

Notes: February 14, 2015

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tovv
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: Knowing it is the Ruach ha Kodesh You Are Hearing.

You may be looking around at the decorations and think we are celebrating Valentine's Day. The red, the hearts, the chocolate. Don't let the appearance deceive you.

St. Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration of one or more early [Christian](#) saints named [Valentinus](#). Several martyrdom stories were invented for the various Valentines that belonged to February 14, and added to later [martyrologies](#).

A popular biographical account of Saint Valentine of Rome states that he was imprisoned for performing [weddings](#) for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians, who were [persecuted under the Roman Empire](#).

Today, Saint Valentine's Day is an official [feast day](#) in the [Anglican Communion](#),^[4] as well as in the [Lutheran Church](#).^[5] The [Eastern Orthodox Church](#) also celebrates Saint Valentine's Day, albeit on [July 6](#) and [July 30](#), the former date in honor of the Roman [presbyter](#) Saint Valentine,

This is not what we are doing today.

Several years ago I did my first sermon at Brith Hadoshah in Buffalo – its title “Torah and Grace a Love Story”

It was based on this week's Parashah – Mishpatim, meaning rules or to judge. Today, the common response to God's rules when you mention the word Torah, is legalism, bondage, absence of grace.

If anything this is the complete and total opposite.

Without Torah, how would you know what grace is?

When Adonai reveals His instructions to us, we get to see what His will for our lives truly is. We don't have to constantly ask in prayer "Lord what is your will for me?"

When Adonai conveys His instructions for Israel, He is conveying how they should live. When you have attached yourself to Israel, you are conveying "Your God Shall Be My God" If that is true, then you will be doing as Yeshua instructs... "If you Love Me you will keep my commands"

He isn't saying that you are to do everything that Adonai instructed Israel, but you are to do what He considers right.

During our Parshah we will be looking at the many instructions revealed to Israel by Adonai, expanding upon the 10 commandments just given.

That's not what this sermon is about.

Today, I want to focus on an aspect that is seen throughout the community of Messiah.

People believe they are listening to the Ruach ha Kodesh, yet when they justify what they are doing and their actions do not line up to Scripture, they are ultimately being deceived.

I am playing you an excerpt from Rabbi Hylan Slobodkin of Beit Tikvah in Newcastle, WA, near Seattle.

<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/58545618>

Rabbi Slobodkin conveys from information made public by these churches (Gracepoint – Nashville, TN and Eastlake Community Church – Seattle, WA) - moving towards the inclusion of LGBT individuals as full members by these churches was lead by the Ruach ha Kodesh. This would imply that an LGBT lifestyle is in agreement with Scripture.

Yet, this isn't what the Bible I use says...

How does Sha'ul convey Torah...

Rom 7:1 Surely you know, brothers — for I am speaking to those who understand Torah — that the Torah has authority over a person only so long as he lives?

Like any good Rabbi, he provides you with an example...

Rom 7:2 For example, a married woman is bound by Torah to her husband while he is alive; but if the husband dies, she is released from the part of the Torah that deals with husbands.

Needless to say, the first thing people do, is use the example that is intended to provide insight regarding the primary topic and apply it as a new authority.

But is conveying a point to those who understand Torah – that there is more...

Rom 7:6 But now we have been released from this aspect of the Torah, because we have died to that which had us in its clutches, so that we are serving in the new way provided by the Spirit and not in the old way of outwardly following the letter of the law.

This is where the letter of the law differs from the Spirit, the intent the essence of what the instructions are to do in a person's life.

So, what is He telling them? Many will interpret this as - "because of Yeshua, we are no longer required to keep the law, yet if verse 6 stopped here, that could certainly be interpreted that way. However, it doesn't. Sha'ul goes on to say...

Rom 7:7 Therefore, what are we to say? That the Torah is sinful? Heaven forbid! Rather, the function of the Torah was that without it, I would not have known what sin is. For example, I would not have become conscious of what greed is if the Torah had not said, "Thou shalt not covet."

