

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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GOD'S AMAZING GOSPEL WORK IN ISRAEL

By: Todd Baker

I have just returned from completing the 39th Gospel outreach in Israel. On this outreach August Rosado, Baron Rodrigues, Robin Hopper, and Kenny Gee accompanied me. We had excellent Gospel ministry in Netanya and Nazareth. Seven Bibles were passed out during the course of the day to one Arab and six Jews open to the Gospel. Kenny Gee and I talked to two young Jewish ladies working at the Laline soap shop. They both listened as the case was made for the Messiahship of Yeshua of Nazareth from the fact He was the only one in Jewish history to fulfill all First Coming Messianic prophecies of the Jewish Bible. In Nazareth, we met Yeatiel at the security check point to the Big Mall in Nazareth. He stopped our group and thanked us for America's support for Israel. We poured out our affection and gratitude for the Jewish people like the 72-year-old winsome Yeatiel. Amazingly, he was joyful and thankful to hear the Ha Besorah (the Gospel) of Jesus the Messiah. He listened and looked as we pointed out some of the 100 Messianic prophecies Yeshua fulfilled in the New Testament. Yeatiel pointed to the sky and exclaimed that God had brought us together to share the Word of God with him and give to him the complete Jewish Bible with a Hebrew New Testament. We then met Alla who was a Muslim. By the work of the Holy Spirit, he too was open to the Gospel and receiving a copy of



Yeatiel & Todd

the Scriptures! Pastor Baron Rodrigues had extensive ministry with Alla. Our last Gospel witness was with Dalia working at a candy shop in Nazareth. August Rosado and I raised her curiosity over the comment we made to her about

how the glorious future of the Jewish people is foretold and bound up in the identification of the Messiah. Dalia received the invitation to take a Hebrew Bible from us to learn God's Word identifies this Messiah to be Jesus of Nazareth.

Several days later, on the way to Jerusalem, we talked and witnessed to Jeremy and Rachel at a mini-mart. Sadly, Jeremy claimed to be a former Messianic believer now turned atheist. After challenging him to reconsider his irrational position, Jeremy did admit that meeting us was perhaps a divine appointment and he did take a Bible from us as did

Rachel. Pray for this confused man that God will draw him back with tender cords of love (Hosea 12:1-4). Arriving in Eilat, Diana, who worked at our hotel, was another open heart and accepting hands of God's Word. When I said I wanted to give her the gift of God's Word about Yeshua the Messiah, she said, "Wow, I'd love to, today is my birthday." The providence of God never ceases to amaze me on each and every Gospel outreach to Israel.

In an ice cream shop, we had a powerful witness with a self-proclaimed agnostic, Anna, and her co-worker, Halah. When Anna found out I was a former atheist, she asked why the dramatic change in my life. This question allowed me to tell her how God does exist in the Person of Yeshua who visibly shone in my life and that the evidence from fulfilled



Anna & Halah

Messianic prophecy and the resurrection event proves Jesus is God and the Messiah of Israel. Anna was fascinated by this and did not try to refute my testimony. We told her God would show Himself to her if she seeks Him with a sincere and open heart (Jeremiah 33:3; Acts 17:27). God gave us favor with her when she decided to accept a copy of the Scriptures from us along with Halah. If God can save a militant atheist like me, I know He can save Anna also. The 39th Gospel outreach was one of the most effective outreaches to Israel we have had in all my 41 times coming to the land. I want to thank the rest of the team-Robin, August, Harvey, Baron, and Kenny for making personal and financial sacrifices to come and bring the good news of Jesus the Messiah back to His ethnic people. You guys are true warriors and champions for the Lord in successfully doing the Super Bowl of Ministry. To God alone be the glory!✠

About the Author

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 16 years. Todd holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biblical studies, a Master of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Apologetics from Trinity Seminary under the auspices of Liverpool University at Liverpool, England, is a Fellow of the International Academy of Apologetics, Evangelism & Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, and is currently a Doctor of Ministry candidate at Liberty University. 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 many Gospel outreaches to Israel. ✠



Special thanks go out to Zola Levitt Ministries / To The Jew First Ministry for their ongoing funding contributions, helping to make these mission trips to Israel possible. Also, special thanks to Andy Ball of The Bible Society of Israel for supplying us with Hebrew Bibles.

Saving The Best For Last

By: Robin (Aviel) Hopper

On the 28th of September I was excited about going to the Igloo Mall in Eilat. I have been forming a relationship with Raphiel for the past year or so. When we got to the Mall I headed straight to the Fish Spa. I was going to water a seed I had planted when I first met Raphiel in the Fall of 2015. On our first encounter I gave Raphiel "Isaiah 53 Explained", then this past Spring I gave him "They Thought for Themselves" by Sid Roth.

