

Restoration in His Presence

Dear Mishpocah (Family)

The Torah reading for this week, found in **Number 4:21—7:89**, contains verses that instruct the people of Israel to separate themselves from the realm of death to prevent contamination of the entire congregation.

Numbers 5:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Numbers 5:2 "Command the sons of Israel that they send away from the camp every leper and everyone having a discharge and everyone who is unclean because of a dead person.

Numbers 5:3 "You shall send away both male and female; you shall send them outside the camp so that they will not defile their camp where I dwell in their midst."

It is such a blessing to follow the instruction of YHWH to separate ourselves from anything that impedes the presence of the LORD in our lives, or in the congregation. As we have learned to be separated is to be **sanctified**, and the indication is that we are to be **separated from** defilement and **separated to** God. Another way to state this is that we are to separate ourselves from darkness unto light. The fact is that there are many things that come into our lives that may corrupt us. Some are the result of simply living in a fallen world, and some are the result of bad conduct, or making wrong choices. In either case, we need to be cleansed and restored to an undefiled relationship with the LORD. The bottom line is that corruption of any kind, whether sin or just coming into contact with uncleanness, is touching the realm of death. Our God is Light, in Him there is no darkness. **His realm is the realm of Life**, and to be in fellowship with Him requires that we come, through the cleansing He provides, into His domain of purity, light, and life.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

*Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as **Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it;***

*Ephesians 5:26 **That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,***

*Ephesians 5:27 **That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.***

God has made a way of keeping His congregation holy and without blemish, a way of walking in His light in shalom and fellowship. He has provided the blood of the Lamb, Yeshua, for the remission of our sin as we turn from it, and a further cleansing which leads to unbroken fellowship with Him and the body by the washing of water by the Word. Most of us realize the truth of these restorative measures, but it is easy to know about them and not make use of them. It is easy to substitute a confession of the Word for a quality cleansing by the Word. I believe the Father is calling us to a new way of living in the Messiah that will dramatically change the way we do things. It is time for us to be engulfed in the presence of the Lord where we cease from our own labors, and as the Scripture states, **"In Him we live, and move, and have our being."** (Acts

17:28) This is not the proverbial, “Make room for God” way of doing things, but separating ourselves from our busy and compromising lifestyle unto **“I will love the LORD with all my heart, all my being, and all my resources.”** There is a place, in Him, where there is perfect shalom, but it won’t be found by rushing through a list of confessions. We have been given access into the “Secret place of the Most High,” we can just “Be still and know” that YHWH is God,” and as we spend quality time in His presence, away from others, separated from all the busy functions that we impose upon ourselves, we may come to know Him in love and intimacy in a way otherwise impossible.

Isaiah 30:15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

Most would look at the verses recorded above from Numbers 5 which instruct separation from the congregation as punitive, or even humiliating, but a closer look would reveal the loving and compassionate reason for the imposed isolation, **not for punishment, but for restoration.** God wants us to be separated from sin and corruption, or the world’s way of doing things, into His way of doing things, into His kingdom where there is light, life and joy.

Don’t be deceived into following the accepted patterns of this world where everyone is making choices based on circumstances or political correctness, allowing yourself to become busy with things that have no eternal value. It’s not only an unproductive lifestyle, but one that keeps us from the fullness God has planned for us. It is easy to make excuses for not choosing to spend time where the Lord has set us. Let’s make certain that when we say, “The Lord led me to do this, or that,” that we are not speaking presumptuously, and that we are not using our own weak excuses to justify making bad choices and failing to be led by the Spirit of God. We may clearly hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and follow His direction. We may hear Him, and say what He says.

I am choosing the way of life, and I am encouraging you to do the same. Make the necessary changes in your lifestyle to give quality time to meditation in the presence of God. Don’t substitute **religious activity** for the real thing. Make time for entering into the Holy of Holies. You won’t have to move far. Simply choose to come apart and rest awhile in Him.

Psalms 16:11 Thou wilt show me the path of life: in Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

We are Counting the Omer! Today is day 45, or five more days until Shavuot. We will have a special Shavuot, or Pentecost, service on Sunday, June 4 at 10am, followed by a brunch after the service. Meat and drinks will be supplied. Please bring side dishes and desserts to share.

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

In fullness of joy,
Terry