In using these examples, Sha'ul is referring to the letter of Torah, but conveying more understanding behind the intent of the instruction

Adultery is an act against a covenant

To covet is in essence placing something above Adonai.

In all cases, Torah is relational. It is about relationships

- Adonai's relationship with Israel
- Our relationship with Adonai
- Our relationship with others

Not only does Sha'ul uphold the authority of Torah...he goes on to say...

Rom 7:12 So the Torah is holy; that is, the commandment is holy, just and good.

So, what is "new way provided by the Spirit" from verse 6?

Clearly, if the *Torah* has been written in the hearts of believers they are not released from *every* aspect of it.

Throughout chapter 7 Sha'ul is not talking about Torah as being the issue, but his natures – the old nature and the new nature he received through the Ruach ha Kodesh.

Rom 7:14 For we know that the Torah is of the Spirit; but as for me, I am bound to the old nature, sold to sin as a slave.

Again, Sha'ul isn't saying the issue has anything to do with Adonai, but is solely our issue. Our old nature, our nature before we accepted Messiah. Yes this nature still resides in us, hence the battles we have with ourselves...

Should I be doing this.
Is this right.

Yet we have a standard that we can look to for guidance.

Rom 7:24 What a miserable creature I am! Who will rescue me from this body bound for death?

Sha'ul is speaking from a very human perspective.

His physical body and old nature are bound for death, yet the new creation that also resides in him is not, in fact it will receive a new body.

Rom 7:25 Thanks be to God [*he will!*] — through Yeshua the Messiah, our Lord! To sum up: with my mind, I am a slave of God's Torah; but with my old nature, I am a slave of sin's "Torah."

God's Torah vs. sin's Torah

God has His instructions – sin has its instructions.

Ultimately sins instructions are contrary to everything God says. Keep this in mind.

Within Israel, Adonai instructed the following:

Exo 22:18 (22:17) "You are not to permit a sorceress to live.

Or

Exo 23:13 "Pay attention to everything I have said to you; do not invoke the names of other gods or even let them be heard crossing your lips.

Why? More later...

Sha'ul continues in Romans 8...

Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is no longer any condemnation awaiting those who are in union with the Messiah Yeshua.

Rom 8:2 Why? Because the Torah of the Spirit, which produces this life in union with Messiah Yeshua, has set me free from the "Torah" of sin and death.

Rom 8:3 For what the Torah could not do by itself, because it lacked the power to make the old nature cooperate, God did by sending his own Son as a human being with a nature like our own sinful one [*but without sin*]. God did this in order to deal with sin, and in so doing he executed the punishment against sin in human nature,

Rom 8:4 so that the just requirement of the Torah might be fulfilled in us who do not run our lives according to what our old nature wants but according to what the Spirit wants.

What the Torah could not do by itself, does not imply that the Torah is lacking in its structure or intent. As Sha'ul said it is Holy, just and good.

What now resides is the promise of the New Covenant and the power that brought everything into existence resides in us so that we can live according to the ways Adonai has instructed.

So as believers we are led by God's Spirit.

How often to we hear “We have been lead by The Holy Spirit”

Rabbi Slobodkin mentioned that Eastlake is full inclusion and affirmation – “a new choice” “a move of integrity” “wide inclusivity”

Lean towards inclusion as our instinct.

Yet nowhere does Pastor Meeks state that repentance is even addressed.

Yet, this lifestyle is actually affirmed by this congregation. I guess it isn't a sin anymore? I certainly didn't get the memo from God on this change in the constitution.

I guess because you have accepted Yeshua, you are no longer living by your old nature. Because of wide inclusivity and the word that I used last week “tolerance” you are accepted into the family of God, regardless of what God says.

Rom 8:7 For the mind controlled by the old nature is hostile to God, because it does not submit itself to God's Torah

— indeed, it cannot.

Rom 8:8 Thus, those who identify with their old nature cannot please God.