Raphiel and I caught up with each other and then into the fish tank I went. While the fish were doing their thing I was relaxing and Raphiel would come over and we would talk then he would go help with other customer's. When I am dealing with people at their place of business I don't want to jeopardize their job or business. I am on their turf and must be mindful of their time. I also want to Bless the



The Fish Going To Work

economy so I will try and purchase something from them or in the case of the fish Spa, letting the fish do their thing. After 30-35 minutes with the fish, I was finished. As I was paying Raphiel I said to him "I have another gift for you" I told him I had "Saved The Best For Last" and handed him a complete Hebrew Bible, complete with the Old & New Covenant. Raphiel appeared to be thrilled to get the Bible and thanked me.

As I was walking around Todd called me over to one of the kiosks and added me to share part of my testimony with Shimon. I did so, and when I finished, I offered him a complete Hebrew Bible. I was surprised at his answer; Shimon the owner of the kiosk and business said he already had one at home. This set into motion plan "B" and I put Sid Roth's "They Thought For Themselves" in his hands and promised that I would see him in the spring. Shimon thanked me for the gift and said he hoped to see me in the spring.

The next day was an interesting day of ministry in Eilat. After breakfast this morning we decided to walk the boardwalk to see where Ha-Shem might lead. We headed towards the SuperPharm Mall. Todd Baker had some good ministry in the mall and rekindled a relationship with a gentleman at the watch store.

Kenny Gee needed to go to a camera store and there was one at the other end of the boardwalk so we headed out all the time looking for the door that Adonai had already opened. There is a bridge over the channel you have to cross that connects one side of the boardwalk to the other, as we crossed the bridge there was a homeless person laying on the bridge begging for money. I walked past him and then I heard a voice in my head saying give him all the shekels in your pocket and give him the scriptures. I walked back to him and gave him all the

shekels in my pocket. I asked his name, and he said Edid. I told Edid I had a gift for him that was more valuable than money and I pulled a Bible from my shoulder bag and handed it to him.



Edid & Robin

Edid opened the Bible, found what he was looking for and brought the pages to his lips and kissed the pages. I prayed for him, that Ha-Shem would have mercy on Edid and give him Shalom. I prayed he would read and see Messiah and connect the dots between the Tanakh and the Brit Chadashah. I reached down and shook his hand, and as I shook it he kissed the back of my hand and said Todah, Todah Rabah. This act so humbled me and words cannot express how much I was humbled.

One of the things I have learned on this trip was that street people, those who have nothing and little hope of ever having anything, have more respect and reverence for the Complete Bible than most people that I have talked to. We then headed for the camera shop.

On our way back across the bridge another homeless person had pitched camp next to Edid. Todd placed some shekels in his box and I tried communicating with him, and it was almost impossible. I did offer him a Bible and he read the spine and brought the Bible to his chest. Once again I prayed over these two men. I shook Edid's hand once more and he humbled me once more by kissing the back of my hand.



Edid & His Bridge Mate

We then headed to the Big Mall on the outskirts of Eliat. Todd had some good ministry there with a young Russian woman at the sunglass shop. Todd then wanted to go to the hiking store. There, we ran into Ophir. Ophir last spring was approached by Sue and he received the Scriptures from her. I reconnected with him and he was sorry she



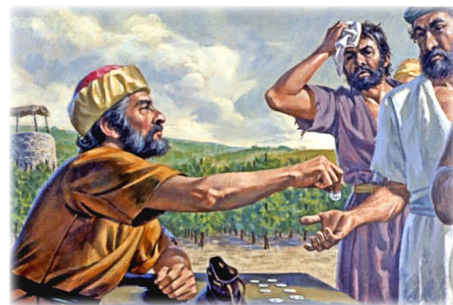
Ophir & Robin

was not with us, but we watered the seed she had planted. He asked when we would be back and I told him Sue and I would be back in March. All in all it was a good day to be about Abba's business.✝

The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard

(Matthew 20:1-16)

Part 9



"For the Kingdom of heaven is like to a man that is a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard. And when he agreed with the laborers for a penny a day, he sent them into the vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here all day idle?' They said to him, 'Because no man has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you shall receive.' So when evening had come, the lord of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers, and give them their wages, beginning from the last to the first.' And when those came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first came, they had supposed they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. And when they had received it, they murmured against the Goodman of the house, saying, 'These last have labored but one hour; and you have made them equal to us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day'. But he answered one of them, and said, 'Friend, I do you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a penny? Take what is yours, and go your way. I will give to the last, even as I gave to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with my own? Is your eye evil, because I am good?' So the last shall be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

