

Walking In Torah

For two thousand years Christian Leaders and Jewish Rabbis have decided that they were smarter than God and have redefined God's thinking about Torah into their own interpretations of the Law and then taught this incorrect thinking to their flocks.

And so, we find ourselves today where Christians are terrified to have anything to do with the Law of the Old Testament and the Jews are caught up in endless rituals defined for them in the Talmud and Mishnah having little or no resemblance to the actual teachings of the Torah.

All of this misguided and misunderstood thought that has been placed on God's people leave them separated from the actual Torah in daily life. Which leaves God's people incomplete. Because the Torah was given to be experienced. The Torah is a part of God. The Torah is the Word of God. The Torah is Yeshua. And even if you have Yeshua in your heart, it is beneficial to experience Torah. To walk in Torah, is to Walk with God.

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you: But to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Now, I'm not talking about what Paul was arguing with the Galatians about. Galatians is an argument by Paul about the new Christian church being circumcised and converting to Judaism and Paul's argument was not against Torah, but against circumcision and the full "Law" of the Sanhedrin of his day (think Talmud, Mishnah, etc.) for these will not save anyone. And today they actually keep the observant Jew from experiencing the full walk in the Torah because they are insulated from Torah by their rituals and extra observances. The Rabbis call this putting a fence around Torah and indeed they have.

What I'm talking about is a simple daily walk in the Torah. When we start walking in Torah it changes us. It brings us closer to God and we become stronger spiritually. Now, as soon as we start looking at Torah and considering our walk with it someone is going to remind us that our righteousness is as filthy rags and that there are none perfect, not one, except Jesus. Well. . . I could chase that rabbit, but it is another misrepresented scripture taken from the middle of a long prayer of repentance by Isaiah for the sins of his people (Isaiah 64:6). He is speaking for himself and his own time.

Instead let's go to Luke.

Luke 1:6

Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly.

Luke is talking about Zechariah and Elizabeth, John the Baptist parents. And I could roam through the Bible showing many examples of people held righteous in the sight of God who observed all the Lord's commands. I would say to you that walking in Torah is not too difficult for us. And we are told this.

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?"

Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?"

No, the Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

And we turn to Yeshua the Living Torah who speaks of himself as the Torah.

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Finally, let's turn to 1 John who is writing to first century Christians. Is he asking them to abandon the Torah. No! He understands very well that Yeshua is Torah and so he admonishes the Christians to walk in Torah:

1 John 5:2,3

This is how we know that we love the children of God; by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.

You will find that walking in Torah is not a burden but a pleasure. It is not impossible, but easy. It is God's intention for us until the new heaven and new earth for Yeshua says:

Matthew 5:18

For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

And so, you start your walk in Torah. You find that most of Torah is to Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and might and Love your neighbor as yourself. There is a lot about the Temple that doesn't apply to you personally since you aren't going to work in the Temple and the Temple isn't built right now. But you will come upon three issues that may give you pause.

- 1) What we eat. Kosher laws. (Leviticus 11:3-23). But we like pork, shrimp, and crab! Well, for some giving this up is not a problem, I did for many, many years. But, at the same time I continued to review the Bible and pray and Peter's vision in Acts 10 was in my mind. I finally realized that God had already set a precedence. God had changed the law concerning what man could eat three times before in the Bible and Peter's vision in Acts 10 was number four. Concerning what man can eat God is not rigid but fluid with changing times. So, in Acts 10:15 "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean" in reference to a sheet of unclean animals, reptiles and birds tells me that God has changed the kosher laws for those who have a problem with this.

[God changes his rules for what man can eat four times in the Bible. In the beginning God said, *“I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.”* (Genesis 1:29). Then after the flood God tells Noah, *“Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.”* (Genesis 9:3). Then in Leviticus Chapter 11 God establishes the Kosher laws. And finally, as we see in Acts 10:9-16 God says that he has made all animals clean.]

- 2) Wearing TzitTzit or Tassels (Numbers 15:37-40). Now the TzitTzit themselves are not a problem or a burden at all. But what they are attached to and how they are worn can be a bit of an issue. I wanted to fulfill this command when I started walking in Torah many years ago and purchased some TzitTzit (with the blue thread), but the Tallit Katan to attach them to, was a bit of a problem to wear comfortably. I was working in a major construction firm with offices in New York, San Francisco, and Hawaii and I needed to be in proper attire in each office since I worked in all three. I needed something that I could wear under my clothes discreetly. After trying every Tallit Katan on the market, I finally made my own TzitTzit garment holder, a belt of elastic with corners attached so I could attach my TzitTzit. This could fit under any garment even in Hawaii when the proper attire is a Hawaiian shirt with no undershirt. So, TzitTzit are no burden with a little creativity, and you will find as I did that, they provide a major blessing. I cannot count the times that I walked into a hostile meeting or confrontation and putting my hands in my pockets felt the knots of my TzitTzit and instantly felt the peace and closeness of God and his Torah. I had a protector that nobody else in that office had.
- 3) Rest on the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11). This is not a burden, but a blessing. Still for some it may take a little doing to adjust our schedule so that we can actually and really rest from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. Work will try to encroach onto the Friday evening. And Christians have turned Sunday into their day of fellowship and worship, so their weekend becomes limited, and they need to make choices. Sabbath or church. I know my choice. But once the Sabbath becomes the pattern as it should for God ordained it from creation. Then it really does become the blessing of the week. Candles are a ritual, but I love them, and I do that. I prepare before the Sabbath for the Sabbath. I ignore the nonsense of the Rabbis about turning on an electric light as making a fire, they obviously do not understand electricity, electricity is not fire. We rest, we regenerate, we grow with God, and Love each other. This is the Sabbath.

This is my little thought about Torah. Torah is Yeshua. Yeshua is Torah. We need to remember both and walk with both, and we will be blessed because of this. At some point in the not-so-distant future this will be common knowledge for all men. But for now, it seems that only a very few. A very, very few realize Yeshua as Torah and follow him and Torah.

May Yeshua HaMashiah keep your hearts and minds until the day of his return.

Amen

A Voice in The Wilderness