

Notes: December 15, 2012

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tov
4. Open in Prayer for service
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Jeri - Drash
8. Praise and Worship Songs
9. Message
10. Aaronic Blessing
11. Kiddush
12. Oneg

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Justice, Mercy and Truth

chesed
emet
tzedek

chesed – mercy

1. Compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.

From a Jewish perspective, chesed encompasses mercy, loving kindness, covenantal faithfulness, loyal love.

It includes the concepts of loyalty and fidelity along with love. Representing faithful love.

It also encompasses acts of loving kindness

When wrapped all together, it embodies the essence of Adonai and how we were formed, in His image.

Psa 139:11 If I say, "Let darkness surround me, let the light around me be night,"

Psa 139:12 even darkness like this is not too dark for you; rather, night is as clear as day, darkness and light are the same.

Psa 139:13 For you fashioned my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psa 139:14 I thank you because I am awesomely made, wonderfully; your works are wonders - I know this very well.

Psa 139:15 My bones were not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Psa 139:16 Your eyes could see me as an embryo, but in your book all my days were already written; my days had been shaped before any of them existed.

We are to embody these qualities...

Luk 10:26 But Yeshua said to him, "What is written in the Torah? How do you read it?"

Luk 10:27 He answered, "You are to love Adonai your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your understanding; and your neighbor as yourself."

Luk 10:28 "That's the right answer," Yeshua said. "Do this, and you will have life."

Chesed is often associated with charity for which there are three mentioned by the sages...

1. Chesed can be done with one's money or one's self
2. Chesed is for the poor and the rich
3. Chesed is for the living and the dead (Sukkah 49b)
 - The act of burying a dead person is called chesed shel emet "true kindness" since it is an altruistic act that is done when the other person is powerless to repay.

Mar 15:43 Yosef of Ramatayim, a prominent member of the Sanhedrin who himself was also looking forward to the Kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Yeshua's body.

Mar 15:44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead, so he summoned the officer and asked him if he had been dead awhile.

Mar 15:45 After he had gotten confirmation from the officer that Yeshua was dead, he granted Yosef the corpse.

Mar 15:46 Yosef purchased a linen sheet; and after taking Yeshua down, he wrapped him in the linen sheet, laid him in a tomb which had been cut out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.

emet – truth

1. That which is true or in accordance with fact or reality: "tell me the truth".

In Hebrew the word emet contains the first letter – Aleph, the middle letter, Mem and the last letter Tav...indicating that truth encompasses all things and endures from the beginning (Aleph) to the end (Tav)

The Hebrew mind views truth as dynamic, changing...that it involved the formation of the character of a person, and ultimately the restoration of the world. Truth involves Adonai for whom the Jew must give account.

The nature of truth becomes grounded in the moments of decision encountered in one's life.

Each decision is a fork in the road...which path do I take?

An interesting play on words...when you remove the Aleph from the word you get met, which means dead.

The Aleph is the ineffable letter that represents the oneness and preeminent glory of Adonai. Therefore, if we ignore or suppress Adonai in our understanding of truth, we end up with death. What did Yeshua say...

Joh 14:6 Yeshua said, "I AM the Way — and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.

I am the emet and the chayim

Rev 1:17 When I saw him, I fell down at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand upon me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last,

Rev 1:18 the Living One. I was dead, but look! — I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys to Death and Sh'ol.

Since truth encompasses all, there is always a place for it to be practiced. It should be every part of our life.

Joh 14:7 Because you have known me, you will also know my Father; from now on, you do know him — in fact, you have seen him."

Joh 18:37 "So then," Pilate said to him, "You are a king, after all." Yeshua answered, "You say I am a king. The reason I have been born, the reason I have come into the world, is to bear witness to the truth. Every one who belongs to the truth listens to me."

Joh 18:38 Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" Having said this, Pilate went outside again to the Judeans and told them, "I don't find any case against him.

What was he seeking?

What was he asking?

Pilate had the authority to release Yeshua

tzedek – justice

tzedek – righteousness, fairness, justice
tzedakah – righteousness (charity)

1. The quality of being fair and reasonable.

In each case, from whose perspective are we seeking these answers?

The Talmud states that when we judge mercifully and in accord with the truth, the divine presence joins us. However, if we act corruptly, we alienate the presence of Adonai and create a sense of exile.

Mat 7:12 "Always treat others as you would like them to treat you; that sums up the teaching of the Torah and the Prophets.

Deu 16:18 "You are to appoint judges and officers for all your gates *[in the cities]* Adonai your God is giving you, tribe by tribe; and they are to judge the people with righteous judgment.

Deu 16:19 You are not to distort justice or show favoritism, and you are not to accept a bribe, for a gift blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of even the upright.

Deu 16:20 Justice, only justice, you must pursue; so that you will live and inherit the land Adonai your God is giving you.

Man or Adonai

I have often heard Christians speak of Judaism as the religion of the strict Law, which no human being is good enough to fulfill (hence the need for the sacrifice of Jesus). This is a gross mischaracterization of Jewish belief. Judaism has always maintained that G-d's justice is tempered by mercy, the two qualities perfectly balanced. Of the two [Names of G-d](#) most commonly used in scripture, one refers to his quality of justice and the other to his quality of mercy. The two names were used together in the story of Creation, showing that the world was created with both justice and mercy.

Judaism maintains that we are all G-d's children. A well-known piece of Jewish [liturgy](#) repeatedly describes G-d as "Avinu Malkeinu," our Father, our King. The Talmud teaches that there are three participants in the formation of every human being: the mother and father, who provide the physical form, and G-d, who provides the soul, the personality, and the intelligence. It is said that one of G-d's greatest gifts to humanity is the knowledge that we are His children and [created in his image](#).

What I have been talking about can be summed up in Michah.

The question...

Mic 6:6 "With what can I come before Adonai to bow down before God on high? Should I come before him with burnt offerings? with calves in their first year?"

Mic 6:7 Would Adonai take delight in thousands of rams with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Could I give my firstborn to pay for my crimes, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

The Answer...

Mic 6:8 Human being, you have already been told what is good, what Adonai demands of you — no more than to act justly, love grace and walk in purity with your God.

Justice, Mercy and Truth

chesed, emet, tzedek

In the wake of what happened on Friday, the aspects of Justice, Truth and Mercy will likely be involved...

- Who will pay for this travesty of the taking of 27 innocent lives (reported 28 killed)
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2Ti 3:1 Moreover, understand this: in the acharit-hayamim will come trying times.

2Ti 3:2 People will be self-loving, money-loving, proud, arrogant, insulting, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, uncontrolled, brutal, hateful of good,

2Ti 3:4 traitorous, headstrong, swollen with conceit, loving pleasure rather than God,

2Ti 3:5 as they retain the outer form of religion but deny its power. Stay away from these people!

2Ti 3:6 For some of them worm their way into homes and get control of weak-willed women who are heaped with sins and swayed by various impulses,

2Ti 3:7 who are always learning but never able to come to full knowledge of the truth.

He forms us in the womb.