The Holy Scriptures declare that the Church is built and firmly intact upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ, Himself, being the Chief Cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). In addition to Jesus Christ, the Prophets and Apostles leave the Church with godly examples to follow after. This fact is incontestable. Examine the life of Paul. The great apostle in 1 Corinthians 4:16 makes the justified statement to the pride inflated Corinthian church, **"I beseech you, be followers of me"**. This statement definitely includes the financial aspect of the apostle's dynamic ministry. His undisputed integrity and unselfish service is to be emulated. But how little do these words have profound effect or influence on the majority of affluent ministries that are voluntarily dependent on the thousands of excessive donations. Ministers of this ilk tearfully plead for more funds to avoid immanent bankruptcy, yet strangely enough they are full and rich, reigning as kings in the tragic process of supposedly going broke or falling shy of the financial goal! If you are sincere, dear Christian servant, let Paul's own heart-gripping testimony in Acts 20:33-35 serve as the litmus test in evaluating your motives for working in the Lord's vineyard. **"I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown**

you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Is it the gold and silver, or the One who says, **"The silver is mine, and gold is mine says the Lord of hosts"** (Haggai 2:8) that captures your undivided attention dear minister?

In reflecting on what has been said, we notice the parable simply teaches that every laborer received sufficient payment for their work done. Comparatively speaking, then, is it not lawful for the minister to enjoy the fruits of his labor in the Gospel? Absolutely so! **"Even so has the Lord ordained that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel"** (1 Corinthians 9:14). But there is a respectable limit, and there is such a thing as moderation! Temperance is a Christian virtue to be exercised in every important area of the sanctified life. It most certainly extends to the area of finances, in the balancing and maintaining of a reasonable budget. Without temperance and self-control mortifying the lusts of the flesh, the mastery for meeting the godly conditions of receiving the incorruptible crown of glory given by Christ is impossible. **"And every man that strives for the mastery is temperate in all things...But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection, lest by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast away"**

(1 Corinthians 9:25, 27). Indeed, without economical temperance, the individual soul is vulnerable to fall headlong into greed and mindlessly pursuit after the obtainment of "uncertain riches," thereby entrapping himself in the condemnation of the devil, who has destroyed many a Christian "minister" by the thorny impalements of "the deceitfulness of riches, the cares of this world and the lusts of other things."

Paul did not abuse his power to live entirely from the ministry. Although he claimed his right of support from the Gospel, he abstained from exercising this right. Why? The wise answer is clearly expressed in 1 Corinthians 9:12. **"If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless, we have not used this power, but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the Gospel of Christ."** The chief objection worldlings raise against accepting the Gospel is based on their observance of the inseparable association between religion and money. They see all too well ministries preoccupied with personal profits acquired from donors' revenues, regardless of who gives. The promises of salvation, God's love, and divine blessings are merely means used to bleed monetary contributions from the multitudes. If just one brother or sister in Christ, or even an unbeliever, falls away or stumbles by the apparent or actual merchandising of the Gospel, then a better solution must be

(Continues on page 4)

effectuated and put in permanent practice immediately! The only biblical solution is by offering the Gospel without money, or even charging for it on a voluntary basis. Jesus expresses it best concerning this matter, and we as Christians, if so, must follow His instructions. ***“Freely you have received, freely give”*** (Matthew 10:8). This means as salvation was freely given to us, so in return, we must offer it freely to the world. In numerous places, the Bible makes it quite evident that salvation is offered freely ***“without money, without price”*** (Isaiah 55:1). To do contrariwise is overt sin and simony. Yet sadly enough, the preaching of the Gospel today in America, both on television and radio, always precedes and follows with a constant barrage of requests for money, which are erroneously used as a testimonial result of one’s saving faith in God in the worst degree to the utmost travesty of the Gospel.

In order to appropriate money from the uninformed multitudes, these early hour apostates concoct absurd doctrines, fanciful theories, and fabricated “signs and wonders” wrongly based on Scriptures which are contextually twisted out of context to suite their own hidden desire for inordinate wealth. Is it no wonder that a substantial body of misguided souls in the evangelical community are carried to and fro by their deviant winds of doctrine that teaches, “You can have the best of both worlds here and now?” Thus we see the fulfillment of 2 Peter 2:2-3 literally coming to pass before our eyes. ***“And many shall follow their pernicious ways...and through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you whose judgment now of a long time lingers not, and their damnation slumbers not”*** Is open toleration or polite silence advisable toward these “ministers” ***“supposing gain is godliness”***? No, disfellowship is strictly enjoined, ***“from such withdraw yourself”*** (1 Timothy 6:5); you ask, “why?” Because, ***“evil communications corrupt good manners”*** (1 Corinthians 15:33). To make a financial demand for the Gospel either a compulsory or voluntary basis is to exceed and abuse the power given to us by God to preach the Gospel. Our reward lies in the fact that salvation is freely given to us by God and freely ministered through us to others. The apostle Paul concurs on the same point. ***“What is my reward then? Truly, that, when I preach the Gospel, I may make the Gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the Gospel”*** (1 Corinthians 9:18).

