

Hearing the Word & Hearing with Our Hearts

Shalom Everyone,

Our weekly reading is found in **Exodus 30:11—34:35**, and begins with instructions for performing a census of the sons of Israel. Now you may recall that David commanded that all the people of Israel be numbered in the 24th chapter of 2 Samuel, **“That I may know the number of the people.”** (2 Samuel 24:2). As soon as the census was completed, David knew that he had sinned and been very foolish in ordering the count, and the account of the consequences suffered was severe.

We need to take a closer look at the difference in God-required census and the numbering of the people ordered by David. It seems to me that the problem that plagued David is one that we all are tempted with; men tend to base their level of prestige on numbers. They also find security in being surrounded by a greater force, counting it as safety. Through fear, it appears, that even though YHWH had anointed David and made him king over all Israel, he had forgotten the words of the 91st Psalm, “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” The exhortation of Jonathan in 1 Samuel 14:6 tells us that **“There is no restraint to the LORD to save by many, or by few,”** is inspired by the Holy Spirit to remind us that our safety is only through our position in our God. He has promised that He will guard what we commit unto Him (2 Timothy 1:12).

Zechariah 4:6 (TLV) ⁶ Then he responded to me by saying, “This is the word of Adonai to Zerubbabel saying: “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Ruach!” says Adonai-Tzva'ot.

Notice that when God commanded this census, He required that each person counted should pay a levy of one-half shekel, instructing them that they pay a ransom for their lives to avoid the breakout of a plague. As we have seen in the last two lessons, God was showing that all of the congregation had a part, and they were to bring their portion for the establishing of a Tabernacle, or a dwelling place for YHWH. Now, at this point, they were bringing of their substance and their skills together to form the physical Mishkan. Each person in the wilderness should have clearly seen that whatever they had to bring, whether small or great, even their lives, was a gift from God that they would not have had without Him. Everyone’s offering, however, in the census was exactly the same, showing their equality in the congregation, and served to show the numbers in the various tribes.

The census offering was a starting point for giving, not the goal, for **when we are obedient to what is written in the Word, that obedience, from the heart, prepares us for further direction from God’s Spirit.** Many feel that they never get definite leading from the Holy Spirit, but the sad fact is that the same people fail to be led by the written instruction of the scriptures. If you desire to lead a Spirit-led life, you must recognize that God leads, first of all, by His Word. In other words, **if you want to know what God wants you to do next, make sure that you are doing what He already told you.** We know that God wants to direct our lives, and that He is faithful to lead those who trust Him.

Psalms 37:23 (KJV) ²³ The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he

delighteth in his way.

Romans 8:14 (KJV) ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

The Holy Spirit will lead us by the Word, and as we obey, He will teach us all things and show us things to come. Another way of saying that is, He will give us direction for the future. The people of Israel in the wilderness could not be led by the Spirit of God in the same way as we, the new creations in Messiah Yeshua, but we read:

*Exodus 35:21 (TLV) ²¹ **Everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit was willing came and brought Adonai's offering for the work of the Tent of Meeting and for all its service as well as for the holy garments.***

The children of Israel gave of themselves, according to the instructions given them by God through Moses for the physical Tabernacle. How much more will we, as born-again believers in Messiah, be led in the construction of the true temple of the Holy Spirit? Certainly, we will follow the teaching and instruction of Torah, and through the leading of the Spirit, not only bring our tithes, but abound to every good work, as our God supplies and directs. **Bring your tithes according to the Word, and offerings as the Holy Spirit in your hearts directs**, just as He did through the congregations of Macedonia.

*2 Corinthians 8:3-5 (CJB) ³ I tell you they have not merely given according to their means, but of their own free will they have given beyond their means. ⁴ They begged and pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service for God's people. ⁵ Also, they didn't do this in the way we had expected, but **first they gave themselves to the Lord**, which means, by God's will, to us.*

Join us to learn the Authority of the Believer each Thursday evening at 6:30pm in Granby.

The Passover Seder at LWCF will be held on Monday, April 10 at 5:30pm. Be sure to plan for God's Appointed times.

Attentive to His voice,
Terry