

Notes: September 5, 2020

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. Kiddish
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, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Summer of Faith Tour - Kefa

I continue to share this perspective when talking about trust / faith last Shabbat...

“Our faith is revealed through the framework of culture. We do not truly know what we can endure unless it is tested. It is tested by the time and the culture we reside in. Faith is not required in a vacuum, absent of trials and tribulation. Faith flourishes when tested. You don't know what the true capacity of your faith is until it is tested to its limits.

Each Shabbat since we have started our tour I have reiterated our foundational verse with definitions for the the words of this verse.

This is from the Complete Jewish Study Bible translation...

Heb 11:1 Trusting is **being confident** of what we hope for, convinced about things we do not see.

Confident (translated as substance in KJV) is defined as...

state of feeling certain about the truth of something.

feeling or belief that one can rely on someone or something; firm trust.

Convinced (adjective) Not the verb to convince. (Translated as evidence in the KJV)

completely certain about something, firm in one's belief with regard to a particular cause or issue.

This summer we have toured the lives as recorded in Scripture of Avraham, Moshe, Noach, Y'hoshua, Kaleb, Shlomo, Hizkiyahu, Gid'on and Sha'ul and even Y'hudah from K'riot. Each one offered us a unique perspective of their trust (or lack) of trust in Adonai. Imperfect in many ways, yet chosen by Adonai, intricately woven into His plan for His creation. We have gleaned much this summer, yet this is a season, a time where we needed to take a step back from all the upheaval in our lives and the world today and remember those that have come before us. A time to reaffirm our faith, strengthen our trust in Adonai.

So, this season, summer, is drawing to an end and so too our summer tour of faith. I wanted to conclude with someone whom was just as imperfect as everyone we visited this summer. The imperfection I talk about is not a negative but rather a positive in that we, who are imperfect in our own ways can actually relate to them. Character traits where we can see some of ourselves in them, thus being able to identify and therefore relate to these individuals. Our last stop on our tour is that of Kefa.

Kefa offers us a truly unique dynamic in that we get to see his entire journey. We get to see the peaks and valleys, the triumph and defeat of a journey that offers us enormous life lessons of faith. In other words, Kefa is authentic, real and relatable.

I start with Yeshua's words in Yochanan after He shares a rather challenging word about "eating His body" which we devoted an entire Tuesday evening bible study...

Joh 6:37 Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will certainly not turn away.

“Everyone the Father gives me”

Kefa didn't know it at the time when we first read of him...

Mat 4:18 As Yeshua walked by Lake Kinneret, he saw two brothers who were fishermen—Shim'on, known as Kefa, and his brother Andrew—throwing their net into the lake.

Mat 4:19 Yeshua said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers for men!"

Mat 4:20 At once they left their nets and went with him.

Yeshua called them, both Andrew and Kefa, yet they had already been identified by Adonai, for Kefa in the passage I had referenced in Yochanan, Yeshua's talmidim were asked...

Joh 6:67 So Yeshua said to the Twelve, "Don't you want to leave too?"

For which Kefa responded...

Joh 6:68 Shim'on Kefa answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the word of eternal life.

Joh 6:69 We have trusted, and we know that you are the Holy One of God."

Joh 6:70 Yeshua answered them, "Didn't I choose you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is an adversary."

“...I will certainly not turn away” (Yochanan 6:37)

In Luke's gospel we have more insight about Kefa.

Luk 5:1 One day, as Yeshua was standing on the shore of Lake Kinneret, with the people pressing in around him in order to hear the word of God,

Luk 5:2 he noticed two boats pulled up on the beach, left there by the fishermen, who were cleaning their nets.

Luk 5:3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Shim'on, and asked him to put out a little way from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

Luk 5:4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Shim'on, "Put out into deep water, and let down your nets for a catch."

Luk 5:5 Shim'on answered, "We've worked hard all night long, Rabbi, and haven't caught a thing! But if you say so, I'll let down the nets."

Luk 5:6 They did this and took in so many fish that their nets began to tear.

Luk 5:7 So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them; and they came and filled both boats to the point of sinking.

Luk 5:8 When he saw this, Shim'on Kefa fell at Yeshua's knees and said, "Get away from me, sir, because I'm a sinner!"

Luk 5:9 For astonishment had seized him and everyone with him at the catch of fish they had taken,

Luk 5:10 and likewise both Ya'akov and Yochanan, Shim'on's partners. "Don't be frightened," Yeshua said to Shim'on, "from now on you will be catching men—alive!"