The late hour workers are those believers who put no confidence in the flesh, but placed unquestioning trust in the just discretion and fairness of the householder. They are not caught up in what God will do for them, but, rather, what they can do for Him in return as an expression of their deep gratitude for His infinite kindness. The late hour workers personify those who put their self-abandoning trust in the saving grace of Jesus Christ, knowing they deserve nothing but His unending wrath and divine repugnance. Souls of this contrite and humble nature are quick to shun the complimentary praises of men for ministerial exploits well done in the Lord. The late hour Christian is concerned only with bringing due honor to God alone in all that the faithful undertake for the Gospel. His ministry will be singly devoted to the glorification of God with a careful disinterest in the “outstanding” feats of pious men.

“Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name give glory, for Your mercy, and for Your truth’s sake” (Psalm 115:1). Bargaining for gain and influential position in the kingdom of heaven is abruptly shunned in the hearts of the true followers of Christ. They premeditate no deals, or demands with God before working, but reply immediately with prompt obedience, putting their faith in the Lord’s certain goodness. The servant of such character is deeply grateful and well pleased that God has called him to work in the vineyard. The servant of Christ will be quickly humbled by God’s gracious condescension in using an imperfect vessel as himself to achieve the Almighty’s eternal objections in the plan of the ages. The servant’s immovable trust in Christ the Lord reassures him that when the work is finished, the Judge of all the earth will do right concerning rate of reward and commendation for a job well done. The early hour workers showed otherwise as verses 11 and 12 indicate.

“And when they had received it, they murmured against the Goodman of the house, saying, “These last have labored but one hour; and you have made them equal to us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day” (verses 11-12)?”

The early hour workers vocally resent the fact of being treated on an equal basis with the late hour workers who worked only a fraction of the day, yet were paid as if they had worked the entire day. They expected better treatment, better pay, and above all, superior positions greater than their fellow workers; and thus were denied such from the Goodman of the house. When refused their selfish requests, murmuring arose among the early hour workers and developed into strife, envy, and resentment toward the householder and their brethren that worked alongside of them. The penny given was equally beneficial to all it was given to, yet the early hour workers were not interested in having an abundance so much as they were in having more than others. In this we see a clear warning for us and to all those who claim to be more important than others in the kingdom of heaven. Do we have a condescending attitude toward a brother or sister who is weak in the faith, less experienced in the ministry than we are, having accomplished much less than us? Have we adopted a cavalier attitude that says in the heart to both God and man, “I am of better caliber than the rest of these mediocre simpletons who are ineffectual in Your vineyard.” Therefore, my finished work is of finer quality and deserving of double honor and reward.” If so, beware then of trusting in your own concentrated efforts that would lead you to mistakenly presume God owes you something in return when in fact God owes fallen humanity nothing but His unquenchable wrath! Notwithstanding, it is by His unmerited mercy the Lord has freely given the elect ***“the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ,”*** (Romans 5:17).

Christians who are like the early hour laborers have no grounds whatsoever to boast in their works done for God. Divine acceptance rests not on such a brittle foundation as human merit, but rather by faith in the goodness of Christ and no one else. Salvation enables the person to stand reconciled before God, but also equips and energizes him to labor for his Lord. The early hour workers were granted the opportunity to work and were given the means whereby they could execute their work. The householder provided everything necessary

(Continues on page 5)

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Parable of the Laborers... Continued from page 4

for the work to be done. When he handpicked them from the marketplace, only then were they truly eligible for doing quality work in the vineyard. It is not until the saint is chosen and called out of the world into the Body of Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit and imparted with God's active grace, that good works are acceptable to God. Apart from the enabling grace of God, the Christian soul, per se, is devoid, impotent and utterly powerless of doing good works for Christ. Holy writ confirms this crucial fact. **"For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure"** (Philippians 2:13).†

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Daniel E. Woodhead Ph.D., President

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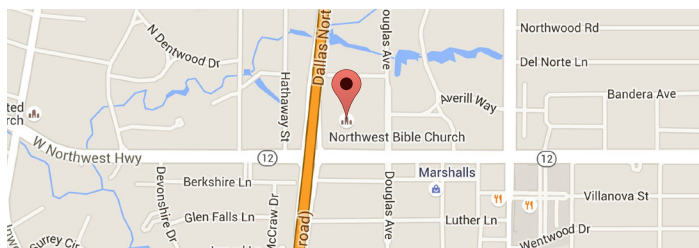
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In This Issue

God's Amazing Gospel Work In Israel **1**

Saving The Best For Last **2**

The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard ... **3**



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