

FAMILY BREAKDOWN – THE REMEDY – WEEK TWENTY TWO.

It is without doubt that attempting to bring some form of reconciliation between “warring” family members can be one of the most challenging tasks that one can be involved in. The range of emotions displayed can be both vast and extreme. Ask anyone who works in the field of family services which deal with issues such as violence, divorce, mental health care, and counselling, just to name a few. Unfortunately when we discuss and face the problems associated with the reconciliation of all Citizens of biblical Israel, these same challenges come to the surface. This statement is made due to the experiences one has dealt with over the years. This is because we are dealing with “fallen” human beings who are tainted [some would say immersed] with sin.

This affects the way we behave and respond to situations in every aspect of our lives. We can find ourselves defending the indefensible because of our pride in self. How often is a spouse guilty of making up some fabricated story in an attempt to defend the indefensible? A child who has been found guilty of breaking the “family code” will attempt to defend the indefensible. Criminals are always trying to defend the indefensible. In fact as I write this [2016/5776] our societies are run by Governments and leaders who are becoming experts in defending the indefensible. When defending the indefensible becomes common place in a community then that community is on its way to destruction and death.

For the Children of Israel, the indefensible should be anything that goes against the instructions of HaShem. The Children of Israel should not be found guilty of defending the indefensible. In other words the Children of Israel should not be found guilty of defending sin as outlined in the Word of HaShem. Sin and trying to defend the indefensible are products of self indulgence and rebellion against HaShem.

*“After all, brothers, you were called to be free; do not use your freedom as an opening for self-indulgence, but be servants to one another in love, since the whole of the Torah is summarised in the one commandment: You must love your neighbour as yourself. If you go snapping at one another and tearing one another to pieces, take care: you will be eaten up by one another. Instead, I tell you, be guided by the Spirit, and you will no longer yield to self-indulgence. The desires of self-indulgence are always in opposition to the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are in opposition to self-indulgence: they are opposites, one against the other; that is how you are prevented from doing the things that you want to. But when you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Torah. [The CJB translates this as follows: **But if you are led by the Spirit, then you are not in subjection to the system that results from perverting the Torah into legalism**] When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: sexual vice, impurity, and sensuality, the worship of false gods and sorcery,*

antagonisms and rivalry, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels, disagreements, factions and malice, drunkenness, orgies and all such things. And about these, I tell you now as I have told you in the past, that people who behave in these ways will not inherit the Kingdom of God. On the other hand the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self control; no law can touch such things as these. [Or as the CJB puts it: Nothing in the Torah stands against such things] All who belong to Moshiach Yeshua have crucified self with all its passions and desires. Since we are living by the Spirit, let our behaviour be guided by the Spirit and let us not be conceited or provocative and envious of one another.” Galatians 5:13-26 [NJB]

Is it coincidence or a Greater “force” at work, that there has been a royal commission into the abuse of children here in Australia? This abuse has been found in both Houses of Israel, amongst people who claim to follow and worship HaShem, the Holy One of Israel, blessed be His name. Worse still, some of the leaders involved in these atrocious behaviours have tried to defend the indefensible. How can one defend child abuse? How can Children of Israel defend behaviour that is outside of the instructions/Torah of HaShem? Our behaviour is shameful and we keep on deceiving ourselves into thinking we are well behaved obedient children. Let us ask ourselves a simple question. Which person would you rather have as a friend, and associate with? Person **A** who is full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self control or person **B** who is bad tempered, deceitful, impure, jealous, untrustworthy, aggressive, angry, self-indulgent, into sorcery, abuses children and other people, constantly arguing, drunk and drugged most of the time, unreliable, creates friction and trouble constantly? Which set of behaviours shows faithfulness to HaShem? To be considered a friend of HaShem [as Avraham was] which set of behaviours would you need to adhere to? The answers to the above questions are obvious, so what of the behaviour patterns of both Houses? We must be honest with ourselves in addressing our behaviour patterns.

Our behaviours stem from whom we serve as our Master. We may say we serve the Holy One of Israel, but do our actions, behaviours and words support this claim. Any sane person would question a husband who says he loves his wife but beats her or a father who says he loves his children but abuses them. So if we are to fully reconcile with our Father in heaven and with other “family members”, we must view our own behaviour closely. Please understand that it is HaShem who makes the ultimate judgement on our behaviour. It is not another human being. Humans may judge and do judge us at times, but the judgement we need to be acutely aware of is judgement from above, judgement from the “Heavenly Throne”.

