

FAMILY BREAKDOWN – THE REMEDY – WEEK TWENTY ONE.

This week there was a change in our weather. We went from having temperatures in the mid 30deg C to conditions we needed a fire to keep warm. When this happens it can be a “shock” to the system and often we find ourselves underprepared. There is a mad scramble to find wood, and you often find yourself cutting wood in the wind, rain and cold because you were underprepared and didn’t expect the conditions to change so soon. It is not that you didn’t know these conditions were coming as the colder months always follow the warmer months, just as the warmer months follow the colder months. So ignorance is no excuse in this case. It is a case of misjudgment and neglect. The misjudgment came about, because the conditions changed quicker than one expected or hoped for. The neglect was due to ignoring the realities that the colder conditions are more than possible at the time, in fact there is history to prove such conditions do occur. So we only have ourselves to blame for getting caught out and left in the cold. There was ample time to store up enough wood over the warmer months so when such conditions arrived the preparation was done and the conditions easily handled. This started me thinking about our preparations for the coming of HaMoshiach and the Kingdom of God. How well are we prepared? What have we chosen to ignore? What changes do we need to make in order for us to be not only prepared but in a condition to enjoy the coming transition?

If one is not prepared for the arrival of the colder months and conditions, they can be a harrowing time. However if one is prepared, not only are these months easier to cope with, they can give plenty of comfort and enjoyment as we sit in front of a fire and enjoy the company of others over a hot drink and some warm comfort food. Relaxing around a fire, bathing in its warmth and looking into the flickering flames can bring a wonderful atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. Imagine for a moment that such cold conditions arrived and the only available warmth or heat or cooking that was available was through the burning of wood. You could not flick on an electric switch, there was no gas available to start your heater or stove, the only product available was wood. However you neglected to build up your supply over the warmer months, so in fact your wood supply was nil. You were going to get around to it, but you had time, the colder months were some way off, or so you thought. You go to bed and the temperatures drop. You think that is good because you can have a good sleep instead of sweating through the night. You wake up in the morning and there is sleet, rain, hail and a strong icy wind blowing. It is freezing. You run outside to get some wood to start the fire and there is none. Then it dawns on you, that the only place you can obtain wood from is not accessible because of the conditions. You realise your neglect and misjudgment of timing has put you in a very vulnerable position, one where death could even occur. This has happened not because you were ignorant of the possible situation, but you chose to ignore it and delude yourself of the reality of the situation now at hand. This reminds me of a story or parable found in the book of Matthew.

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out and meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.” Matthew 25:1-13 [NKJV]

This is the Master Yeshua speaking to His Talmidim/Disciples so we can take it that there are important messages contained therein. Yeshua is not One for wasting words and speaking for the sake of speaking. When He speaks all the children of Israel should listen! So what can we learn and be reminded of when we read these words Yeshua spoke?

It is obvious that Yeshua is talking about the “Kingdom of Heaven” and the entering in thereof. So those of us who have a yearning to enter the Kingdom of Heaven should take notice. The Kingdom of Heaven is the abode where God dwells. It is the place where His presence is a constant, where the Shekinah Glory dwells. It is the place every child of Israel should want to dwell, no matter what or where it is. So again I say we need to take notice of what the Master is saying to us through this discussion with His Talmidim.

Do not underestimate Yeshua choosing to use the word “Virgins” and “bridegroom” in this parable. This was a deliberate choice of words to paint for us a plain picture. We have no need to try and bring forth meanings from sources such as Kabbalah to gain some new and exciting meaning to this parable. The plain and straight forward messages found within the scriptures provide us with the foundations required to prepare and build our faithfulness to HaShem. We must not underestimate the importance of building good solid foundations in preparation for entering the Kingdom of heaven. In the ANE culture the preparation virgins underwent before marriage was immense and very important for the “success” of the future relationship. If we view the reference to the oil as pointing to good preparation for coming into the Kingdom of Heaven/God, we can easily see the foolishness of not having enough oil to cover a change in circumstances.

The reference to the door closing to the “foolish virgins” is a wakeup call to those who believe they belong to the nation of Israel. Can we assume there will be a cut off point in opportunity to enter into the Kingdom of heaven?

“Seek the LORD while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:6-7 [NKJV]

Seeking HaShem whilst we have the opportunity is something we should not ignore. We must take advantage of the time we still have available to us. It is very possible that the door could be closed at a time we do not expect. So how do we prepare for the coming Kingdom of heaven? I would hope that the information and courses that JSIU provide would help in preparation. The biblical pattern is that HaShem has always provided teachers, prophets, and various leaders to help the people learn to seek the Kingdom of heaven. Sadly there is also a pattern that accompanies this, and that is the pattern of rejection of those teachers and leaders. In this day and age an example of this is the lack of Orthodox Jewish teachings in the Christian church. The tragedy of this is the people in these Christian organisations are actually being removed from the very teachings of HaMoshiach Yeshua. If you are removed from the teachings of the Messiah, then it is safe to say you will not be prepared to the extent one needs to be to enter the Kingdom of heaven.

