

FAMILY BREAKDOWN - THE REMEDY - WEEK NINE

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

Most times when a “breakdown” in a relationship occurs it requires a mediator to help repair the damage. The problems in this world we now live in are enormous. There are relationship breakdowns in every corner of the planet. There are the global breakdowns between countries. There are breakdowns within the borders of individual countries between citizens. There are breakdowns within communities. There are breakdowns between families, friends, work colleagues, social clubs, political parties and the list goes on. I doubt if there has ever been a time in history when the numbers have been higher in the “counselling” profession. We have mediators in the political arena, we have marriage counsellors, we have school counsellors, we have work counsellors, we have criminal counsellors, we have religious counsellors and the numbers of institutions offering counselling courses is staggering. Yet despite all these numbers and educational facilities, the need for counsellors is increasing well beyond plain population increase. The fact of the matter is despite all these good intentions the world is becoming more immoral and violent as each day passes. There are some points we can conclude from this. The counselling is erroneous and therefore the mediators have little impact, the audience is not listening or both.

It is no different when we come to the subject of reconciliation between Judah and Ephraim, the Two Houses of Israel. The reasons we have not overcome our differences and become a cohesive nation is because either we have not had good counsel or we have not listened or both. As the Elohim of Israel is perfect and His counsel is perfect, then it goes to reason we have not listened or not listened to the correct counsel. As we have discussed, the need for reconciliation to the Holy One of Israel first and foremost is vital before we can hope for reconciliation. Should we not then view the counsel that will bring us to this point. The question is: Who is the mediator that can reconcile us with HaShem? Who is the mediator that has the correct counselling program? Who is the counsellor that has received the correct instructions from The Almighty, the Holy One of Israel, blessed be He? Who is the counsellor that has both the authority and patience to handle this essential task? This question is not a foreign concept, as Moshe fulfilled this

role. Moshe had the correct counsel, but Israel had difficulty in listening and accepting this counsel from on High. One of the reasons history is recorded is so we can learn from it. It seems as yet, we the Children of Israel are still ignoring the lessons of history. None the less we still have a chance to do so, let us grasp this chance whilst we are still favoured with grace from HaShem. History records the Pharisee Shaul/Paul giving the following testimony and counsel to a young man who was going into a situation that would no doubt require counselling skills.

“This charge, son Timothy, I put to you, in keeping with the prophecies already made about you, so that by these prophecies you may fight the good fight, armed with trust and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, some have made shipwreck of their trust; among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander. I have turned them over to the Adversary, so that they will learn not to insult God. First of all, then, I counsel that petitions, prayers, and intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all human beings, including kings and all in positions of prominence; so that we may lead quiet and peaceful lives, being godly and upright in everything. This is what God, our Deliverer, regards as good; this is what meets His approval. He wants all humanity to be delivered and come to the full knowledge of the truth. For God is one, and there is but one Mediator between God and humanity, Yeshua the Messiah, himself human, who gave himself as a ransom on behalf of all, thus providing testimony to God’s purpose at just the right time. This is why I myself was appointed a proclaimer, even an emissary, - I am telling the truth, not lying! – a trustworthy and truthful teacher of the Goyim.” 1Timothy 1:18-2:7 [CJB]

There are some important points we shall take into account [from the above scriptures] concerning our subject of reconciliation. Firstly it is the fact that Shaul, the Pharisee, has named Yeshua as both HaMoshiach and as The Mediator between God and His “subjects”. The other vital point we must appreciate is the one of timing. A mediator is most successful when the timing is perfect. All parties involved must be in a position that gives the mediator the best chance to be successful in completing the task set down.

Both Houses of Israel have a high percentage of people eagerly awaiting the coming of HaMoshiach. One reason for the excitement and enthusiasm is the belief He will provide the means by which all the Children of Israel will live in harmony under the guidance and instructions of HaShem within eretz Israel. HaMoshiach is our perfect counsellor, and He will counsel according to the Torah of HaShem. Sha’ul has given us the name of HaMoshiach, this One, ordained by God and who came at the perfect time as the

suffering servant or as Moshiach Ben Yoseph. He is the perfect Mediator between fallen humanity and HaShem. Not only is He the perfect Mediator, but we are told the Messiah is also the perfect counsellor.