It is not as if we haven't any good role models to follow. Of course we have the ultimate role model in Yeshua HaMoshiach whose footsteps we should all walk in. However there are those who do not believe Yeshua to be HaMoshiach, none the less they can easily look to Avraham, Yitzchaq and Yaaqov. It is well understood within Jewish commentary that Avraham was a man of good character with an overwhelming dose of kindness. His tent was always open to travellers providing an example of good hospitality. Yitzchaq is known to have strong self discipline and it is seen early in his life, in what is known as the Akeidah [Binding on the altar]. Yaaqov was one who sought truth. If you asked most what event they associated Yaaqov with, many would answer the wrestling of the Angel and the dream of the ladder. Could we say these events showed Yaaqov's quest for truth and understanding? If all citizens of biblical Israel had the qualities that are associated with Avraham, Yitzchaq and Yaaqov we would be a long way down the road to reconciliation.

The good news is that these qualities are well within our reach. The only stumbling block in our path, is the master whom we choose to serve. May I make a suggestion through quoting the following?

"And now, fear HASHEM and serve Him with wholeheartedness and truth; remove the gods that your forefathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt, and serve HASHEM. If it is evil in your eyes to serve HASHEM, choose today whom you will serve: the gods your forefathers served across the River, or the gods of the Amorite in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve HASHEM. Joshua 24:14-15 [AST]

"Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long will you dance between two opinions? If HASHEM is God, go after Him! And if the Baal, go after it!" But the people did not answer him at all. 1Kings 18:21 [AST]

Only through serving HaShem will we obtain the necessary qualities to become faithful Children. If we serve our own desires neglecting the instructions of our Creator we will never change into a people full of love, joy, kindness, peace, patience, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness, and self control. For any who are seeking these qualities then you will do no better than to study the life of Yeshua HaMoshiach. These are the only qualities that He ever had or will ever have. He served the Father with complete faithfulness, and in doing so He became the perfect role model. It is Yeshua who shows the perfection of the instructions of HaShem. It is Yeshua Who is paving the way for our return and reconciliation. Those of us who see ourselves as part of Judah look to Yitzchaq as a model of self control and discipline and take him as a picture of "man" placing himself on the altar before HaShem, prepared to lay down one's life. As we know Yitzchaq was spared and a ram took his place. If the angel of HaShem had not intervened, would have Avraham and Yitzchaq obeyed the instructions they were first given?

Well whatever the answer the angel of HaShem was sure that their actions spoke louder than words and they feared God. It was their obedience that saved them and allowed a substitute to be installed, an innocent ram. How are we doing? One House appears hell bent on rejecting the ram supplied by HaShem and doing the work themselves, whilst the other expects the ram to be their substitute regardless of their obedience to the instructions of HaShem. This in a way is self-indulgence, talking the talk but not walking the walk. Unless your life is engaged in following the instructions of HaShem your faith and faithfulness is sadly lacking. This is why James/Yaaqov said:

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone claims to have faith but has no actions to prove it? Is such “faith” able to save him? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food, and someone says to him, “Shalom! Keep warm and eat hearty!” without giving him what he needs, what good does it do? Thus, faith by itself, unaccompanied by actions, is dead. But someone will say that you have faith and I have actions. Show me this faith of yours without the actions, and I will show you my faith by my actions! You believe that “God is one”? Good for you! The demons believe it too – the thought makes them shudder with fear! But, foolish fellow, do you want to be shown that such “faith” apart from actions is barren? Wasn’t Avraham avinu declared righteous because of actions when he offered up his son Yitz’chak on the altar? You see that his faith worked with his actions; by the actions the faith was made complete; and the passage of the Tanakh was fulfilled which says, “Avraham had faith in God, and it was credited to his account as righteousness.” He was even called God’s friend. You see that a person is declared righteous because of actions and not because of faith alone.” James 2:14-24 [CJB]

Let me ask both Houses and those that belong to them, in other words all Children of biblical Israel. Do our actions mirror HaShem or HaSatan? It must be said a mixture of both. This should not be and we must work hard to tip the scales in favour of actions that mirror HaShem. We will never do this whilst we are guilty of defending the indefensible, something both Houses are guilty of.

“Therefore I say this – indeed, in union with the Lord I insist on it: do not live any longer as the pagans live, with their sterile ways of thinking. Their intelligence has been shrouded in darkness, and they are estranged from the life of God, because of the ignorance in them, which in turn comes from resisting God’s will. They have lost all feeling, so they have abandoned themselves to sensuality, practicing any kind of impurity and always greedy for more. But this is not the lesson you learned from Messiah! If you really listened to him and were instructed about him, then you learned that since what is in Yeshua is truth, then, so far as your former way of life is concerned, you must strip off your old nature, because your old nature is

thoroughly rotted by its deceptive desires; and you must let your spirits and minds keep being renewed, and clothe yourselves with the new nature created to be godly, which expresses itself in the righteousness and holiness that flow from the truth.” Ephesians 4:17-24 [CJB]

Hashem has not only shown us the way, He has given us the way. What excuses can we find to defend the indefensible? Surely none!

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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