obtain eternal life.

#### ***Mark 10:17***

*10:17 As he was starting on his way, a man ran up, kneeled down in front of him and asked, "Good rabbi, what should I do to obtain eternal life?" (CJB)*

Yeshua does not say: "Oh my friend, you have a G-d placed hole in your heart that only I can fill. Now if you will say this prayer, and ask me into your heart, I will give you love joy peace and you can go to heaven when you die."

No! Yeshua started by saying "why do you call me good, there is only one who is good and that is G-d. So what we find here is Yeshua correcting this man's understanding of the word "good" and its relationship with G-d. And the very next thing Yeshua did was point the rich young ruler to the Ten Commandments. Yeshua said, you know the law, you should not lie, you should not steal, you should not commit murder, and you should honor your mother and your father. And the young man said, I have kept all of those since my youth. And then Yeshua points the young man to the essence of the first and second commandments saying: "there is one thing you still lack, that you go and sell all that you have, and give to the poor, and then come and follow me." The rich young ruler then went away sad.

## Why do you think Yeshua talked to this young man the way he did by pointing him to the Torah?

Let's look at what modern evangelism says Yeshua should have done in what is called "non-confrontational evangelism." Yeshua should have said: "hey wait a moment, why don't you come with me and have some food, I would like to establish a no strings attached and non-confrontational relationship so that I can talk to you about the things in this life and eventually share with you how to be saved." No! Yeshua taught and pointed the ruler to the Torah. Why? The reason is the Torah converts the soul, it shows the person why they need the messiah, why we need a saviour.

### ***Psalms 19:7***

*19:7 The Torah of ADONAI is perfect, restoring the inner person. The instruction of ADONAI is sure, making wise the thoughtless. (CJB)*

What is it the scriptures say is perfect and converts the soul? The scriptures say The Torah of Adonai is perfect and converts the soul!

Let us take another example. If I were to approach a hardened sinner and point to them and tell them, that Yeshua Hamoshiach has died and his blood was shed for your sins! What would this person say? To this person what I have just said is foolishness and offensive to them. Foolish to them because it won't make sense and offensive because I am saying you are a sinner. The scriptures actually tell us that the preaching of the cross is foolishness to them who are perishing. It will not make sense because the man does not believe he has committed sin and in fact, as far as he is concerned, there are many people who are far worse than he is. But if we take the time to follow in the footsteps of Yeshua it may make more sense. If I take the time to open up the divine Torah and show the sinner that he has done wrong then he will do as James says:

### ***Jam2:9-10***

*2:9 But if you show favoritism, your actions constitute sin, since you are convicted under the Torah as transgressors. 2:10 For a person who keeps the whole Torah, yet stumbles at one point, has become guilty of breaking them all. (CJB)*

**"convicted under the Torah as transgressors"** the good news of the gospel of Yeshua will not be foolishness, and will no longer be offensive because they will recognize the need for salvation and recognizing one's own sin.

The tragedy of modern evangelism is leaving out the Torah in the method of evangelism and exchanging it for what I call "life enhancement." This life enhancement is the idea that we need to "attract people to the messiah" under love joy peace fulfilment and lasting happiness which is a very unscriptural ideology in evangelism. Now why do you think I would call this unscriptural? Because the person who does this when they place their faith in Yeshua Hamoshiach, as the modern gospel teaching says when you put on the Lord Yeshua you will receive love joy peace and happiness in other words, Yeshua will improve your life; and so the sinner responds in an sort of experimental way

putting on the saviour in order to see if the claims are true? And what does he get? He gets just what Yeshua promised, trials, tribulations, persecutions, people mocking, and then what does he do? He gets offended because he is mocked, becomes disillusioned and bitter. How can you blame him? He was promised love, joy, peace, and lasting happiness, and all he got was more trials and humiliation. So now he feels he is worse off than before, giving Yeshua a try and now all he has is a big letdown. The point is the sinner does not understand the supreme consequences of disobeying Hashem's Torah, and that HaShem calls all men to repent. If we continue to give people the wrong reason to accept and believe upon the Messiah, they will respond with the wrong motive lacking repentance and then they won't find peace with HaShem and they will not find the joy in Adonai. We need to have a biblical motive for placing our faith in the messiah, and we can do this simply by looking at the Ten Commandments. If someone does not know HaShem's Torah, they will not see that their sin is exceedingly sinful. So the question we ask is "do you think you are a good person?" Do you think you have kept the Ten Commandments?

## Let us examine the Ten Commandments

### עשרת הדברות / Ten Commandments

- I. *Exo20:2 I am ADONAI your G-d, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the abode of slavery. 20:3 You are to have no other G-ds before me. (CJB)*

Yeshua said that we should love Adonai so much, that there would be no other gods before the one true G-d. Have you placed anything in life above your relationship with Adonai? Do you trust in something more than you do Adonai? How about money, your job, or something else?

