

October 24, 2017

Little Things Matter

Dear Mishpocah (Family)

In this week's portion which is called, **Lech Lecha**, and is translated "**Get yourself out,**" or "**Go for yourself**" in the Hebrew Bible, and includes Genesis 12:1 - 17:27.

Genesis 12:1-3 (CJB) ¹ Now ADONAI said to Avram, "Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

It seems that Abraham immediately obeyed the voice of God in departing for the land of promise, but when we go back to the last verses of Genesis chapter eleven, we read "**But when they came to Haran, they stayed there.**" (Genesis 11:31) **Abram delayed following God's instruction, "Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you."** He stayed in Haran until his father, Terah, had died, and he brought one of his kinsman, a nephew named Lot, with him to the land that God showed him.

When **Stephen** was relating the incident to the Sanhedrin in Acts chapter seven, he **confirmed the delay** in verse four. It is clear that Abraham did not completely leave his kindred, nor his father's house, since he dwelt with his father, Terah in Haran.

Acts 7:2-4 (CJB) "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to Avraham avinu in Mesopotamia before he lived in Haran ³ and said to him, 'Leave your land and your family, and go into the land that I will show you.' ⁴ So he left the land of the Kasdim and lived in Haran. After his father died, God made him move to this land where you are living now.

Now, we know that Abraham is identified as, "**The father of all them that believe,**" in Romans 4:12, and that **he was counted righteous, because he believed God**, but it is important to realize that there were areas in his life that seem to have delayed the manifestation of the plan and blessing that God had spoken to him. We are unsure of his age when he left Ur of the Chaldees, but we are told that he was seventy-five years old when he left Haran, eighty-six years old when Ishmael was born, ninety-nine when he was circumcised, and one hundred years old before Isaac, the son of promise was born. Twenty-five years had passed from the time that he had finally departed from Haran until the time Isaac, the promised son in the line of Messiah was born.

I can hear some saying that Abraham's actions were very reasonable since He had an elderly father and a nephew without a father. It just seemed logical to take care of them before He did what God told him. Our natural minds don't comprehend the things of the Spirit, and when we consider what is "reasonable" or "logical," we allow ourselves to get cross-wise with the

instruction of God. Many times, what He speaks through His Word or in our hearts just doesn't make any sense to our natural minds.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (CJB) ¹⁴ Now the natural man does not receive the things from the Spirit of God—to him they are nonsense! Moreover, he is unable to grasp them, because they are evaluated through the Spirit.

A part of our growing and maturing in our walk in the Messiah has to do with obedience when it makes no sense to us, and obeying quickly and precisely. When we decide that any part of the instruction of God is less important, because it doesn't make sense to us, we allow ourselves to become casual and sluggish to obey the voice of the Good Shepherd, and there is a downward spiral in our attention and fervent response to the voice of God. Things that seem small to us, can, if we fail to heed them, show up when the big issues arise.

Luke 16:10 (TLV) ¹⁰ "One who is faithful in the smallest matters is also faithful in much, and the one unjust in the smallest matters will likewise be unjust in much.

Not everything in the Kingdom of God happens immediately. There are those things in the plan of YHWH that He has ordained for a certain time or season, but what I would like all of us to think about is the effect that our failing to fully obey, or our delayed or partial obedience, has on seeing the manifestation of His promised blessing. and I would like all of us to realize that, since **all of His promises are yea, and amen to the glory of God, by us, that our actions can cause the immediate possession of the promise, but when we fail to fully obey His Word to us, we cause corresponding delays to the good He has laid up for us.**

People sometimes speak of waiting for God to move in their lives, or of waiting for God to answer their prayers, but if we study carefully and consider our own actions, in most cases, it seems that YHWH is waiting for us to follow His Torah, His Teaching and Instruction, and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit without delay and without omitting the **"unhandy"** parts of His instructions. He is waiting for us to wholly commit ourselves to His love and grace, **leaving behind those people, pursuits, and things that hold us back**, and moving forward to our land of promise in full faith and assurance that whatever He has promised will surely and speedily come to pass.

Some have said things like, "When it's more convenient, or when I'm older and I've done all the things that I want to do in this life, then I'll leave my desires behind and serve God." Remember, that every moment we are even a little bit out of God's will, we are also out from under His covenant cover. Just as Abraham nearly gave up his own wife on two occasions, and settled for a plan of the flesh to produce an heir, both of which caused pain and generations of spiritual conflict, we do reap what we sow, and even though the grace of God will bring eventual victory as we surrender to Him, we can live our lives in this earth without **the pain that our delays cause**, without the **defeats associated with unbelief**. There is a place of perfect Shalom to those who fully trust the Lord, for those who keep their mind on Him (Isa 26:3).

Most of you who read this would say that they wish to be led by the Spirit of God, but there may be a thought that He will lead us about big things, and leave the little ones to us. God wants you to trust Him with the smallest details of your life. Choose now that all of God's instructions are for me to obey completely. **Choose to obey instantly.** Don't allow the cares of this life, the natural things that demand our attention, or failure to do those little things that seem unimportant to take away our power to be light in this world.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (CJB) ⁵ Trust in ADONAI with all your heart; do not rely on your own understanding.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him; then He will level your paths.

Galatians 5:16 (CJB) ¹⁶ What I am saying is this: run your lives by the Spirit. Then you will not do what your old nature wants.

Faithful in Him,
Terry