Luk 5:11 And as soon as they had beached their boats, they left everything behind and followed him.

Kefa is called yet chose to follow Yeshua. He left his boat and his fishing nets and followed Yeshua, warts and all. What happened on the inside of Kefa? Scripture doesn't reveal, however, did the Ruach Ha Kodesh reveal Yeshua to Him? Not in the fullness Kefa would later experience, but enough to get up and go?

I am reminded of the beginning of my journey. After many conversations online with the woman who would one day become my wife, I had made the decision to take that first step of faith and attend a church. It was a Wednesday, May 10th to be exact. My mother's birthday. Calling ahead to confirm there was something that night, I made my way to the church. Walking through the doors what I remember was a peace, a shalom that was unmistakable yet irrational to me. My thoughts at the time, a Jewish person in a church and nothing but peace.

Could this have been what Kefa might have experienced when he chose to follow Yeshua? A peace that was unmistakable, yet reassuring.

So for Kefa, the journey begins...

Along this journey, Kefa witnesses many miraculous things. Things that have no rational explanation, yet are as real as the ground he walked on.

We read of an experience in Kefa's home and the healing of his mother-in-law:

Mat 8:14 Yeshua went to Kefa's home and there saw Kefa's mother-in-law sick in bed with a fever.

Mat 8:15 He touched her hand, the fever left her, and she got up and began helping him.

Kefa having grown up in a Jewish home would have experienced the Tanakh, absorbed the Tanakh and lived by the Tanakh. He would know the words of the Prophets and the words of Moshe. Hence when his mother in law was healed...

Mat 8:16 When evening came, many people held in the power of demons were brought to him. He expelled the spirits with a word and healed all who were ill.

Mat 8:17 This was done to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Yesha'yahu, "He himself took our weaknesses and bore our diseases"

Quoting Yesha'yahu 53:4, Kefa was experiencing the Prophets come alive through Yeshua. A first hand witness and front row seat to Mashiach, the annointed one. No yeshiva could have provided such an education offering such life lessons through the Scriptures coming alive through Yeshua.

And when I say coming alive, this is not figurative, but literal. We read of the account in Mattityahu 17...

Mat 17:1 Six days later, Yeshua took Kefa, Ya`akov and his brother Yochanan and led them up a high mountain privately.

Mat 17:2 As they watched, he began to change form—his face shone like the sun, and his clothing became as white as light.

Mat 17:3 Then they looked and saw Moshe and Eliyahu speaking with him.

Mat 17:4 Kefa said to Yeshua, "It's good that we're here, Lord. I'll put up three shelters if you want—one for you, one for Moshe and one for Eliyahu."

Mat 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them; and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Mat 17:6 When the talmidim heard this, they were so frightened that they fell face down on the ground.

Mat 17:7 But Yeshua came and touched them. "Get up!" he said, "Don't be afraid."

Mat 17:8 So they opened their eyes, looked up and saw only Yeshua by himself.

Mat 17:9 As they came down the mountain, Yeshua ordered them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Through jaw dropping, fear enducing experiences Kefa was taught about the plan of Adonai in how He would redeem Isra'el and ultimately all of creation. He had an understanding, yet it would be Yeshua who would fill in the missing pieces, the gaps so to speak...

Mat 17:10 The talmidim asked him, "Then why do the Torah-teachers say that Eliyahu must come first?"

Mat 17:11 He answered, "On the one hand, Eliyahu is coming and will restore all things;

Mat 17:12 on the other hand, I tell you that Eliyahu has come already, and people did not recognize him but did whatever they pleased to him. In the same way, the Son of Man too is about to suffer at their hands."

Mat 17:13 Then the talmidim understood that he was talking to them about Yochanan the Immerser.

How many times, I can't recall, talking with people about what they perceive certain Scriptures to mean, yet only to provide another perspective. On Friday I had a conversation with a woman who asked me if I believed in the prophetic plan of the moadim the feasts and if I believed the next in line was Yom T'ruah and in her words "the Rapture" for which I conveyed I do not believe in the rapture but rather the return of Messiah and the resurrection, for which she became agitated. She had heard the words that I said, but wasn't listening to the distinction I was making. From her perspective, because I didn't believe in the rapture meant I didn't believe in the prophetic plan of the moadim.

