

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Quarterly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



Volume 19, Number 2

Spring/Summer 2020

God Knows the Secret of the Heart (Psalm 44:21)

August Rosado and I were supposed to head back to Israel this past March and then the COVID19 virus struck and America and Israel canceled our flight over this pandemic preventing us from going in March. Now we wait for the restrictions to be lifted so August and I can speedily return to commence the 50th Gospel outreach to Israel. With that said, I will share then a wonderful time we had on our last day of the 49th Gospel outreach to Israel just completed in December of 2019. On that outreach, August and I gave out thirty complete Hebrew Bibles with Messianic Gospel tracts over nine full days of non-stop ministry with the Chosen People. The last day of

the outreach was the most memorable. In Jerusalem, on Ben Yehuda Street, August and I met Tyla who was working in the Carolina Lime Sunglasses store. She



seemed interested to learn that our stated reason for frequently traveling to Israel is to humbly proclaim to the Jewish people that God has revealed Yeshua the Messiah in Scripture and that He came to save those who believe in Him. We shared with her that such supernatural and historical proof of this can be accessed by simply reading the Tenach (Old Testament) and the Brit Hadashah (New Testament) together in a foretold/fulfilled format that pertains to all the First Coming Messianic prophecies. Tyla's heart was opened by the Spirit of God as she joyfully thanked us for the complete Hebrew Bible we gave her.

Following that, August and I stepped into a Stematsky Book Store where we met Ofir working there. August and I knew right away she would be open to the Gospel. We shared with Ofir that we travel throughout Israel teaching about the Messiah

as He is clearly revealed in the Tenach and Brit Hadashah, respectively. The moment Ofir heard this her whole countenance positively lit up and she exclaimed, "Oh,



I have always wanted to read the Brit Hadashah" (New Testament). August and I could not believe our ears; looking at one another, our eyes got wide as saucers. I then said to Ofir that the God of Israel sent August and I over 6,000 miles from across the world to grant her that wish—a wish she hid in your heart that we had no way of knowing about beforehand, but God knew and so led us to her so she could have such a holy request fulfilled, for God knows the secret of the heart and knew this was inside Ofir's heart (Psalm 44:21). I pulled out a beautiful Hebrew Study Bible from my backpack that includes a New Testament and showed it to Ofir. She was absolutely blown away, readily admitting that our meeting her was obviously a divine appointment sovereignly set up by Adonai so that Ofir could at last have the opportunity to read about Yeshua the Messiah in the Word of God. I then took the initiative, as seen in the photo, to

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About the Author

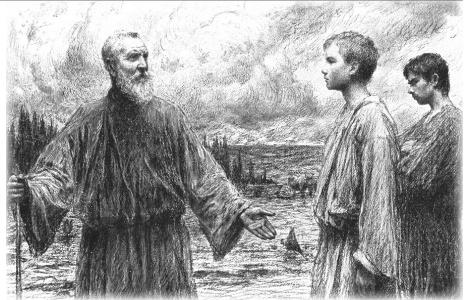
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The Parable of the Two Sons

(Matthew 21: 28-32)

Part 8



"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."

Obedience to God's Word and following the will of the Heavenly Father is always a clear indication of authentic Christian sonship. Without practicing the divine precepts of the Gospel, which calls for repentance, as delineated in the Bible, one cannot justly serve God in His vineyard. ***"For not the hearers of the Law are just before God, but the doers of the Law shall be justified"*** (Romans 2:13). The fruits of Christian sonship stem from the prolific root of obedience established by saving grace, for if one professes "faith" in Christ, then good works of obedience done for God, wrought by supernatural grace, will naturally follow that profession of faith. If otherwise, the profession of faith is null and void. ***"Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone"*** (James 2:17).

Mendacious believers, who lack the attendant fruit of the Holy Spirit, as outlined in Galatians 5:22-23, are apt to say, "But I do believe in God." Belief in the existence of God or Jesus Christ is not sufficient proof enough of salvation without the outgrowth of obedience following. For even the demons of Satan believe in the existence of God and tremble at the very thought. ***"You believe that there is one God, you do well. The demons believe also believe***

and tremble" (James 2:19). Christ yearns for repentant sons of faithful obedience, not self-righteous, unrepentant "sons" of disobedience who spout articulate faith in God, but don't practice it! Those who righteously walk in faith are God's peculiar delight (Proverbs 11:20).

The first son loved his father because he repented and then obeyed him. The same holds true of repentant sinners turned toward Jesus Christ. ***"He that has My commandments and keeps them, he it is that loves Me"*** (John 14:21). The real child of God expresses his love for the Lord in keeping the commands Jesus gave as recorded in sacred Scripture. In return for doing this, the believer is eternally loved and accepted by God the Father. ***"If a man love Me, he will keep My words; and My Father will love him"*** (John 14:23).

Beloved, if you claim, like so many do in the Church, to be a saved child of God, a Christian born anew by the Holy Spirit, our Lord personally says to you, ***"If you love Me, keep My commandments"*** (John 14:15). You, therefore, have the sole, inescapable responsibility as a child of God, to obey His commandments without offering

any excuse. ***"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not grievous"*** (1 John 5:3).

The parable of the two sons succinctly, yet frankly, teaches us that merely saying "yes" to God does not comprise true sonship with God—doing His will, on the other hand, does—as we receive His unmerited grace to do so. The proof of our love for God the Father will be consistently seen by godly works done out of obedience to Him, instead of only making a passive, verbal profession of belief in Him. ***"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth"*** (1 John 3:18). The second son actually despised his father in the end, simply because he disobeyed, yet pretended as though he did obey. The religious imposter is found also under the same dissembling façade. ***"Those who hate the Lord would pretend obedience to Him"*** (Psalm 81:15).

