

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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by
Todd Baker

OFFERING THE BREAD OF LIFE TO HIS HUNGRY PEOPLE

Our second day of Gospel ministry in Tiberius was fruitful and encouraging. Early in the morning at breakfast, the Lord allowed Ralph to dialogue with one of the hotel staff. This opportunity of ministry came about when Ralph politely asked the young female kitchen staff worker to make him some eggs. When she said, "Yes of course," Ralph told her he would also like to share the Bread of Life with her. Her name was Maital.

Ralph talked with her about God's love for Israel and thanked her, that through Israel and the Jewish people, he was given the opportunity to know the one true God. While he was sharing this, I came over and joined the discussion—and before long Maital was pleased to receive a copy of a complete Jewish Bible including the New Testament with complimentary Messianic Gospel tracts from us. It pleased us very much to look over while eating breakfast and see her curiously reading the blessed Word God provided. Please join us in praying for the salvation and growth of Maital as she eagerly and buoyantly

accepted God's word about Yeshua—the one and only Jewish Messiah of Israel. God has given us favor with several hotel staff for the furtherance of the Gospel.

After breakfast, Ralph and I walked the

streets of Tiberius. Traditionally, ministry in Tiberias has met with, at times, hardness of heart and indifference from our Israeli audience. At one point during our walk, Ralph said, "Go ahead down the street" as he felt led of the Spirit to pray and ask the Lord would open a door of ministry to some who would be receptive to the Gospel of Yeshua. As a result of him being obedient to this difficult task, God quickly opened a door for me and brought an opportunity to share Yeshua's love for Israel.

I passed by a sunglasses shop and the Holy Spirit whispered in my ear, "Go in there." Unsure at first, I walked to the end of the street and prayed God would open someone's heart in the store to hear about the Gospel of Yeshua. Again, the Holy Spirit prompted me and I went into the store and talked with two pleasant young Israeli ladies, Bethel and Naami. They asked me why I come to Israel so often. This question led into a wonderful opportunity to relate to both ladies about how this ministry seeks to bring Yeshua back to His people and to place in their



Maital was happy to receive a copy of the New Testament and Gospel Tracts.

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As always, special thanks go out to Zola Levitt Ministries / To The Jew First Ministry for their ongoing funding contributions to B'rit Hadashah Ministries, helping to make these mission trips to Israel possible.

Mental Health Group Looks to Remove Stigma From Pedophilia

(Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/health/2011/08/24/mental-health-group-looks-to-remove-stigma-from-pedophilia/#ixzz1YXLPvdlq>)

How predictable! Now that the deviant lifestyle of homosexuality is becoming more and more accepted and tolerated among mainstream society, a group of secular psychologists and psychiatrists are now seeking to remove the moral stigma and criminal nature of pedophilia to make it more palatable in contemporary American culture. I said all along this won't stop with homosexuality. Once the homosexual lifestyle was approved and accepted as equivalent to heterosexuality, the slippery slope slide into abject depravity would begin and continues to sink in this immoral cesspool further and further until these neo-pagan secularists and radical leftists are now beginning to embrace pedophilia and other deviant, ungodly, and reprehensible practices and lifestyles forthrightly condemned by God and His Word. What's next - bestiality and human rights? Don't be surprised if that happens too. This is how it was with homosexuality in the 1960's and 70's. At first a small group of "respectable" psychiatrists and psychologists demanded the stigma of homosexuality be removed and redefined to make it more acceptable. Gradually this led to the majority of the mental health science groups accepting it as they do today and no longer labeling it a spiritual/mental disorder and deviant behavior, which it is from a biblical perspective (see Romans 1:21-32). I told you so. And this will only get worse if this nation and society does not repent of their sins and turns back to faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Sickening! God's judgment is looming on this nation. **Todd**

Published August 24, 2011 FoxNews.com

A group of psychiatrists and other mental health professionals say it's time to change the way society views individuals who have physical attractions to children.

The organization, which calls itself B4U-Act, is lobbying for changes to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, or DSM, the guideline of standards on mental health that's put together by the American Psychiatric Association.

The group says its mission is to help pedophiles before they create a crisis, and to do so by offering a less critical view of the disorder.

Search the Scriptures

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"Stigmatizing and stereotyping minor-attracted people inflames the fears of minor-attracted people, mental health professionals and the public, without contributing to an understanding of minor-attracted people or the issue of child sexual abuse," reads the organization's website.

B4U-Act said that 38 individuals attended a symposium in Baltimore last week, including researchers from Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University and the universities of Illinois and Louisville. According to the group, which said to not endorse every point of view expressed, the speakers in attendance concluded that "minor-attracted" individuals are largely misunderstood and should not be criminalized even as their actions should be discouraged.

Speakers also argued that people who are sexually attracted to children should have input into the decision about how pedophilia is defined in the DSM, which they said is supposed to be a guide to promote "mental health vs. social control."

Critics of the conference say it was a thinly veiled attempt to make children of any age sexually accessible to adults.

