

January 25, 2022

Just Like the Father

Shalom,

“Our Father in Heaven.” These are more than familiar words! **Let them sink in!** Our relationship to God is not about religion. It’s about being **children of a loving Father** Who cares for His family with a pure love that is free from any corrupting influence. **His love for us is the same love He has for Yeshua, His only begotten Son.**

*But to as many as did receive Him, to those who put their trust in His person and power, **He gave the right to become children of God**, not because of bloodline, physical impulse or human intention, but because of God. (John 1:12-13 CJB)*

*I united with them and You with Me, **so that they may be completely one**, and the world thus realize that You sent Me, and that **You have loved them just as You have loved Me**. (John 17:23 CJB)*

In this week’s Torah portion, called **Mishpatim**, or **“Ordinances,”** found in **Exodus 21:1–24:18**, God lists a variety of **areas** that all people confront in life and shows His **judgment**, or **His will, concerning those areas**. Yeshua spoke of the **Kingdom of God** in **Matthew 5–7**, and how the citizens of His kingdom were to live or, more to the point, he told us what to do and showed by His own actions the way to conduct ourselves in the realm of life. We are given **laws for living** that are in line with God’s will concerning **generosity**, the **sanctity of life**, the **treatment of parents**, **living in harmony with others**, our **relationship to those in authority**, **property rights**, and a variety of other situations that we may encounter in our daily lives. **God is a God of order**, and **He created us to live and prosper in His order** by thinking what He thinks and doing things the way He does them. These precepts are put forth in the Older and Newer Covenants. They are confirmed by the teachings of Jesus and the Epistles, but it is important that we not become legalistic in our understanding, for then we would only be adhering in a works relationship with our Father. He desires us to relate as children to Him and, as His newly created sons, to live exhibiting His life and character from the heart.

*“For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Isra’el after those days,” says ADONAI: **“I will put my Torah within them and write it on their hearts;** I will be their God, and they will be My people.” (Jeremiah 31:32 CJB)*

It is very important that we understand that these laws do not represent the directives of an angry God, but rather that a loving Heavenly Father is relating **His attitudes**, or **His way of doing things**, and He is instructing His children on how to walk in His ways

which produce harmony and shalom. It is certain that keeping these instructions have nothing to do with our being justified before God, for **the only way to attain righteousness is through trusting in Messiah Yeshua**. These represent the way that people who have been born again may **choose** to think and act, just like their Father.

*God made this sinless Man be a sin offering on our behalf, so that **in union with Him we might fully share in God's righteousness**.* (2 Corinthians 5:21 CJB)

*Therefore, **if anyone is united with the Messiah, he is a new creation**—the old has passed; look, what has come is fresh and new!* (2 Corinthians 5:17 CJB)

For we are of God's making, created in union with the Messiah Yeshua for a life of good actions already prepared by God for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10 CJB)

Since righteousness can only be received through trusting, is there any reason for us to keep the Father's instructions, or His laws for living? Remember, He didn't give us these instructions to limit us or to rule over us. In fact, these words reveal that it is **His perfect will for all who trust Him to walk in His ways for their own good and perfect prosperity**, and the only hope anyone has of maintaining this level of obedience is through faith, or trust, in God. **The righteous walk by faith, and the ways of God, as they were shown by Jesus, portray what a true faith-walk looks like. Therefore, to be like our Father, we will choose to walk as Jesus walked in perfect harmony with the Father.**

Great rewards and supernatural blessings belong to those who hold fast to the teaching and instruction of God by trusting, **and it is that trust in God that gives us our relationship "In Him,"**

In Him,
Terry

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