

Notes: January 6, 2018

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Shabbat Shalom – Service Begins
2. America The Beautiful/Moment of Silence: *Pray for America and it's Leadership*
3. Children's Song: *With God Anything Is Possible – Luke 18:27*
4. Children's Lesson: *Adonai's Prayer*
5. Children's Blessing
6. Matovu
7. Name of God For the Week: *Ah-doe-nigh Eh-lo-high Keh-doe-shee – Lord my God, my Holy One*
8. Liturgy
9. Prayer
10. Worship in Music and Dance
11. Weekly Drash: Rebbetzin Jeri – *Who/What Do You Serve?*
12. Rabbi Stephen's Message: *What Does Serving God Look Like?*
13. Kiddush
14. Oneg: *Prepared by Oneg Team 1*

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: What Does Serving God Look Like?

Jeri gave you much to think about in serving Adonai...my question to you is...

What does it look like when we serve Adonai?

In this week's parsha, we have an excellent example in Moshe.

We can look back from the very beginning and see that Adonai has a plan for Moshe and it will be to serve Him.

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.

From Moshe's very conception...

Exo 2:1 A man from the family of Levi took a woman also descended from Levi as his wife.

Exo 2:2 When she conceived and had a son, upon seeing what a fine child he was, she hid him for three months.

Adonai was working through his parents, concealing Moshe due to this decision made by Pharaoh...

Exo 1:22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every boy that is born, throw in the river; but let all the girls live."

Adonai knows you and the plan that He has for your life, even before you were born.

The question now is once Adonai opens your eyes to who He is and you come to follow Him what will you do.

I have shared with you my journey from the time I became a believer. I see this as the paradigm shifting moment of my life and I anticipate it is for everyone else as well. If you did not grow up in a Christian family that where you were immersed with Yeshua and were living according to Adonai's Word, then you would be living by the way of society, in essence the world. There may be some principles the world has adopted from Adonai, but it is no where near living according to His Word. Even in a Jewish home, there were things that were missing. The hellenization of Judaism is still prevalent in our culture today.

Embracing Adonai and His Word as the foundation for the decisions you will make in life is truly the first aspect involved in serving Him.

Jas 1:22 Don't deceive yourselves by only hearing what the Word says, but do it!

There is great benefit when one does what Adonai wants...

Mat 12:50 Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants, that person is my brother and sister and mother."

We have the promise of remaining close to Adonai if we do what He wants.

Mat 28:19 Therefore, go and make people from all nations into talmidim, immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruach HaKodesh,

Mat 28:20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember! I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the age."

We have the promise He will always be with us, if we do what He wants.

In doing what He wants, we are serving Him and His purpose. Putting Him first. Subordinating our lives to Him.

Luk 11:27 As Yeshua was saying these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice to call out, "How blessed is the mother that gave birth to you and nursed you from her breast!"

Luk 11:28 But he said, "Far more blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"

In serving Him through our obedience to His Word, we are hopefully desiring something which can not be found in the world, but only in Him and that is His righteousness, with our example being Yeshua.

Rom 2:13 For it is not merely the hearers of Torah whom God considers righteous; rather, it is the doers of what Torah says who will be made righteous in God's sight.

Rom 2:14 For whenever Gentiles, who have no Torah, do naturally what the Torah requires, then these, even though they don't have Torah, for themselves are Torah!

Rom 2:15 For their lives show that the conduct the Torah dictates is written in their hearts. Their consciences also bear witness to this, for their conflicting thoughts sometimes accuse them and sometimes defend them

To identify as being Messianic, whether Jew or Gentile means that you desire to be like Messiah.

Getting back to Moshe...

Moshe grows up and begins interacting with his people, yet it didn't go well to where he would have to flee from Egypt, ending up in the land of Midyan. There he would take a wife. They would have two children and Moshe would go on shepherding his father-in-law's heard.

