

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Chapter Twenty Eight.

From the desk of Rabbi Yochanan Hammond

When contemplating the successes and failures we go through, I found myself considering the word “maintenance”. If something is in excellent condition and you need to keep it that way, then it is vital you carry out the necessary functions, so it stays in excellent condition.

As a nation and a people of HaShem we [the people of Israel] have failed to maintain our position before the Holy One of Israel. We have neglected to carry out the necessary functions to keep us at the highest level of communication with HaShem – The Almighty. When one takes the time to talk and communicate with various peoples who claim to follow, love and believe in HaShem, it quickly becomes evident how complacent many of us are. We expect to stay in “excellent condition” without carrying out the necessary maintenance programs. If you are blessed enough by The Almighty to have a vehicle to drive, then you will understand the importance of maintenance. Neglect to maintain your vehicle and you will have problems that could have been prevented. If you fail to replace your brakes they will wear out and you could well be headed for a disaster. Fail to change the engine oil and you will have engine failure. We all know the importance of maintenance. This principle is no different in our relationship with HaShem. We must put into practice those ordained Torah foundations that keep us in an excellent position before The Almighty.

⁵⁷ The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us, ⁵⁸ that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers. ⁵⁹ Let these words of mine, with which I have pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires, ⁶⁰ that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other. ⁶¹ Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day.” 1Kings 57-61 [ESV]

It is very difficult to pass on something that one does not possess. We the Children of Israel are to be a light to the goyim. If our relationship with HaShem is below excellence, then our light will be dull and it will struggle to blot out the darkness of the “world”. It is our actions not our words that shine and provide that much needed light. We must continue to maintain our lamps if we are to have them shine bright. Yeshua the Master commanded us to shine bright because just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, we are to reflect the light of the Son.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 [ESV]

*⁴⁷ For that is what ADONAI has ordered us to do: **‘I have set you as a light for the Goyim, to be for deliverance to the ends of the earth.’**” Acts 13:47 [CJB]*

We know that the light we are to reflect is none other than the Light of HaShem through Yeshua HaMoshiach.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:1-9 [ESV]

¹² Yeshua spoke to them again: “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light which gives life.” John 8:12 [CJB]

Just as a vehicle that has not been maintained correctly is a danger to those travelling in it, so too are we a danger to ourselves and the goyim if we have not maintained our relationship with HaSHem.

There is only one Light that exposes darkness and that is the Light of The Almighty. At the risk of repeating the obvious, we the Children of Israel are to be the vessels that carry and reflect that Light. It is that which we call the Torah that guides us along the path of HaShem's Light. We cannot walk this path or even find it without constant communication with our Father in heaven. Even after we locate the path and walk there on, there are tracks off into the unknown that entice us to be led in a different direction. These very tracks are littered with broken promises and destruction, but they are presented in a way that have us neglect the very "things" we should be maintaining. Instead of spending time in intimate prayer we are glued to our "smart" phones or articles that are the very antithesis of what HaShem would have us engage in. We run to gurus for our maintenance of soul, who offer nothing of Torah or the foundations taught by HaShem or HaMoshiach Yeshua. We become tainted and polluted by sin that dims the Light of The Almighty. It is a sad situation when we Children of Israel can offer the goyim nothing more than what they can find in their own man-made systems and false gods.

There is a great need of a serious overhaul of our health and wellbeing. We are over indulging in that which may taste good to our corrupt tastebuds but underneath is causing us to breakdown and malfunction.

We have failed to carry out the correct maintenance programs needed to keep us in the condition expected of the Children of Israel. We have neglected to keep our oil clean and our vessels full of that oil. Not only have we allowed pollutants to sully our oil, but we have let it run low and in some cases out, so that we find our lamps extinguished.

Shemen/oil שֶׁמֶן is such an important ingredient in the bible and I encourage you to study when and how this word is used. The root meaning is **to nourish**. This holds great significance when considering those tasks, we must undertake to keep ourselves in good health before The Almighty. We have a tendency to believe we can fix any maintenance issues when we choose too, or at the very least when it becomes absolutely necessary. Only problem is that such a position is one of foolishness and pride. Yeshua had some very wise and appropriate words to a group of people regards this subject.

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Now five

of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³ Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶ “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ ⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ 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.’ ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ ¹² But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. Matthew 25:1-13 [NKJV]

Before we can help and prepare anyone for an emergency, we ourselves must be prepared and have all our “equipment” in working order. Before we can bring people out of darkness, we must have our lamps full of anointing oil and our wicks trimmed and well maintained, able to show the bright Light of Yeshua HaMoshiach and Torah.

We Children of The Almighty are to be His “mechanics” for mankind, repairing the damaged and broken hearted with the tools at our disposal as supplied to us by our Father in heaven. We have a wonderful responsibility before us and we can only complete the task if we keep ourselves in Godly order. Maintenance is the key, and we would do well to absorb this message.

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