A simple illustration of this lack of preparation is to ask: Which “constitution” will we be required to follow in the Kingdom of heaven? Will it be the constitutions/torah/instructions of the Christian Church or the constitution/Torah/instructions of HaShem? The leaders and the people of these Christian organisations would say they are following the instructions of HaShem, because they erroneously believe they are following in the footsteps of Yeshua/Jesus. As we have pointed out numerous times, the Christian Church of today is not following in the footsteps of Yeshua/Jesus. If they were they would not celebrate Christmas, Easter, worship on Sunday, ignore the Moedim, reject the “food laws” and the list continues. So their preparation for entering and living in the Kingdom of heaven is badly lacking. In actual fact a good argument could be raised that these organisations are not seeking the Kingdom of heaven, because they are rejecting the very constitution of this Kingdom. This is a huge stumbling block in the reconciliation process as surely we cannot expect those who keep or try and keep the Torah [HaShem’s Instructions] to accept the worship days and traditions attached to idols into their midst.

*“The Temple of God cannot compromise with false gods, and that is what we are – the temple of the living God. We have God’s word for it: **I shall fix my home among them and live among them; I will be their God and they will be my people. Get away from them, purify yourselves,** says the Lord. **Do not touch anything unclean, and***

then I shall welcome you. I shall be father to you, and you will be sons and daughters, to me, says the almighty Lord. Since these promises have been made to us, my dear friends, we should wash ourselves clean of everything that pollutes either body or spirit, bringing our sanctification to completion in the fear of God.
2Corinthians 6:16 – 7:1 [NJB]

If someone or some organisation claims to be the temple of the living God, then how can that someone or organisation become so at ease with accepting the worship days and traditions of idols? Once again the question needs to be asked: Would Yeshua engage in the act of Christmas? NO He would not, as this day is not a Moedim [Appointed time] of the Father. Yeshua would be engaging in Yom Teruah [the day this author **thinks** could be His birth]. Would Yeshua choose to engage in Pesach or Easter? The answer of course is Pesach, He would reject Easter. Yeshua worshipped on the Sabbath, not our Sunday. Yeshua ate “Kosher” foods. Yeshua attended every Moedim, because He is the One they all point to. In the above text HaShem tells His Children to purify themselves. He is telling us to clean up our act and come home to Him and hold dear His Moedim. He says; “**and then I shall welcome you**”. Like it or not, HaShem, the Holy One of Israel says that Christmas, Easter, Sunday worship, eating unclean foods, rejecting His appointed times are an abomination to Him, and the Children of Israel must cleanse themselves of these abominations. Could we ask, “Why is the Christian Church so stubborn in changing its ways of idolatry?” I suggest money, power, pride and dislike of Judah are at the root of their present position. It is a problem that only HaShem can and will address. There will be no reconciliation until each House gets its own “backyard” in order. The House of Ephraim must accept the Torah as its “rule of thumb”, before it has the audacity to point the finger at Judah. Judah has been given the task of guarding the Torah until HaMoshiach comes. Judah would be going against its God given mandate to accept a Moshiach who eats pigs, prawns and other unclean foods, worships on Christmas amongst the mistletoe and shakes the hand of fat men in red and white suits; encourages or even demands the Holy Sabbath is changed to Sunday. Judah would and must never accept a Moshiach found planting Easter eggs and kissing the Popes ring and feet. When will HaShem remove the scales off such blinded eyes? My fear is that a portion of the Christian people will have their hearts hardened as Pharaoh had his heart hardened. Once again I am so glad HaShem makes all the decisions associated with our final abode. We would get it so wrong on occasions. However this should not prevent us from moving forward in our preparation for the arrival of the Bridegroom.

It may seem I am being harsh on our Christian brothers and sisters, but it is mainly they who will be reading this particular work. I pray that they will come to see that the path they have taken over the past few thousand years is one that is not according to HaShems instructions. If Ephraim is to help Judah recognise Yeshua as HaMoshiach, even as Moshiach Ben Yoseph, then they will need to represent the true biblical Moshiach. They cannot expect Judah to embrace the

“Christian Jesus”. More importantly Christians are doing a great disservice to the One they claim to love and thus are creating a division that Yeshua came to break down.

Before we close this chapter, it is important that we note the great work both Houses have done in keeping some oil in their lamps. Let us be very frank and admit that without the Christian Church it is very likely that we would have no knowledge of Yeshua being HaMoshiach. Just as without Judah we would have no knowledge of the Torah and its importance to the Children of Israel. When you sit quietly and contemplate these issues, one can witness the Mighty Hand of HaShem in all these proceedings. Let us remind ourselves that we do not have the omniscience of HaShem and we would be well advised to attend to those matters that are our responsibility, one of which is to adhere to the Fathers instructions. Let each House work feverously to put their own house in order, before we try and arrange the others house. Let us take responsibility for our own actions and be prepared to test that which we do and follow against the holy Word of HaShem.

“But as soon as night fell, the brothers sent Sha’ul and Sila off to Berea. As soon as they arrived, they went to the synagogue. Now the people here were of nobler character than the ones in Thessalonica; they eagerly welcomed the message, checking the Tanakh every day to see if the things Sha’ul was saying were true. Many of them came to trust, as did a number of prominent Greek women and not a few Greek men. Acts 17:10-12 [CJB]

When we check a biblical claim or message against the Tanak we will have the scales removed from our eyes. When these scales have been removed, then we can clearly see both Yeshua and the Torah as echad. The biblical Yeshua does not violate Torah and the biblical Torah does not violate Yeshua.

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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