

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Quarterly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



Volume 19, Number 1

Winter 2020

Healing in a Time of Hurt

Our 49th Gospel outreach to Israel in early December was very moving and effective for the Lord Jesus. Once again Evangelist August Rosado accompanied on this journey back to Israel. One very moving witnessing encounter occurred in Tiberias at the Big Mall. August Rosado and I met Lenor. When we made known to her that the God of Israel sent us to bring Yeshua's Good News of salvation to His people, she started tearing up in the corner of her eyes. Lenor said that she was recently diagnosed with an incurable condition. We immediately told her about the healing power of Jesus of Nazareth available today for her. He has the power to heal from the stroke of sin and the blight of physical illness through His Word we offered to give her from the Holy Scriptures. Lenor was deeply touched by the comforting ministry of the Holy Spirit working through us. We assured her that God sent Jesus the Messiah to purchase and secure salvation and healing for her through His death on the cross. August and I offered to pray and ask Adonai to heal her right there in the Mighty Name of Yeshua the Messiah.



After we said this prayer for her in the store, Lenor said she was to the point of tears she was so moved by the uplifting power of prayer. We firmly believe Lenor was ready to believe in Yeshua for salvation had we more time

with her. Suffice it to say God's Spirit met Lenor in her hour of need so that she could hear of Messiah's great love for her. Now she can read and learn about it in a much greater depth because by the grace and healing mercy of God she has a complete Jewish Bible this ministry gave her!

On every Gospel outreach this ministry undertakes we endeavor to make the scenic and arduous drive to Mount Hermon, site of the Mount Transfiguration in Matthew 17, to bring the Gospel to the courageous IDF soldiers stationed there. The journey this time was fraught with peril. Once August Rosado and I reached the Golan Heights about thirty minutes out from Mount Hermon our car and the road we were driving on became so thick with fog that our visibility was near zero! This was particularly most concerning when it started to rain in a torrential down pour coupled by the fact we were traveling up a mountain over 9,300 feet in elevation with winding roads requiring constant hair pin turns. Yet August and I were not the least bit deterred or concerned, afraid or worried, because we had the peace of the Lord guarding our hearts and minds. Nothing is too great to risk in this divine calling to bring the salvation of the Jewish Messiah back to His people He has regathered to Israel in these last days before His

return.

No price is too great to obey God, carrying out this task in obedience to His Word! To that end, we finally arrived at the IDF base near the top of Mount Hermon where we met two valiant soldiers. We brought them



some bottled water and snacks. Both men received them with wide eyed anticipation. August and I expressed our appreciation for their brave and unflagging fight against terrorism and Muslim tyranny that has failed in their satanic designs to remove the Jewish people from the land God gave them in a everlasting covenant (Genesis 17:7-8).

With that, we showed them two complete Hebrew Bibles and said we wanted to give them to the soldiers. Here, as we physically pointed to the Scriptures, is revealed the greatest Jew alive today who died for our sins, conquered death, forgives all sin, and will return to restore and redeem Israel and reign over all the earth from Jerusalem—He is none other than Jesus the Messiah. Both soldiers accepted the Scriptures and held them up in an air with a gesture of triumphant acceptance. Pray these two brave, young Israeli fighters see this great God and Savior revealed through the Scriptures we gave them as they read during their isolated and remote time on the mountain of the transfigured Messiah.

Day seven in Israel was gloriously spent boldly sharing the Gospel and distributing Hebrew Study Bibles among the Chosen People at the Mamilla Mall, and in the Jewish section

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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. 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. ✝

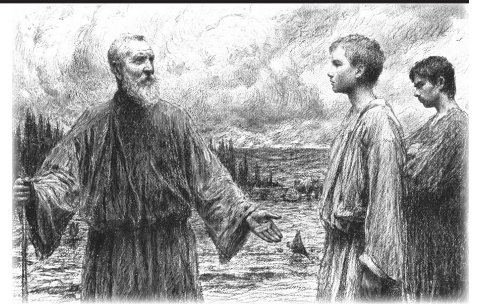


Special thanks go out to Zola Levitt Ministries / To The Jew First Ministry for their ongoing funding contributions, helping to make these mission trips to Israel possible. Also special thanks to Rabbi Samuel of Sar El Tours for supplying us with Hebrew Bibles.