"Absolutely," Dr. Judith Reisman, a visiting professor of law at Liberty School of Law said. "Oh, they're very clear about that. Their goal is to take all shame out of the lust for children."

The American Psychiatric Association did not participate in the conference, and evidently does not condone the group's message.

"An adult who engages in sexual activity with a child is performing a criminal and immoral act and this is never considered normal or socially acceptable behavior," the APA wrote in a 2003 position statement.

Critics of the effort also note that the movement likens its fight for pedophilia acceptance to society's more recent embrace of homosexuality. They warn of a slippery slope to a time when pedophilia is "just another lifestyle choice" that won't warrant criminal charges—and will leave young children at risk.

Peter Sprigg, a senior fellow for policy studies at the Family Research Council, said, "I think that we have to face the fact that most of these people with pedophile attractions are going to come up against the law. The laws against sex abuse and the laws against child pornography. And those laws should be strictly enforced."

Fox News' Shannon Bream contributed to this report.



The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

(Matthew 18:23-35)

Part 1



“Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘you wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses”

Christ spoke the parable of the unmerciful servant to answer and illustrate to Peter and the disciples the unlimited extent forgiveness should be administered toward an offending brother in the church, and even those outside. In verse 21 of Matthew chapter 18, Peter asked Jesus *“Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”* Peter, no doubt, questioned Christ on this matter of forgiveness because of what the Lord has spoken earlier concerning it. Christ outlined earlier in the preceding verses the specific procedure the church is to undertake in disciplining the unforgiving and obdurate offender. The ultimate remedy the Lord prescribes to the Christian community for such a problem in the church, between two differing parties or individuals, is disciplinary

correction, and finally reconciliation between the two. If such restorative means were abrogated or refused by the offender’s irreconcilable and unforgiving attitude, then excommunication was to follow suit (see Matthew 18:15-19).

Peter presumably estimated that to forgive seven times a trespassing brother was unduly gracious, especially since the Jewish rabbis of his day certified that forgiveness was to be meted out no more than three times! The Talmudic teaching determined forgiveness was to be practiced in a trinary manner according to the Old Testament teaching of Amos 1:3; 2:6; and Job 33:29. Therefore, the Jewish mind in Yeshua’s day thought that to forgive three times the transgressor was quite merciful enough. Three times were the limit and no more. Peter, well aware of this rabbinic teaching, thought he was doing his fellow man an exceptionally great gesture of clemency by offering his forgiveness seven times, which was four times more than what the rabbinical law offered forgiveness. Now that Peter was a disciple of the compassionate Christ, he felt compelled to offer a more gratuitous extension on forgiveness.

The Lord Jesus, of course, in His compassionate and divinely merciful disposition, far transcended the puny and infinitesimal concept of human forgiveness and mercy by infinite bounds and leaps when answering the inquisitive Peter, *“I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”* Peter was to learn from the Lord’s most greathearted reply that forgiveness is continual and unconditional in practice based upon an unlimited degree of merciful compassion. By admitting a far better equation than Peter, the Lord Jesus divinely lifted the concept and practice of human forgiveness beyond any means of arithmetical computation! *“Seventy times seven”* is not a literal figure, but is graciously suggestive of no limit in God’s willingness to forgive. Hence, the forgiveness of Christ is inexhaustible in mercy, unlimited in its far-reaching sweep, incalculable in its atoning effectiveness; for it is quite able to save all souls who believe *ad infinitum*. The forgiveness of God has no limits in its saving grace for the sinner. *“For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and in abundant mercy to all those who call upon You”* (Psalm 86:5).

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The simple point Jesus makes to the individual believer, and the Church as a united body of believers, is this: If we are to be sincere followers of God then we must forgive exactly like Him, without limit and without cessation. Forgiving is a continual multiple act of “seventy times seven.” The Lord paradoxically uses the certain, set number of “*seventy times seven*” to point out the indefinite, unset number of times we must forgive each other. Christ’s law of forgiveness is indeed without limitation.

The Lord, prompted by Peter’s inquiry on forgiveness, further clarifies the answer with the parable of the unmerciful servant. The parable simply illustrates the crucial importance forgiveness is to play in the life of the Christian believer and the awful consequences on those who choose to walk in unforgiveness. Now let us analyze, verse by verse, the accurate meaning of this parable and how it practically pertains to Christian living.

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.”
(Matthew 18:23)

This is the first explicit mention in our Lord’s great parables in the book of Matthew that God is introduced in His fit role of the King. For the Lord God is a King with His Christ over all creation, heaven, and over all men. God is the preeminent, sovereign King of all existence. **“I am a great King says the Lord of hosts. The Lord has prepared His throne in the heavens and His kingdom rules overall. He is a great King over all the earth”** (Malachi 1:14; Psalm 103:19; 47:2). The servants of verse 23, who are directly accountable to the king, are not to be generally confounded or identified with the bulk of unsaved humanity. Although one can make the argument the unmerciful servant was not a true, obedient servant of the king in the end, but only

appeared to be and thus adumbrates the counterfeit Christian or believer. Rather, the servants, who are liable to the King of kings, are, largely speaking, Redeemed saints of the Most High God. A few recitations from the Holy Word verify such a correct interpretation.

