

FAMILY BREAKDOWN-THE REMEDY-WEEK FIVE

Written by Rabbi Philip Hammond.. Posted in Reconciliation 2015-2016

“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadows.” James 1:16-17

[NASB]

As we enter into week five there is one theme that I am trying to bring to the surface. As a nation and a people, we [Biblical citizens of Israel] must understand that every good and perfect gift comes from our Father, the Holy One of Israel.

The remedies that will heal the schism between the Houses/Kingdoms of Israel must come from the Father. He is the only One that can provide us with the perfect solution. Only HaShem has perfect love and only HaShem has perfect mercy and grace. We are far from having these perfect attributes, hence our “family” breakdown. Our problems are those of pride and self importance. These are challenges that we the children of Israel have yet to conquer. Yet as the chosen nation, we have an obligation to conquer them, as after all are we not the very people to represent the Holy One of Israel, blessed be He.

In our present world where change is everywhere and a given constant, the use of common sense and simplicity has been overlooked and often frowned upon. A good dose of common sense and simplicity is what the Children of Israel require. We have made our lives and the lives of those around us so complicated we have lost sight of the beauty and wisdom found in common sense and simplicity. Judah who has been the guardian of the Torah has made the keeping thereof so complicated and burdensome that they have struggled to have their own tribe members follow in their footsteps. I am convinced that in trying to protect the people from straying from the Torah, Judah has instead created a stumbling block. Orthodox Judaism has introduced so many “Rabbinic” rules and regulations that it is impossible to keep the Torah they promote. This has caused confusion and dissent amongst the House and many either choose to leave or keep well away from the “family” environment of Judah.

Yeshua commented on this issue!

Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?” He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honours Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ For laying aside the commandments of God, you hold the tradition of men - the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.” He said to them, “All too well you set aside the commandment of God, that you may well keep your tradition.” Mark 7:6-9 [NKJV]

“Making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.” Mark 7:13 [NKJV]

Yeshua is pointing out that the Pharisees and scribes have lost sight of the biblical Torah of HaShem. Instead they have inserted their own rules and regulations before and above the biblical Torah of Moshe. Judah often points out to Ephraim the importance of the Oral Torah. In doing this it is claimed that it is only through the Oral Torah that one can understand the written Torah of Moshe, hence the need to submit to Judah on all Torah matters. If all the Children of Israel submitted to the “Pharisees and Scribes” of Judah on all matters of Torah, then we would never know Yeshua as HaMoshiach. This type of behaviour whilst appearing pious and Godly is actually a result of pride stemming from a position of self importance. We need to be very aware of falling into the trap of having an unbalanced and inflated opinion of our position in the family structure. Whatever role or position HaShem has given us is due to His sovereign choice, His grace and mercy and His love for Israel. It is not due to our own greatness or righteousness because as Isaiah well said:

“But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.” Isaiah 64:6 [NKJV]

Self importance blocks the love of HaShem flowing through our actions. If we do not have the love of HaShem, then we will fail in our “House hold” duties.

We began this short article with a reminder that every good and perfect gift comes down from our Father in heaven. We should be looking for the perfect gift that will heal the schism between the family members. For over 3000 years we have been trying our own home recipes and remedies. These have not only failed to heal the broken home, but have added to the problem. To continue along the same self centred path hoping for a different outcome makes little or no sense. If we want a different outcome then we need to change directions. This is simple basic common sense.

One of the challenges we have is the Children [Both Houses] continuing in their reluctance to reconcile with one another. This stems from the fact that deep down both believe they have no need to correct their ways. When I make such a statement I am speaking in general terms. There are a few from both Houses beginning to realise there is need of change. However the majority within both Houses believe that it is the other that is in need of this change. This behaviour is a mirror image of many family breakdowns. Instead of focusing on the real issues, the parties try and shun responsibilities and endeavour to shift any blame to the other party. If we continue to do this then our separation will continue and we will not bring glory to our Father’s name.

So we have a responsibility to seek the remedy that our Father has offered for our reconciliation. This is not only a remedy for reconciliation between the Two Houses/Kingdoms but a remedy that brings reconciliation between the Father and His children. Please understand that biblical reconciliation between the Two Houses cannot take place outside of the Father’s instructions. If reconciliation takes place between the Two Houses outside of HaShem’s instructions, then there will be no intimate relationship with the Father.

So we must ask what gifts has the Father supplied from above that will provide us with the answer on reconciliation. I am confident to say that any gifts the Father has supplied to His people are gifts wrapped in the gift paper of love. Love is the foundation of life. HaShem is the Creator of life and therefore He is the Creator of love. Both Houses claim to love God, but we must question that claim if we have this reluctance for biblical reconciliation. At this stage we ask the question: What allows HaShem to grant forgiveness to such wayward rebellious children as us? The answer of course is love. If we have been born of God, then we must have biblical love running through our veins.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” 1John 4:7-8 [NKJV]

So we are entitled to ask the question: How has God actually shown and manifested His love for His wayward children. Out of all the gifts He has given His children, what gift best demonstrates this love?

“In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” 1John 4:9-11 [NKJV]

Then we have the Master Himself giving confirmation of God’s love:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” John 3:16-21 [NKJV]

HaMoshiach Yeshua is the perfect gift from above. Yet both Houses refuse to accept this gift. Yes I did say both Houses. We will elaborate on this a little more next week. Until then please remember!

Truly there is no God like our God, the God of Israel and no nation like the Nation whom He elected.

Blessings to all citizens of biblical Israel,

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