The Parable of the Two Sons

(Matthew 21: 28-32)

Part 7



“But What Do you think? A Certain man had two sons, and he came to the first, and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he repented and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father. They said to Him, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, Truly, I say to you that the tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not repent afterward and believe him.”

The last imposturous form of Christianity, imitative of the second son’s unlawful behavior, is Lawless Christianity. Lawless Christianity espouses that the individual who has come under divine grace is no longer under the ethical obligation to follow and obey the moral laws God has explicitly set down in Scripture. Once the sinner is saved and becomes a Christian, it is no longer imperative for him to live under the precepts of divine law. Lawless Christians usually adopt the malformed ideas of Antinomians who insist that Christian are no longer under God’s moral law, and even after conversion one is still “saved” even though he decides to habitually engage in corrupt immorality—practices exhibited by the unsaved such as thievery, lying, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, drunkenness, idolatry, heresy, lust, murder, hatred, and so on. The true born again child of God does not continually sin by way of lifestyle, trait or habit as 1John 3:9 states: **“Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin because he has been born of God”** (the Greek phrase here means habitual sinning). The concept of grace for the lawless Christian supposedly exempts him from personal obedience and governmental control exercised over him by the power of the Holy Spirit as per expressed and revealed in God’s Word.

The lawless Christian abuses and twists the grace of God into a license for sin that serves as a convenient excuse for his continual selfish, disobedience. The second son foolishly presumed just saying, “Yes” without doing what

he promised was adequate alone for obedience to the father’s will, thus excusing him from further service in the vineyard. The lawless Christian also mistakenly rationalizes that since grace is all-powerful, it is necessary for a person to continue and struggle in sin so that God’s overwhelming grace may abound more in his life. Obedience to God is therefore considered inconsequential as pertaining to the proof of salvation. Opposing this devilish interpretation of grace, true grace, according to the Scriptures, teaches and enables us to obey God. The Bible speaks to all Christians who are “partakers” of the heavenly Father’s grace to **“walk as obedient children, not fashioning ourselves according to the former lusts in our ignorance; but as He which has called us is holy, so are we to be holy in all manner of living”** (1Peter 1:14-15). The soul damning fallacy of Lawless Christianity is nothing more than the old heresy of Antinomianism attractively dressed up in a twisted belief that if a person says he is saved, he must be automatically saved no matter his behavior traits. Stubborn proponents of this form of Lawless Christianity usually appropriate this school of thought as means to indirectly justify and hide behind some cherished sin.

Lawless Christians are deceived into thinking that God’s grace will in the end prevail in their lives, even after they still willfully remain in the clutches of sin. The Holy Spirit, through the inspired writing of the apostle Paul, sternly disapproves of the perverted, sin justifying practice of exploiting divine

grace for the continuance of sinful activity. **“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid! How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”** (Romans 6:1-2). God’s forgiving grace can only flow through repentance—an active turning away from sin. **“Repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out”** (Acts 3:19). The reign of grace in the Christian’s life comes through an attitude of repentance, reflected by a humble and meek spirit. The sanctifying grace of God is not imparted to the person continually sinning without sincere efforts of repentance. Sin and grace do not co-reign together, rather grace will ultimately rule out sin. The recipient of grace is saved and separated from sin, not in it. He is made conformable to the holy will of God. The second son was in reality lawless in his profession. He verbally asserted obedience, but acted in disobedience. He falsely assumed that saying, “Yes sir” was alone equitably sufficient and covered for his noncompliant reply to work in the vineyard. Lawless Christian stupidly think they are saved and entitled to heaven with all of its eternal benefits because they say, “Yes” to God, but do not obey His will. What saith the Scriptures on this point? **“Not everyone that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that does the will of My Father which is in heaven”** (Matthew 7:21).

Obeying God consists of doing His will, not in flippant promises of making moral amelioration. What does God say

to churches that believe His grace can be used as a license for sin? ***“Behold you trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely.... And come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name and say, “We are delivered to do all these abominations”*** (Jeremiah 7:8-10). Lawless Christians adhere to an external profession of faith in God with all the charismatic candor, while inwardly saying of Christ, ***“We will not have this man to reign over us”*** (Luke 19:14). The second son said yes to the father, but failed to enter in the blessed vineyard because he did not truly obey what the father commanded. His hypocritical promise and subsequent refusal barred him from work in the vineyard. The second son is exactly like “Mr. Talkative” from John Bunyan’s allegorical classic *The Pilgrim’s Progress*. “Mr. Talkative only talks of prayer, of repentance, of faith, and of the new birth, but he knows but only to talk of them.” Both sons were, however, equally guilty in their conduct. The first son blatantly refused to comply with the father, but

later on repented of his deplorable show of disrespect and obeyed. The second son made a quick promise to obey the father, yet walked away from doing what the father asked. Both sons thus revealed the evil disposition of their hearts when confronted with the revealed will of the father. The universal depravity of man brought on by the ruinous nature of sin renders every human disobedient and unrepentant. Some, like the first son, are openly rebellious, others, like the second son, are subtler in their defiance against God, using religious flattery to cover for it.