One would think that would be the end of the story, yet the beginning of Moshe's life, from conception to exile from His people transpires in one chapter of Exodus. Whereby the remainder of Moshe's life, approximately 40 years (one-third of his life) would play out in 135 chapters for generation after generation to experience.

He would become known to Israel and Moshe Rabbeinu...Moshe our teacher.

Yet Moshe's journey was not as smooth as you would think. His journey resumes here...

Exo 3:1 Now Moshe was tending the sheep of Yitro his father-in-law, the priest of Midyan. Leading the flock to the far side of the desert, he came to the mountain of God, to Horev.

Adonai knows exactly where Moshe has been. He never lost sight of him. Just as He has never lost sight of you.

This is where I would say Adonai had made a moad, an appointed time to meet with Moshe. The only thing is that Moshe didn't know he had anything scheduled.

Think back...how did God get first get your attention?

Was it as miraculous as this...

Exo 3:2 The angel of Adonai appeared to him in a fire blazing from the middle of a bush. He looked and saw that although the bush was flaming with fire, yet the bush was not being burned up.

Or was it something else...either way, you are sitting here today, He got your attention.

What was your first interaction like?

Here's how it went with Moshe...

Exo 3:3 Moshe said, "I'm going to go over and see this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't being burned up."

Exo 3:4 When Adonai saw that he had gone over to see, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moshe! Moshe!" He answered, "Here I am."

Exo 3:6 I am the God of your father," he continued, "the God of Avraham, the God of Yitz'chak and the God of Ya`akov." Moshe covered his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Exo 3:7 Adonai said, "I have seen how my people are being oppressed in Egypt and heard their cry for release from their slavemasters, because I know their pain.

Exo 3:8 I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that country to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey, the place of the Kena`ani, Hitti, Emori, P'rizi, Hivi and Y'vusi.

Exo 3:9 Yes, the cry of the people of Isra'el has come to me, and I have seen how terribly the Egyptians oppress them.

Exo 3:10 Therefore, now, come; and I will send you to Pharaoh; so that you can lead my people, the descendants of Isra'el, out of Egypt."

And there it is.

How Moshe was to serve Adonai.

Lead my people out of Egypt.

A single task, yet one that in the eyes of Moshe was inconceivable...

Exo 3:11 Moshe said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the people of Isra'el out of Egypt?"

That's not me. I'm not a leader.

Need I go back to Psalm 139?

When you find out the purpose Adonai has placed on you, do you resist, negotiate or just flat out refuse?

Exo 3:12 He replied, "I will surely be with you. Your sign that I have sent you will be that when you have led the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

Exo 3:13 Moshe said to God, "Look, when I appear before the people of Isra'el and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you'; and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?"

Exo 3:14 God said to Moshe, "Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh [*I am/will be what I am/will be*]," and added, "Here is what to say to the people of Isra'el: 'Ehyeh [*I Am or I Will Be*] has sent me to you.' "

Exo 3:15 God said further to Moshe, "Say this to the people of Isra'el: 'Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh (יהוה) [*Adonai*], the God of your fathers, the God of Avraham, the God of Yitz'chak and the God of Ya'akov, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how I am to be remembered generation after generation.

Exo 3:16 Go, gather the leaders of Isra'el together, and say to them, 'Adonai, the God of your fathers, the God of Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'akov, has appeared to me and said, "I have been paying close attention to you and have seen what is being done to you in Egypt;

Exo 3:17 and I have said that I will lead you up out of the misery of Egypt to the land of the Kena'ani, Hitti, Emori, P'rizi, Hivi and Y'vusi, to a land flowing with milk and honey.' "

Exo 3:18 They will heed what you say. Then you will come, you and the leaders of Isra'el, before the king of Egypt; and you will tell him, 'Adonai, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Now, please, let us go three days' journey into the desert; so that we can sacrifice to Adonai our God.'

Exo 3:19 I know that the king of Egypt will not let you leave unless he is forced to do so.