Anyone claiming to be a saved child of God who does not continually keep the Father's commandments is an outright liar, like the second son with an empty, worthless profession. ***"He that says, 'I know Him' and does***

not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in Him”
(1John 2:4).

The second son should have heeded the wise admonition of the noble and sainted John Bunyan: “Tis easier for one to begin to profess well, than to hold out as he should to the end.” The major difference between the two sons is the first son was repentant, while the second son was unrepentant. The first son entered the vineyard via repentance resulting in obedience to his father. Repentance, faith, and obedience to the Lord insure entrance into the kingdom of heaven and eternal life. ***“But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he has committed, and keep all My statutes and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die”*** (Ezekiel 18:21). The second son was unrepentant and did not obey

the father, even though he offered a shallow, fruitless response in the affirmative. And so, because of this, he failed to enter into the vineyard.

Repentance is a God given necessity for salvation (Romans 2:4). Without repentance one cannot enter into eternal life and inherit the kingdom of God. The sinner is doomed to perish unless he repents of sin and humbly turns to Christ for salvation. Just because one makes a verbal confession of Christ, does not prove he is a “saved” Christian. ***“I tell you, no, unless you repent, you will all likewise perish”*** (Luke 13:3).

Bible Questions Asked and Answered

Does the Devil Exist?

The Holy Scriptures clearly affirm and assert the existence of a maleficent angelic being called Satan whose also known by the other biblical names of Lucifer, and the Devil. The very name Satan means “adversary” and at once reveals his evil character as the enemy of both God and man. Scripture calls him Satan 66 times and calls him the Devil 34 times. Satan is not an influence, myth, or idea. The Bible presents him as a real, actual person and supernatural being with personal attributes. Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:11-17 describe Satan as an angelic being of the highest order—a Cherub that formally guarded the throne of God and led worship to the Lord in heaven. But awful pride was found in Lucifer as he thought to be like God and tried to lead a revolt against the Most High taking a third of the angels with him—these fallen angels are now known as demons that serve under Satan’s command



(Revelation 12:4). Satan is the supernatural author of all lies, deception, and anything that would contradict God’s will, plan, and His Word. Jesus called the Devil “the father of lies” in John 8:44. So you can be sure that whoever denies, contradicts, and twists the Scriptures has Satan as the ultimate source for this!

Since he was cast out of heaven, Satan has

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show Ofir some of the major Messianic prophecies in the Tenach that speak about Yeshua so that she could also see He is present and prophesied from the beginning of human history (Genesis 3:15) and at the start of Jewish history (Genesis 12:1-3). Ofir joyously took her copy of the Scriptures and strongly embraced it in her arms as if once finding something of great value that she will never let go.



Him in the Hebrew Scriptures that we need your

Folks it is precious Israelis like these who need to have a Gospel encounter with Yeshua the Messiah and an opportunity to savingly encounter

ongoing financial support so we might continue fulfilling the divine order of Jewish evangelism in Romans 1:16—taking the Gospel to the Jew first. To this date, we have been stymied from going back to Israel because of the Corona Virus pandemic. But rest assured in the Lord’s perfect timing, once the ban is lifted, August Rosado and I will return shortly thereafter to carry out the 50th Gospel outreach to the precious Jewish people. Partner with us now and watch the Lord mightily move once again in the Land, as Jesus is being reunited with his physical kinsmen in Israel. To donate online, you can go to the following secure link on our ministry web site: <https://www.brit-hadashah.org/wp/donate/>

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always sought to oppose and thwart the will of God. He appeared in the Garden of Eden through the serpent and enticed our first parents to sin and rebel against God (Genesis 3:15).

Once man forfeited his right to rule for God on earth, Satan became the “**god of this world**” and the “**prince of the power of the air**” (2Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2). Jesus did not dispute this fact calling Satan, “the prince of this world” in John 12:31; 14:30 and 16:11. Satan tempted Jesus in the desert for forty days

trying to get the Son of God to act on His own authority apart from God the Father. Each time Jesus rebuked and defeated the devil with the Word of God (Matthew 4:1-11). Jesus triumphed over the Devil for all time at the Cross where he stripped Satan of his power and pronounced final judgment on the adversary that will be carried out at the Second Coming. “**For this purpose was the Son of God manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil**” (1John 3:8).

When Jesus returns to earth He will incarcerate Satan in the bottomless pit for nearly the entire duration of Messiah’s thousand-year reign on earth (Revelation 20:1-2). Then near the end of the Millennial Kingdom, the Lord will allow the devil

to be released so he can deceive the nations and lead a final revolt against King Jesus. Christ will defeat it with fire from heaven and cast Satan in the Lake of Fire where he will be tormented and banished there for all eternity (see Revelation 20:2-10). In the meantime, believers in Christ are exhorted by God’s Word to resist the devil and be alert knowing that he prowls around like a lion seeking whom he may devour (James 4:7; 1Peter 5:8). The Devil lives on borrowed time and is on God’s leash—his day of final defeat was legally declared at the Cross and will permanently be executed at the end of the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. God and His people win in the end!



B'rit Hadashah Ministries

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Thank you for your support.

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Brit Hadashah Ministries is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit ministry, so your donation is tax deductible in the United States. Now is the accepted time, today is the day and year for the Gospel of salvation to be preached in Israel (2 Corinthians 6:2) Partner with us in this exciting End-Time effort.

Your servant in Messiah Jesus,



Dr. Todd Baker.

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Come learn about the Jewish roots of Christianity, enjoy great teachings from the Bible by Dr. Todd Baker, and join in loving fellowship with the Shalom, Shalom Congregation.

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