In the end, this truth still remains: ***“For there is no man that sins not. There is none that does good, no not one”*** (1Kings 8:46; Psalm 53:3). No man can claim perfect, absolute and uninterrupted obedience to God, save one—Jesus Christ, who could rightly say of Himself, ***“Which of you convicts Me of sin? For I always do those things that please Him”*** (John 8:26, 46). Though both sons shared in the same intrinsic characteristic of disobedience, they were definitely separated by crucial disparities.

The first son was a doer of the father’s word. The second son was merely a hearer; he was not a doer of it. Indeed, it was by repentance the first son did the father’s will. He heard the command and eventually obeyed. The second son heard the command without following it, nor was repentance found in his heart afterwards. Doers of the Word are obedient servants of Jesus Christ. They are truly disciples by virtue of following whatsoever the Heavenly Father has commanded in His divine Word. ***“If you continue in My word, then you are My disciples indeed”*** (John 8:31). The test of genuine sonship is determined by the response of obedience to the father. A son, who truly loves his father, will do what is expected of him. To equate hearing the Word of God with doing the Word of God is gross deception. ***“Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving you own selves”*** (James 1:22).

Bible Questions Asked and Answered

Do Christians have to follow Kosher Laws?

The dietary laws from the Law of Moses have been done away with in Christ. They were part and parcel of the Old Covenant. Thus Paul writes that in Colossians 2:14-16 that Christians are not under these kinds of dietary restrictions since they foreshadowed in one way or another the Person and work of the Messiah. What we eat or do not eat under the New Covenant is not an issue, nor does it produce a better standing with the Lord since one is justified by faith in Jesus alone and not by the works of the Law such as following the food laws of the Old Testament (Galatians 2:16;). ***“But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse”*** (1Corinthians 8:8). Impurity is not what you eat or don’t eat but is a matter of the heart as Jesus clearly declared in Mark 7:14-23. The whole idea of imposing a dietary ritual for the New Testament believer is not scriptural. Those laws are not applicable for the Church since we are under the better and permanent promises of the New Covenant (see 2 Corinthians 3:7-18). ***“For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”*** (Romans 14:17). The dietary laws that make up biblical kosher are found in Leviticus 11; such foods prohibited there were pork, shellfish, scavenger animals birds, rodents, and most insects. The kosher



laws were given to Israel alone to make them a distinct people before God and the nations surrounding them. These dietary laws only apply to the Jewish nation and no one else. Once their purpose was fulfilled, Jesus the Messiah declared all foods clean according to Mark 7:19. Purity and impurity are a matter of what is on the inside of a person and not on what kind of food he puts into his mouth, but on the condition of the heart and soul as Jesus powerfully affirms in Mark 7 when the issue of unwashed hands and digested food was brought up by the legalistic Pharisees. There

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and I passed out four Bibles there with the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah proclaimed by us each time. Anna was one of the four who took a keen interest in what we taught from the Word of God. We gave Anna a detailed biblical study that demonstrates Jesus is the Messiah of Israel via Messianic prophecy He fulfilled from the Tenach (Old Testament). She amazed August and I by her admission that she already knew the New Testament declares Jesus of Nazareth to be both God and Man! To that we replied by saying this confession of the God-Man Messiah was also foretold by the Hebrew prophets. For instance, the child born and the son given foretold in Isaiah



of the Old City of Jerusalem. Evangelist August Rosado 9:6 is also called the Mighty God and Father of eternity. Anna assented to this and continued to listen as we further declared Jesus fulfilled this as both God and man in one Person who died on the cross as the kipporah (atonement) for our sins according to Isaiah 53 and then rose from the dead in Jerusalem three

days later as the conqueror of death, giving us eternal life! All this was foretold in the Jewish Bible. After this compelling witness about the divine and human nature of Messiah, August and I were able to give Anna a Hebrew Study Bible and teaching materials covering various topics in Scripture about this marvelous Messiah. In March, we hope to do follow up ministry with Anna and discuss what she will have learned from the Scriptures and Messianic materials we gave her.