- II. *Exo20:4-6 You are not to make for yourselves a carved image or any kind of representation of anything in heaven above, on the earth beneath or in the water below the shoreline. 20:5 You are not to bow down to them or serve them; for I, ADONAI your G-d, am a jealous G-d, punishing the children for the sins of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 20:6 but displaying grace to the thousandth generation of those who love me and obey my mitzvot. (CJB)*

You could make a false god with your hands, or you could make one with your mind. Think about this for a second. Have you ever said this before? My god is a god of love and mercy, He is not a god of judgment and he would never send someone to Hell. Well if you have said that before then you are correct! Your god would never send someone to hell because he couldn't, because that god does not exist. He is a figment of your imagination, you have created a god in your own mind that you are more comfortable with, to suite your sins, and it is called idolatry. Some people call this their own belief however this fits the pattern of idol making according to the second commandment in the Torah. Remember, it is

written that those who are found in idolatry will not enter the kingdom of Heaven. How important is it now to understand who G-d is according to the scriptures so what you do not break this commandment?

*III. Exo20:7 "You are not to use lightly the name of ADONAI your G-d, because ADONAI will not leave unpunished someone who uses his name lightly. (CJB)*

Have you ever used G-d's name as a cuss word in a manner of disgust? Yeshua warned that every idol word that we use will be judged and we will have to give an account for in the Day of Judgment. The scriptures say the Lord will not hold him guiltless for those who have taken His name in vain.

*IV. Exo20:8 Remember the day, Shabbat, to set it apart for G-d. 20:9 You have six days to labor and do all your work, 20:10 but the seventh day is a Shabbat for ADONAI your G-d. On it, you are not to do any kind of work -not you, your son or your daughter, not your male or female slave, not your livestock, and not the foreigner staying with you inside the gates to your property. 20:11 For in six days, ADONAI made heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. This is why ADONAI blessed the day, Shabbat, and separated it for himself. (CJB)*

Have you ever said and thanked G-d for creating you? Have you ever taken the time out to honor G-d on his Shabbat to say to Adonai thank you for giving me life and giving me the opportunity to have fellowship and an intimate relationship with you Adonai? I know that I have violated this commandment, and I think everyone has to one extent or another.

*V. Exo20:12 Honor your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land which ADONAI your G-d is giving you. (CJB)*

Have you always honored your parents explicitly in a way that is pleasing to the Adonai? I know that I have said and done things that did not bring honor to my parents in the past. If you think long enough I am certain you can remember doing something that was less than honorable to your parents.

*VI. Exo20:13 Do not murder. (CJB)*

Most of us think that we are innocent of this one. However, Yeshua told us that anyone who is angry with his brother is in danger of the judgment. And the bible says that he who hates his brother is a murderer.

*VII. Exo20:14 Do not commit adultery. (CJB)*

Yeshua said that if you have even looked upon a woman and lusted after her you have committed adultery.

*VIII. Exo20:15 Do not steal. (CJB)*

Have you ever stolen anything? When I was young I had stolen some quarters from a video arcade machine. I believe that it is possible to even steal someone else's joy by being mean and hard hearted towards others, what do you think?

*IX. Exo20:16 Do not give false evidence against your neighbor. (CJB)*

Have you ever lied?

*X. Exo20:17 Do not covet your neighbor's house; do not covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female slave, his ox, his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor. (CJB)*

Coveting, being jealous for things, desiring what your neighbor has or to be and have things like your neighbor. Remember, G-d even sees our thought life and sees the evil things we do in darkness. Especially in the darkness of our hearts.

**Can you see how just the commandments makes us guilty.  
If HaShem gave you justice where do you think you would be?**

Would you give your eye for a million dollars? Probably not right? Yeshua told us that you should despise the value of your eye over the value of your soul. When it comes to our own personal witness to others, our life and walk of faith in the messiah Yeshua we are called to live like Yeshua taught us. Also, in our ministry to others we need to do so as Yeshua taught us to ensure true repentant faith. We do this by using HaShem's Holy Torah. To understand how Yeshua taught us to minister to others we need to look at the various examples while Yeshua spoke with people during his ministry. An example I would like to use is found in the Gospel of John chapter 4. Breaking down the story of the woman at the well, we can find Yeshua's method of reaching out to the lost.

**Yeshua's methodology**

**(Example: John 4, The woman at the well )**

1. Yeshua first related to the woman in the natural realm, talking about natural things
2. Then Yeshua swings to the spiritual realm discussing spiritual things
3. Yeshua then brings conviction using the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment on adultery.
4. And then reveals himself as the Messiah.

**Conclusion**

With the woman at the well, Yeshua did not see an adulterous woman. He saw a woman entrapped in her sin just like he sees you and I entrapped in our sins. HaShem knows our sin because he knows our hearts. HaShem challenges us to go and sin no more, challenges us to life and intimacy with Him, and then continues to love us! Sin

says I just want to get into your life and steer you in my direction away from intimacy with G-d who you were created for. Sin does not care who you are, what you have done, the network you have established or what your profession is. Sin wants to take and twist your understanding of the nature of its effects on your life and relationship with Adonai. This is why it is so important to study Hashem's holy Torah. In this day and age of no absolute truth, it becomes difficult to talk to people about the gospel especially when sin is not called sin today. I believe we need to return to the way Yeshua taught us in our ministry towards others, because if we do not know HaShem's Torah, we will not see our lives as being sinful, and not see a need for a saviour.

### **Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!**

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**הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:**

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