Exo 3:20 But I will reach out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders that I will do there. After that, he will let you go.

Exo 3:21 Moreover, I will make the Egyptians so well-disposed toward this people that when you go, you won't go empty-handed.

Exo 3:22 Rather, all the women will ask their neighbors and house guests for silver and gold jewelry and clothing, with which you will dress your own sons and daughters. In this way you will plunder the Egyptians."

And even after all of Adonai's reassurance did you still question your role in His Kingdom?

Exo 4:1 Moshe replied, "But I'm certain they won't believe me, and they won't listen to what I say, because they'll say, 'Adonai did not appear to you.' "

Did He have to further convince you?

With Moshe, Adonai provided him with signs to convey to the people that Moshe had been sent by Adonai... his staff turning into a serpent, his hand covered in tz'arat and water turning into blood.

Not enough excuses? How about one more...

Exo 4:10 Moshe said to Adonai, "Oh, Adonai, I'm a terrible speaker. I always have been, and I'm no better now, even after you've spoken to your servant! My words come slowly, my tongue moves slowly."

Yet for every excuse we have in serving Him, He has a response.

Exo 4:11 Adonai answered him, "Who gives a person a mouth? Who makes a person dumb or deaf, keen-sighted or blind? Isn't it I, Adonai?"

Exo 4:12 Now, therefore, go; and I will be with your mouth and will teach you what to say."

If excuse after excuse isn't enough, how about one more.

Exo 4:13 But he replied, "Please, Lord, send someone else — anyone you want!"

Please Lord, anyone but me. Has this thought every crossed your mind?

Exo 4:14 At this, Adonai's anger blazed up against Moshe; he said, "Don't you have a brother, Aharon the Levi? I know that he's a good speaker. In fact, here he is now, coming out to meet you; and he'll be happy to see you.

Even Adonai has a limit when it comes to our excuses in serving Him.

Good thing there isn't a limit to His mercy.

We may argue with God, debate with God, give excuses to God why we shouldn't, yet what we are ultimately expressing is fear and doubt.

Fear in what others may think, say or do and doubt in what we are able to think say or do.

Really, when you think about it, the only thing standing in the way of serving God with all your heart...

Deu 6:5 and you are to love Adonai your God with all your heart, all your being and all your resources.

Is YOU.

To love Him means that you will ultimately serve Him.

So, the question to ask.

DO YOU LOVE HIM?

If you love Him...

Joh 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commands;

Joh 14:16 and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another comforting Counselor like me, the Spirit of Truth, to be with you forever.

Then He will empower you with His Ruach ha Kodesh to serve Him.

Yet, serving means to give Adonai your best.

Adonai does have standards regarding what He wants...

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, only those who do what my Father in heaven wants.

Mat 7:22 On that Day, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord! Didn't we prophesy in your name? Didn't we expel demons in your name? Didn't we perform many miracles in your name?'

Mat 7:23 Then I will tell them to their faces, 'I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness!'

From this week's bulletin you can take these words home with you...

"Make God's will, your will." That's sound advice. Because, as we see with Moses and Pharaoh, either way, God will work things out His way.

Jos 24:14 "Therefore fear Adonai, and serve him truly and sincerely. Put away the gods your ancestors served beyond the [*Euphrates*]River and in Egypt, and serve Adonai!

Jos 24:15 If it seems bad to you to serve Adonai, then choose today whom you are going to serve! Will it be the gods your ancestors served beyond the River? or the gods of the Emori, in whose land you are living? As for me and my household, we will serve Adonai!"

Jos 24:16 The people answered, "Far be it from us that we would abandon Adonai to serve other gods;

Jos 24:17 because it is Adonai our God who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from a life of slavery, and did those great signs before our eyes, and preserved us all along the way we traveled and among all the peoples we passed through;

Jos 24:18 and it was Adonai who drove out from ahead of us all the peoples, the Emori living in the land. Therefore we too will serve Adonai, for he is our God."