“A staff will emerge from the stump of Jesse and a shoot will sprout from his roots. The spirit of HASHEM will rest upon him – a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of HASHEM.” Isaiah 11:1-2 [AST]

Almost all commentators from both Judah and Ephraim take this to be speaking of the Messiah. Not all would agree that it is Yeshua, but as said most agree it is speaking of the Messiah. Regardless HaMoshiach will certainly have the spirit of HaShem rest upon him, giving him Godly wisdom, Godly understanding, Godly strength, Godly knowledge and Godly counsel. When we consider these attributes bestowed upon HaMoshiach by HaShem, should we not be listening and acting on any counsel given by the Messiah?

Some within the House of Judah are beginning to consider the possibility that Yeshua could at least be Moshiach Ben Yoseph, who has come to lead the “Lost Tribes” back to HaShem. If this is the case and I believe it to be so, then His counsel needs to be listened too and acted upon. The counsel of Yeshua is in perfect step with HaShem, as HaMoshiach will always follow the instructions that HaShem has for His people.

If you were to ask committed Christians which commandments should we follow, the majority would respond with:

“..You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,...you must love your neighbour as yourself.”Matthew 22:37-39 [CJB]

These commandments come from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, therefore the House of Judah would be in agreement. Both Houses believe they are adhering to these commandments, yet we do not witness the fruit such adherence would bear.

We know HaShems instructions are perfect and if followed bear good fruit. So something is not right and that something lies with the conduct of both Houses.

Yeshua spoke about “fruit bearing.”

“Beware of false prophets who come to you disguised as sheep but underneath are ravenous wolves. You will be able to tell them by their fruits. Can people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, a sound tree produces good fruit but a rotten tree bad fruit. A sound tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor a rotten tree good fruit. Any tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown on the fire. I repeat, you will be able to tell them by their fruits.” Matthew 7:15-20 [NJB]

“There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. Every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. Good people draw what is good from the store of goodness in their hearts; bad people draw what is bad from the store of badness. For the words of the mouth flow out of what fills the heart.” Luke 6:43-45 [NJB]

Before those from each House accuse the other of being the tree that bears bad fruit it might be appropriate to take a step back and view the situation “on the ground.” Regardless of our thoughts and opinions, HaShem has allowed each House to take the journeys taken thus far. We are a scattered nation awaiting our return to the Promised Land, but we are a nation that has been divided and one that has produced some good and bad fruit. How can this be, when we are told a good/sound tree cannot produce bad/rotten fruit and a rotten/bad tree cannot produce sound/good fruit? James addresses this question when addressing his audience.

“Only a few of you, my brothers, should be teachers, bearing in mind that we shall receive a stricter judgement. For we all trip up in many ways. Someone who does not trip up in speech has reached perfection and is able to keep the whole body on a tight rein. Once we put a bit in the horse’s mouth, to make it do what we want, we have the whole animal under control. Or think of ships: no matter how big they are, even if a gale is driving them, they are directed by a tiny rudder wherever the whim of the helmsman decides. So the tongue is only a tiny part of the body, but its boasts are great. Think how small a flame can set fire to a huge forest; the tongue is a flame too. Among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a whole wicked world; it infects the whole body; catching fire itself from hell, it sets fire to the whole wheel of creation. Wild animals and birds, reptiles and fish of every kind can all be tamed, and have been tamed, by humans; but nobody can tame the tongue – it is a pest that will not keep still, full of deadly poison. We use it to bless the Lord and Father, but also use it to curse people who are made in God’s image: the blessing and curses come out of the same mouth. My brothers, this must be

wrong – does any water supply give a flow of fresh water and salt water out of the same pipe? Can a fig tree yield olives, my brothers, or a vine yield figs? No more can sea water yield fresh water.

Anyone who is wise or understanding among you should from a good life give evidence of deeds done in gentleness of wisdom. But if at heart you have the bitterness of jealousy, or self ambition, do not be boastful or hide the truth with lies; this is not the wisdom that comes from above, but earthly, human and devilish. Wherever there are jealousy and ambition, there are also disharmony and wickedness of every kind; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially pure; it is peaceable, kindly and considerate; it is full of mercy and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. The peace sown by peacemakers brings a harvest of justice.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Is it not precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you lack it; so you kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. It is because you do not pray that you do not receive; when you do pray and you do not receive, it is because you prayed wrongly, wanting to indulge your passions.” James 3:1-4:3 [NJB]

James answers the question as to how we can bear both sound and rotten fruit. He correctly points out that all our sound fruit is a result of wisdom from above, in other words our sound fruit comes from biblical Torah. On the other hand all our rotten fruit comes from selfish self centred ambitions, driven by the lusts of our “love” of sin. When we are enticed and led by our own selfish ambitions we become enemies of HaShem. James goes on to say.