August Rosado and I are set to return to Israel for this ministry's 50th Gospel outreach from March 16 to March 28. For over twenty years now we have gone several times a year to bring the Gospel back to the Jewish people and the Land of Israel God gave them where the events of the Gospel and the Messiah came from. Our goal for 2020 is to embark on three Trips to Israel this year and take the redemptive message of Jesus to His people, Israel, each time. We have endured scorn, ridicule, slanders, threats of arrests, and financial deprivation in carrying out this vital end-time ministry in Israel—and by God's grace we continue this task of taking the Gospel to the Jew first until death, the Rapture, or God forbid incapacitation should come. But we need your financial help so that this can continue.

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is nothing wrong if a Christian, whether, Jew or Gentile, wants to follow Kosher laws, just as long as they do not impose it on other believers as necessary for salvation or sanctification. Romans 14:1-23 does teach that if a weaker believer is offended by our eating non-Kosher food the more mature believer should refrain from doing so in order not to offend the believer of weaker conscience, even though our liberty in Christ permits us to eat any food. All food is now consecrated by the word of prayer just as 1 Timothy 4:4-5 clearly teaches: ***"For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."***

What is biblical inspiration?

Biblical inspiration means that God sovereignly and supernaturally directed, influenced, and guided the human authors of the Bible to write the very words of God that make up all 66 books of the Bible—39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books that make up the New Testament without committing any error. The miracle and product of divine inspiration is seen by the fact the Perfect God moved fallible men to infallibly write His Word for the world. The inspiration of the Bible is from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21—nothing short or beyond this canonical range. Inspiration literally means "God-breathed" and is taken from the Greek word theopneustos used in 2 Timothy 3:16 where Paul says of sacred Scripture, ***"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..."*** Scripture then is literally God's breathed out Word. Note: inspiration covers all that is Scripture word for word as the words were written in the original autographs by the Holy Spirit inspired

human writers of the Bible. Furthermore Peter tells us in 2 Peter 1:21 that the human writers were moved or carried along by God's Spirit to write His Word. The word "moved" is a nautical term in the Greek text used for how the wind carries along the sails of a ship. Thus, the Spirit of God controlled, supervised, and superintended the human writers of Scripture to write exactly what God wanted to communicate to mankind.

The extent of divine inspiration extends to the very individual letters that make up the words found in Scripture. To illustrate this very truth, the Lord Jesus said that divine inspiration includes even the smallest stroke and letter in Hebrew (the jot and tittle) that are found in Scripture (Matthew 5:17-18). The word "jot" is derived from Yod, the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet. A tittle is a small protrusion at the bottom of a Hebrew letter. It is like the tail that distinguishes English letter Q from O. Jesus affirms Scripture is accurately inspired by God down to the very individual letters that formed the words in the autographs of both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. The Writers of Scripture were equally inspired to write what the Holy Spirit guided them to write at the time. They wrote what God wanted them to write while at the same preserving their individual characters and individual idiosyncrasies as thinkers and writers when inspired of God to write His Scripture.



B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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Having been to the Holy Land over 50 times, I can assure you that Israelis deeply hunger and thirst for the Word of God and appreciate the believers in America who support ministries devoted to bringing the Word of God to the Jews. We need your support to help us continue to take the Gospel to the land from whence it came.

In light of the Last Days' realities, we appeal to you. We ask for and appreciate any support you can give us during this critical time of need. We need your thoughts,

your prayers, your words and your financial support as the Lord leads your heart.

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Your servant in Messiah Jesus,

Dr. Todd Baker.

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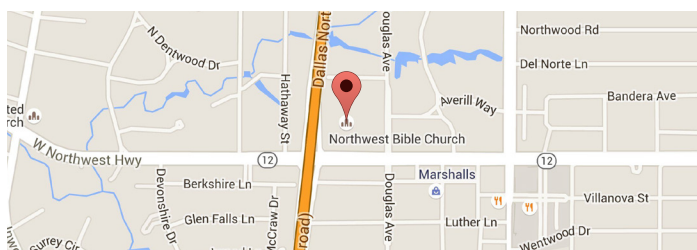
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