Rom 8:9 But you, you do not identify with your old nature but with the Spirit — provided the Spirit of God is living inside you, for anyone who doesn't have the Spirit of the Messiah doesn't belong to him.

On what aspect was there submission to God? (rhetorical)

They profess to being believers in Messiah, yet is the Spirit truly living in them?

So the question arises...if we are living by the Spirit of God, how can we claim to be doing something that is against God's Torah?

We read earlier that Torah comes from the Spirit, yet you have people claiming to do things in the name of God and being led by His Spirit, yet it contradicts Torah...

From the video, I am using this as only one example.

Lev 18:22 " You are not to go to bed with a man as with a woman; it is an abomination.

Lev 20:13 If a man goes to bed with a man as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they must be put to death; their blood is on them.

1Co 6:9 Don't you know that unrighteous people will have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don't delude yourselves — people who engage in sex before marriage, who worship idols, who engage in sex after marriage with someone other than their spouse, who engage in active or passive homosexuality,

1Co 6:10 who steal, who are greedy, who get drunk, who assail people with contemptuous language, who rob — none of them will share in the Kingdom of God.

Sha'ul certainly doesn't sound like he is preaching “wide inclusivity”

On the contrary, Yeshua isn't even preaching “wide inclusivity”

Mat 7:13 "Go in through the narrow gate; for the gate that leads to destruction is wide and the road broad, and many travel it;

Mat 7:14 but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to your old nature, you will certainly die; but if, by the Spirit, you keep putting to death the practices of the body, you will live.

Rom 8:14 All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons.

Being led by God's Spirit according to what?

Rom 8:26 Similarly, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we don't know how to pray the way we should. But the Spirit himself pleads on our behalf with groanings too deep for words;

This is the power that didn't exist among humans at that time. This is what Sha'ul was referring to when he said...

Rom 8:3 For what the Torah could not do by itself, because it lacked the power to make the old nature cooperate,

Rom 8:28 Furthermore, we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called in accordance with his purpose;

Rom 8:29 because those whom he knew in advance, he also determined in advance would be conformed to the pattern of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers;

Rom 8:30 and those whom he thus determined in advance, he also called; and those whom he called, he also caused to be considered righteous; and those whom he caused to be considered righteous he also glorified!

The point that I am getting here is...

1. Torah comes from the Spirit
2. It is the character of who Adonai is
3. It is manifested through Yeshua
4. The Spirit will not contradict Torah
5. The Spirit will not contradict Yeshua, the Word who became flesh

So when you are challenged by something in your life...

1. You are to listen to the Ruach ha Kodesh for guidance and instruction
2. You need to know Torah in relation to the teachings of New Covenant writings. Even though He has written it on our hearts, we may still act in affirming this relationship, but it is important to know what God actually says. In this way you will have a reference between the Torah of the Spirit and the torah of sin.

As you have heard today and have likely experienced on your walk with Adonai, many things have been done by claiming that “they believe” they are being guided by the Spirit of God, thus justifying without actual Scriptural foundation or misapplied Scriptural foundation in order to justify their decision or action.

Yochanan provides us with a guideline when it comes to discernment through the Ruach ha Kodesh:

1Jn 4:1 Dear friends, don't trust every spirit. On the contrary, test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1Jn 4:2 Here is how you recognize the Spirit of God: every spirit which acknowledges that Yeshua the Messiah came as a human being is from God,

1Jn 4:3 and every spirit which does not acknowledge Yeshua is not from God — in fact, this is the spirit of the Anti-Messiah. You have heard that he is coming. Well, he's here now, in the world already!

When acknowledging Yeshua you are not just acknowledging His persona, but His deity, His authority.

When you recognize His authority, you are saying you will follow Him.
Not lip service but action.

Let your decisions be based on being directed by the Ruach, and confirmed by Scripture or being guided by Scripture and confirmed by the Ruach. Either way, you can't go wrong.