“Adulterers! Do you not realise that love for the world is hatred for God? Anyone who chooses the world for a friend is constituted an enemy of God. Can you not see the point of the saying in the scripture, ‘The longing of the spirit He sent to dwell in us is a jealous longing.’? But He has given us an even greater grace, as scripture says: God opposes the proud but He accords His favour to the humble. Give in to God, then; resist the devil, and he will run away from you. The nearer you go to God, the nearer God will come to you. Clean your hands, you sinners, and clear your minds, you waverers. Appreciate your wretchedness, and weep for it in misery. Your laughter must be turned to grief, your

happiness to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will lift you up.” James 4:4-10 [NJB]

As a nation, as a people, if we are ever to become the nation HaShem has ordained us to be, then we must humble ourselves before Him and pray to receive His favour. This is no easy task, it should be and is in fact a simple task, but we find it a difficult task. All of our problems are associated with our sin as a nation. Godly individuals have problems because they are biblically connected to a sinful nation. Our nation is under a form of Judgement from HaShem, so this has an effect on individuals, groups and communities. I guess the holocaust is a historical reminder of this. Sadly some of those who underwent this harrowing experience lost their faith in HaShem. Personally I can understand this, yet at the same time as a nation and as a people we cannot expect the full protection of HaShem when we are in such rebellion and disunity. If we are looking for someone to blame for such harrowing and evil conduct against us, then we should check our behaviour as Children of the Almighty. James also tells us a “home truth” we would be well advised to absorb.

“There is but one Giver of Torah; He is also judge, with the power to deliver and destroy.” James 4:12 [CJB]

There are people from both Houses of Israel who are committed to HaShem, the Holy One of Israel. These same people want to bear sound fruit, and long to be good and faithful servants of HaShem. The good news is that we can produce sound fruit. However this can only be done if we allow HaShem to be in control. We must follow His instructions on how to prepare the ground, when to sow, when to water, what food to apply and when to apply it. We must be on the lookout for weeds, but this means we must be able to identify those weeds that are a danger to the crop.

As a farmer I know the importance of sound animal husbandry and agricultural practices. If these are not followed you will eventually run into trouble. You can ignore weeds in your crops and pasture for a time without serious consequences, but left unchecked it will spell disaster. You can ignore good animal husbandry but this will bring ruin to your animals and yourself. Correct instructions must be followed if you are to have healthy crops and animals. None the less without a “love” for your animals and crops, you will take short cuts and run out of energy to carry out the necessary tasks. Love for your animals will prevent you from treating them badly. The level of “love” you have for your

crops and pasture will determine the number of weeds you have growing in them. None the less even if you have all these necessary components in place, you must still rely on HaShem to bring about the perfect conditions at the perfect time to ensure a successful enterprise. No water from above and all will perish. Plague of insects and the crops will be destroyed. An untreatable disease infects your animals and they will die. Make no mistake HaShem is in complete control of all creation in the heavens and the earth. Most of “humanity” does not believe this to be the case, especially in this so called “enlightened age.” Others see this as a curse and are angry that HaShem is in control preventing them from getting their own way. Others acknowledge and love the fact HaShem is in control, because without Him in control, there would be no love and no hope.

Fellow citizens of biblical Israel let us engage in bearing sound fruit, fruit that brings the love of HaShem into our lives, a love that produces healthy life styles for our people and nation. Let us rid ourselves of that which opposes the instructions of HaShem and concentrate on applying His instructions to our lives. We do this by following the counsel of HaMoshiach, as He will bring us home to a Land prepared for us.

Yeshua said: “Love God with all your heart and with all your soul and love your neighbour as yourself.”

You may well ask: How do we do this? Go study and apply Torah and you will achieve.

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,

Rabbi, [Prof] Philip Hammond. PhD.