

Notes: Shabbat – November 19, 2011

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and greet
2. Introduction
3. Announcements
4. Liturgy – Ma to vu, Sh'ma
5. Music
6. Message
7. Time of prayer
8. Aaronic Blessing
9. Kiddush
10. Oneg

A Servant's Heart

Introduction:

We can learn much from the servant of Avraham who was entrusted to select a wife for his son Yitz'chak.

As wealthy as Avraham was, the servant was entrusted with his most valued possession, his son.

Torah Blessing

Gen 24:2 Avraham said to the servant who had served him the longest, who was in charge of all he owned, "Put your hand under my thigh;

Gen 24:3 because I want you to swear by Adonai, God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not choose a wife for my son from among the women of the Kena`ani, among whom I am living;

Gen 24:9 The servant put his hand under the thigh of Avraham his master and swore to him concerning the matter.

Gen 24:12 He said, "Adonai, God of my master Avraham, please let me succeed today; and show your grace to my master Avraham.

Gen 24:26 The man bowed his head and prostrated himself before Adonai.

Gen 24:27 Then he said, "Blessed be Adonai, God of my master Avraham, who has not abandoned his faithful love for my master; because Adonai has guided me to the house of my master's kinsmen."

Torah Blessing

So, just who is this servant of Avraham? Although nameless in this passage, he is considered to be Eli`ezer

He has garnered enormous trust from Avraham:

- He is Avraham's head servant who has served him the longest
- He is in charge of everything Avraham owned
- He was entrusted with an enormous responsibility in selecting a wife for Avraham's son, who would become the new matriarch of this family.
- Length of service indicates that he is both loyal and faithful to Avraham
- He is passionate in his service to Avraham

- His desires are to satisfy those who he serves.
- His prayers are to succeed for the one he serves

In turn, Avraham's servant has trusted him because:

- He knows that Avraham has faithfully followed Adonai
- He has seen how Avraham conducts himself
- He has been well provided for, to the point that he would have been Avraham's heir had Yitz'chak not been born.

Do we have the same attitude?

When I look at something like the NBA lockout, I would have to say no.

On one side you have the owners who are looking for a better contract than the previous one because they claim to have lost money.

On the other side of the dispute you have the players who are disputing the owner's allegations regarding their financial circumstances.

The impact of the dispute is not limited to these two groups. Others are impacted:

- In the middle you have the fans, whom both sides support with their financial contributions through ticket sales, concessions and merchandise purchases.
- You also have employees of the league and teams that are reliant on them for their jobs. To date a total of 400 jobs have been lost, with more to follow, the longer the lockout lasts
- You have radio and television networks that have paid for the rights to broadcast the leagues games. It is likely that jobs will be impacted at these companies.

The unknown impact will start to materialize when a settlement is reached and they find out how many fans will return to support them.

The impact goes well beyond the groups that are in dispute.

What are the others to do?

- Fans have alternatives,
- Employees will have a more daunting task in finding new employment given 9% national unemployment.

What's missing in this dispute?

Would a resolution have happened sooner, if there was a mind set similar to that of Avraham's servant?

When we look at the aspects of the relationship between Avraham and his servant...

- The most glaring thing that is missing is trust...the element that is most prominent in Avraham's relationship with his servant
- The mindset that they are servants to those who make it possible for them to do what they do.

If there was more of a servant's heart, would there have been more of an urgency to resolve their differences, because they would have put the interests of those they serve

Other Aspects:

We are all servants in one way or another.

More and more we hear stories of customer service that does anything but service the customer.

What used to be included with the purchase of a product is now either a limited support contract or an additional cost.

Our economy is considered to be a service based economy whereby 70% of the jobs are service related. In reality, it is 100%, because we are all in service to someone.

Many companies have exported their customer service departments to other countries to save money, rather than finding ways to be more efficient with their service.

Automated phone systems and web sites are supposed to offer a more efficient level of customer service, but in many cases are lacks in doing what it is intended to do...service the customer.

The concept "to serve" is being squeezed out of our way of thinking.

As an employee, we serve those who employ us (company and customer)

As an employer, we serve both our employees and customers.

In closing...

We need to have the attitude of Avraham's servant.

- Our interest should be that of the one we serve.
- We should be willing to serve and with an open heart
- We should be passionate in our service

As believers, we serve Adonai by serving others.

To serve is privilege and a responsibility,

To serve shouldn't be limited to our group as believers but should be part of everything we do in life...it should be our way of life.

In many things, Messiah is our example, our service as well...

Mar 9:35 He sat down, summoned the Twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all."

Mat 20:25 But Yeshua called them and said, "You know that among the Goyim, those who are supposed to rule them become tyrants, and their superiors become dictators.

Mat 20:26 Among you, it must not be like that. On the contrary, whoever among you wants to be a leader must become your servant,

Mat 20:27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave!

Mat 20:28 For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve — and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Whether your aspiration is to lead or not, you must be willing to serve first.