

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Chapter Six.

As we navigate the journey of life we will no doubt face many challenges that we will find confronting. These can be positive confrontations or negative, but they need to be faced none the less. How successful we are in dealing with the myriad of confrontations we face is heavily influenced by the advice, counsel, and support we receive. It is essential that we are given Godly advice throughout our journey.

4 Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction.

Pay attention, to gain understanding.

*² For I give you sound learning—
do not forsake my instruction.*

*³ When I was a son to my father,
tender and special to my mother,*

⁴ he taught me and said to me:

*“Lay hold of my words in your heart,
keep my commands and you will live!*

⁵ Get wisdom! Get understanding!

Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

⁶ Do not forsake her, and she will guard you.

Love her, and she will watch over you.

⁷ Wisdom is supreme—acquire wisdom!

With all your acquisitions, get understanding.

⁸ Prize her, and she will exalt you.

She will honor you when you embrace her.

⁹ She will set a garland of grace on your head.

She will give you a crown of glory.” Proverbs 4:1-9 [TLV]

Despite what most in our current “Western World” societies would have you believe, it is the husband that sets the standards for a healthy stable home and life style. It is the husband who provides the leadership in a household. So it follows that the husband must have a true biblical “world view” if he is to set an example that pleases HaShem. The “success percentage” relies on the husband obtaining wisdom and understanding. In saying that it is the husband who provides leadership and sets the standards, this in NO WAY negates the leadership roles that wives and children also have. For a family

to function as HaShem would have them function all members have a vital role to undertake. Despite what the so-called wisdom of the “world/Mitzrayim” has to offer it is only the wisdom of HaShem that guarantees life. It is critical that the husband and father follow and embrace the wisdom and understanding of HaShem through embracing and applying Torah. Paul had some encouragement for families with the following words.

*²¹ Also submit yourselves to one another out of reverence for Messiah—
²² wives to your own husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as Messiah also is head of His community—Himself the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as Messiah’s community is submitted to Messiah, so also the wives to their husbands in everything.*

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives just as Messiah also loved His community and gave Himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, having cleansed her by immersion in the word. ²⁷ Messiah did this so that He might present to Himself His glorious community—not having stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but in order that she might be holy and blameless. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it—just as Messiah also does His community, ³⁰ because we are members of His body. ³¹ “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is great—but I am talking about Messiah and His community. ³³ In any case, let each of you love his own wife as himself, and let the wife respect her husband. Ephesians 5:21-33 [TLV]

The first important point we should note is that Paul’s encouragement is given because of the reverence we should show Moshiach Yeshua. There is little doubt that if we do not have reverence for Yeshua and all He entails, then we will never employ the wisdom and understanding of HaShem into our lives.

Let us briefly go through the wisdom and understanding shared by Paul, under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

We are encouraged to submit to one another out of reverence for Moshiach. This carries the general meaning of showing respect to one another with maturity and a willingness to listen to one another and receive instruction from each other. The instruction for wives to submit to their husbands has unfortunately resulted in many abuses due to self interest or

a lack of Torah knowledge. When this instruction is carried out under the guidance of Torah then it sets the foundation for a wonderful home and family life. This instruction hinges on the example Paul gave regards the relationship of Moshiach Yeshua and His community/assembly. It is vital for the husband to be following a Torah lifestyle, just as Yeshua walked a Torah lifestyle, [as He is the living Torah] and be willing to forsake his own selfish desires and focus on the needs of his wife and family. If the husband is emulating Moshiach Yeshua then the believing wife is easily able to submit/respect/embrace/learn and gain guidance from her husband. I know I am repeating points here but one must appreciate the importance of these instructions. If the husband is walking in the footsteps of Moshiach, then he will NOT be a ruthless, arrogant, finger pointing self righteous individual, but instead working as echad with his wife. All family members have a role to play in the family circle and the “prosperity” of that family relies on having the correct foundations. Countless books have been written and countless messages have been given on these instructions and countless opinions and dogmas have come forth. However unless you have a healthy knowledge of Torah you will be in danger of corrupting the beauty of these instructions and guidelines. The reason is wisdom and understanding comes from the Father, the Holy one of Israel, blessed be His Name. As James wrote:

“Make no mistake about this, my dear brothers: All that is good, all that is perfect, is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with Him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow caused by change.” James 1:16-17 [NJB]

The short and concise explanation of Paul’s instructions is the family should be built on the foundation of Torah wisdom and understanding. James tells us this wisdom and understanding needs to come from the Father.

Husbands should walk in the footsteps of Moshiach Yeshua and the wife should then be able and willing to walk echad with her husband just as the Community is to be echad with HaMoshiach Yeshua.

Seems simple enough, so why do we struggle to absorb and adhere to these instructions? I am going to go out on a limb here and suggest it is mainly due to the husband. Is it possible that the world would be a very different place if Adam had followed HaShem’s instruction [Torah] in the

Garden of Eden? How different many households and families would be if the husband followed the instructions of Torah! If these instructions were followed we would witness men and women choosing spouses that were suited and relationships would grow and blossom with love and life. We would witness children viewing Godly examples in their homes that would extend into respectful healthy young boys and girls. In short we would witness homes filled with the very presence of HaShem just as the Tent of Meetings was filled with the Glory of HaShem.

Make no mistake the nation of present day Israel and all the people thereof are in desperate need of a healthy dose of Godly wisdom and understanding. Not just the people who live in present day Israel, but all those who claim to be "Israel". I encourage all to check where your wisdom and understanding is coming from. Who are your teachers? Are you given the wisdom and understanding of HaShem through biblical Torah or are you given the wisdom and understanding of man disguised as the instructions of HaShem? The Master Himself commented on this issue regards teachers and leaders of the people.

"This people honours me only with lip service, while their hearts are far from me. Their reverence of me is worthless; the lessons they teach are nothing but human commandments." Matthew 15:8-9 [NJB]

Many in the "Community" read this and instantly think it only applies to such people as present day Rabbinical Judaism. Whilst it very clearly challenges present day Rabbinical Judaism, I can assure you Yeshua is also challenging present day Christendom. Christianity is so far removed from Torah that it has completely lost sight of the wisdom and understanding of HaShem on so many fronts. Rabbinical Judaism has also lost sight of many aspects of this same wisdom and understanding.

Please allow me to state with confidence that we can only begin to receive biblical Godly wisdom and understanding if we accept both HaMoshiach Yeshua and the Torah. Why? Because they are echad, and as instructed, *"What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."* Let us strive to receive wisdom and understanding from HaShem, so we can be the Children He would have us be. Let us submit to HaShem, HaMoshiach Yeshua and Torah so we can begin to build to our nation into the nation we are to be. Let us put aside our own desires of the flesh and focus on the

instructions and wisdom of HaShem. As Children of Israel we have a privilege others do not, but we also carry a responsibility others do not. Representing the Holy One of Israel is no small matter. I fear we do not fully understand this responsibility and unless we search the scriptures through the lens of Torah we will always struggle.

May the grace, love and wisdom of HaShem and Yeshua HaMoshiach be with you!