God’s chosen are explicitly known for being His servants. They have direct access and maintain a close communication with Him. Consequently, they are able to

obey His regal commands with obedient servitude. Only servants have been given the divine ability by the operable grace of the Holy Spirit to abide by the Lord’s precepts as adherent servants of His righteousness according to Romans 6:18. **“Being made free from sin you become the servants of righteousness”**; and in

verse 22 of the same chapter: **“But now being made free from sin and become servants of God.”** The faithful servants, according to the Scriptures, are the redeemed of the Lord. Once redeemed, they are qualified to be servants of God. It is only the wicked unsaved who earn condemnation. **“The Lord redeems the souls of His servants and none of them are condemned”** (Psalm 34:22).

A servant is an obedient subject of his superior. He must know his master inside and out in order to effectively serve him; likewise, the redeemed servant toward his Lord and Savior. Stewardship can only be accomplished by establishing a personal relationship with the one being served. To know God takes serving Him. The Lord will only make Himself known to the servant in heart — one who is willing to serve Him. **“The hand of the Lord shall be known toward His servants”** (Isaiah 66:14). God exclusively reserves His secrets for the devout servants. **“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets”** (Amos 3:7). †

**...the forgiveness of Christ is inexhaustible
in mercy, unlimited in its far-reaching
sweep, incalculable in its atoning
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all souls who believe *ad infinitum*.**

“STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES” RADIO SHOW

Todd’s radio show, “Studying the Scriptures,” is playing on WNVY (AM 1070) in Pensacola, FL, on Saturday mornings from 8:30 - 9:00am, then again Saturday nights from 8:30 - 9:00pm.

The show is also available in the Albuquerque, NM, area on KXKS (AM 1190) airing Saturdays from 12:30-1:00pm, then repeating Sundays from 6:00-6:30pm.



If you have friends or family in either of these locations, tell them about his show so they can learn about the Jewish roots of our Christian faith.

As always, if you don’t happen to live in Albuquerque or Pensacola, we are making his shows available to you on our website. Just go to www.brit-hadashah.org and click on the *Books & Media* tab at the bottom.

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Dr. Todd Baker is president of B'rit Hadashah Ministries and Pastor of Shalom, Shalom Messianic Congregation in Dallas, Texas. He was a chaplain at Medical City Hospital for fifteen years. Todd holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biblical studies, a Master of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Apologetics from Trinity Seminary under the auspices of Liverpool University at Liverpool, England. He is a theological consultant and writer for Zola Levitt Ministries and has appeared on Zola Levitt Presents. With his extensive experience in Jewish evangelism, he has led several Gospel outreaches to Israel. †

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שלום

UPCOMING FRIDAY NIGHT MESSAGES

Topics for November and
December's lessons are:

- Defending the Faith series
- Illuminations From Isaiah series

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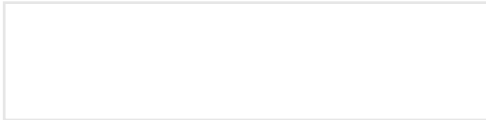
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21st Gospel Outreach.. Continued from page 1

hands the New Testament Scriptures with an emphasis on how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies made about the Messiah in the Tenach.

After about twenty minutes of conversation concerning how these Messianic prophecies identify Jesus as the Messiah, I offered both ladies the New Testament Scriptures in Hebrew. Naomi declined,

stating in effect if it was about Yeshua she did not want it because what she believed as a Jew and what is believed about Yeshua are not the same. I responded to Naomi that while I respected her beliefs concerning Judaism, Yeshua is, nonetheless, an integral part of the Jewish belief in the Messiah—Jews wrote about Him, Jews followed Him, and He came to offer salvation as the Messiah to the Jews first in the land of Israel. So to read about Him from a book, like the New Testament, written by all Jews is a very Jewish thing to do and is consistent with biblical Judaism to the highest degree!

I ended this Gospel witness by explaining to both ladies that when I accepted Yeshua the Jewish Messiah, He made me into a spiritual Jew and poured into my heart a profound love for the Jewish people through whom He came into the world (Romans 2:28-29; 5:5). Bethel was so moved by these words ministered by God's Spirit that she received the Bible and Messianic Gospel tracts to learn more about Yeshua. Naomi then helped me to say in Hebrew to both of them why I do this in spite of what Israelis may or may not think. The chief reason I come to Israel is the glory of Yeshua the risen Messiah was revealed to me with God's forgiveness and salvation. With that, He commanded me to go and tell his people (the Jewish people) He loves them and is coming soon. And now, I am doing this with them as a result of my obedience to this calling given 26 years ago the night I was saved by the revelation of Jesus the risen Messiah given to me. ✡✡✡



Naomi and Bethel spoke with Todd for quite some time.