Kefa was obtaining clarity in understanding regarding Scripture, challenged by what he was originally taught and what he was learning directly from Yeshua.

Kefa would even have a pop quiz here and there. One such occurance is when Yeshua asks him a question on the spot...

Mat 16:13 When Yeshua came into the territory around Caesarea Philippi, he asked his talmidim, "Who are people saying the Son of Man is?"

Mat 16:14 They said, "Well, some say Yochanan the Immerser, others Eliyahu, still others Yirmeyahu or one of the

prophets."

Mat 16:15 "But you," he said to them, "who do you say I am?"

Mat 16:16 Shim'on Kefa answered, "You are the Mashiach, the Son of the living God."

Mat 16:17 "Shim'on Bar-Yochanan," Yeshua said to him, "how blessed you are! For no human being revealed this to you, no, it was my Father in heaven.

Mat 16:18 I also tell you this: you are Kefa," [*which means 'Rock,'*] "and on this rock I will build my Community, and the gates of Sh'ol will not overcome it.

Mat 16:19 I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."

Mat 16:20 Then he warned the talmidim not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Kefa became trusted. Ultimately, Kefa was being groomed for a role he did not know he would assume.

We read of accounts where Kefa takes bold steps but experiences human frailty...

Mat 14:22 Immediately he had the talmidim get in the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he sent the crowds away.

Mat 14:23 After he had sent the crowds away, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night came on, and he was there alone.

Mat 14:24 But by this time, the boat was several miles from shore, battling a rough sea and a headwind.

Mat 14:25 Around four o'clock in the morning, he came toward them, walking on the lake!

Mat 14:26 When the talmidim saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said and screamed with fear.

Mat 14:27 But at once Yeshua spoke to them. "Courage," he said, "it is I. Stop being afraid."

Mat 14:28 Then Kefa called to him, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you on the water."

Mat 14:29 "Come!" he said. So Kefa got out of the boat and walked on the water toward Yeshua.

Mat 14:30 But when he saw the wind, he became afraid; and as he began to sink, he yelled, "Lord! Save me!"

Mat 14:31 Yeshua immediately stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, "Such little trust! Why did you doubt?"

Mat 14:32 As they went up into the boat, the wind ceased.

Mat 14:33 The men in the boat fell down before him and exclaimed, "You really are God's son!"

That would further reveal who Yeshua is.

Experience after experience. None was unimportant, but part of Kefa's journey that would ultimately be a foundation for who he would become.

Mat 26:30 After singing the Hallel, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Mat 26:31 Yeshua then said to them, "Tonight you will all lose faith in me, as the Tanakh says, 'I will strike the shepherd dead, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

Mat 26:32 But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you into the Galil."

Mat 26:33 "I will never lose faith in you," Kefa answered, "even if everyone else does."

Mat 26:34 Yeshua said to him, "Yes! I tell you that tonight before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!"

Mat 26:35 "Even if I must die with you," Kefa replied, "I will never disown you!" And all the talmidim said the same thing.

Yet later than night, Yeshua's words would come to fruition. During the three illegal Jewish trials of Yeshua we read of Kefa following...

Mat 26:58 Kefa followed him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the cohen hagadol; then he went inside and sat down with the guards to see what the outcome would be.

To where he would be spotted by others as the one who walked with Yeshua...

Mat 26:69 Kefa was sitting outside in the courtyard when a servant girl came up to him. "You too were with Yeshua from the Galil," she said.

Mat 26:70 But he denied it in front of everyone—"I don't know what you're talking about!"

Mat 26:71 He went out onto the porch, and another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This man was with Yeshua of Natzeret."

Mat 26:72 Again he denied it, swearing, "I don't know the man!"

Mat 26:73 After a little while, the bystanders approached Kefa and said, "You must be one of them—your accent gives you away."

Mat 26:74 This time he began to invoke a curse on himself as he swore, "I do not know the man!"—and immediately a rooster crowed.

Mat 26:75 Kefa remembered what Yeshua had said, "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times"; and he went outside and cried bitterly.

The harsh reality experienced by Kefa should not be lost on anyone here. Have we not been weak at times? Succumbed to our own weakness and insecurity? This make Kefa relatable. Yet, Yeshua did not discard him, but held to His promise. Kefa was in a leadership training program the likes of which have never been seen to this day.

He would continue to experience anguish upon Yeshua's death...

We read of what transpired after Shabbat when they went to the tomb...

Joh 20:3 Then Kefa and the other talmid started for the tomb.

Joh 20:4 They both ran, but the other talmid outran Kefa and reached the tomb first.

Joh 20:5 Stooping down, he saw the linen burial-sheets lying there but did not go in.

Joh 20:6 Then, following him, Shim'on Kefa arrived, entered the tomb and saw the burial-sheets lying there,

Joh 20:7 also the cloth that had been around his head, lying not with the sheets but in a separate place and still folded up.

Joh 20:8 Then the other talmid, who had arrived at the tomb first, also went in; he saw, and he trusted.

Joh 20:9 (They had not yet come to understand that the Tanakh teaches that the Messiah has to rise from the dead.)

Joh 20:10 So the talmidim returned home,

They went home...

Miryam remained...

Joh 20:11 but Miryam stood outside crying. As she cried, she bent down, peered into the tomb,

Was Kefa experiencing the same loss as Miryam? They, Kefa had yet to understand fully what had transpired and what was about to happen.

Yet, it wouldn't be long before Kefa mourning would turn into joy...

Joh 20:19 In the evening that same day, the first day of the week, when the talmidim were gathered together behind locked doors out of fear of the Judeans, Yeshua came, stood in the middle and said, "Shalom aleikhem!"

Joh 20:20 Having greeted them, he showed them his hands and his side. The talmidim were overjoyed to see the Lord.

Joh 20:21 "Shalom aleikhem!" Yeshua repeated. "Just as the Father sent me, I myself am also sending you."

Joh 20:22 Having said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Ruach HaKodesh!"

Joh 20:23 If you forgive someone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you hold them, they are held."

Yeshua breathed the Ruach ha Kodesh upon them. The same Spirit that would be poured out upon all in Yerushalayim on Shavu'ot...

Act 2:1 The festival of Shavu'ot arrived, and the believers all gathered together in one place.

Act 2:2 Suddenly there came a sound from the sky like the roar of a violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Act 2:3 Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire, which separated and came to rest on each one of them.

Act 2:4 They were all filled with the Ruach HaKodesh and began to talk in different languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Where at the same time a transformed Kefa would assume his role as leader of Yeshua's community, the Messianic Community.

Act 2:14 Then Kefa stood up with the Eleven and raised his voice to address them: "You Judeans, and all of you staying here in Yerushalayim! Let me tell you what this means! Listen carefully to me!"

Conveying one of the most powerful sermons in Scripture as to the events that had transpired on Shavu'ut and that of Yeshua.

He would confront the Cohen and P'rushim, the Sanhedrin...

Act 5:29 Kefa and the other emissaries answered, "We must obey God, not men.

Act 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Yeshua, whereas you men killed him by having him hanged on a stake.

Act 5:31 God has exalted this man at his right hand as Ruler and Savior, in order to enable Isra'el to do t'shuvah and have her sins forgiven.

Act 5:32 We are witnesses to these things; so is the Ruach HaKodesh, whom God has given to those who obey him."

He would be the first to take the message of Messiah to Gentiles...

Act 10:34 Then Kefa addressed them: "I now understand that God does not play favorites,

Act 10:35 but that whoever fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him, no matter what people he belongs to.

Kefa exemplifies the words of Sha'ul...

2Co 12:8 Three times I begged the Lord to take this thing away from me;

2Co 12:9 but he told me, "**My grace is enough for you, for my power is brought to perfection in weakness.**" Therefore, I am very happy to boast about my weaknesses, in order that the Messiah's power will rest upon me.

From weakness to strength. Kefa's confidence, that is his faith certainly ebbed and flowed. His journey was most certainly one of two steps forward and one step back. In the end, he persevered.

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.

Strength that was brought through the Ruach ha Kodesh...Kefa was transformed...we have been transformed...

Rom 8:12 So then, brothers, we don't owe a thing to our old nature that would require us to live according to our old nature.

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.

Rom 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to bring you back again into fear; on the contrary, you received the Spirit, who makes us sons and by whose power we cry out, "Abba!" (that is, "Dear Father!").

Rom 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our own spirits that we are children of God;

Rom 8:17 and if we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Messiah—provided we are suffering with him in order also to be glorified with him.

Kefa's journey was extraordinary, reaching the highest highs and lowest lows. All of which were integral in making Kefa who he would become. Embrace the journey, seek understanding when your faith is being challenged. If Kefa was able to endure, there is no reason why you can't either.