

Notes: September 2, 2017

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. Praise and Worship Songs
8. Message
9. Aaronic Blessing
10. Kiddush
11. 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: Where is Your Heart Today?

When Jeri said...

After searching the scriptures, much prayer, and many in-depth discussions, Rabbi and I have come to the decision that this Shabbat will be our last Shabbat.....

What were your initial thoughts when Jeri paused at this very spot, indicating this would be our last Shabbat?

Was there fear?

Was there sadness?

Was there nothing?

What was your first response?

Your first response reveals the answer to my questions to you and asks a much bigger question -

“Where is Your Heart Today?”

Looking in the mirror, considering one of my many sayings is that the fish smells from the head down, I would be remiss if I didn't look at myself first.

I would self diagnose myself as being frustrated in that some of you are not further along in understanding and embracing the vision of this congregation. This frustration has led to my own discouragement at times, which leads to my own apathy experience...

“why bother, they don't get it?”

Yet, I do my best not to let my frustration, discouragement and apathy show, because if you see it in me, it only becomes worse for you. Our Rabbi / Shepherd has given up...He is going through the motions...it is only a matter of time.

My apologies to everyone here who has ever seen me frustrated, discouraged or apathetic. I can only imagine what it was truly like for Moshe, Jeremiah or one of the other Prophets.

For Moshe to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt after an outpouring and display by Adonai, the likes of which have not been seen to this day and that they witnessed, and still their trust in Adonai was not where it should have been.

“Where was Their Heart?”

It was still in Egypt.

They left in such a hurry that they left their Hearts in Egypt.

If that were truly the case.

Their hearts were still in Egypt because their faith was in what they could see.

They saw the many statues of gods. They saw the abundance and experienced its impact. Even though a slave, they lacked for nothing.

Ultimately they associated faith with provision, in today's verbiage - “stuff”

They trusted in Adonai...until their faith was challenged.

How many times have you read...”You have brought us in the desert to die” (For anyone counting – it is four times)

Did Adonai truly have their heart?

It is said...by Yeshua - **Mat 6:21** For where your wealth is, there your heart will be also.

Not surprising, Pharaoh understood very well that **where your wealth is, there will your heart be also**. This is why he refused to let the Israelites take their property ([Exo 10:8-11](#), [Exo 10:24-27](#)).

And why do you think Adonai would convey the following through Moshe...

**Deu 29:18 (29:17)** So let there not be among you a man, woman, family or tribe whose heart turns away today from Adonai our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Let there not be among you a root bearing such bitter poison and wormwood.

**Deu 29:19 (29:18)** If there is such a person, when he hears the words of this curse, he will bless himself secretly, saying to himself, 'I will be all right, even though I will stubbornly keep doing whatever I feel like doing; so that I, although "dry," [*sinful,*] will be added to the "watered" [*righteous*].'

**Deu 29:20 (29:19)** But Adonai will not forgive him. Rather, the anger and jealousy of Adonai will blaze up against that person. Every curse written in this book will be upon him. Adonai will blot out his name from under heaven.

**Deu 29:21 (29:20)** Adonai will single him out from all the tribes of Isra'el to experience what is bad in all the curses of the covenant written in this book of the Torah.

**Deu 29:22 (29:21)** "When the next generation, your children who will grow up after you, and the foreigner who arrives from a distant land, see the plagues of that land and the diseases with which Adonai has made it sick,

**Deu 29:23 (29:22)** and that the whole land has become burning sulfur and salt, that it isn't being sown or bearing crops or even producing grass - like the overthrow of S'dom, `Amora, Admah and Tzvoyim, which Adonai overthrew in his furious anger -

**Deu 29:24 (29:23)** then all the nations will ask, 'Why did Adonai do this to this land? What is the meaning of such frenzied, furious anger?'

Jeremiah experienced depression...

**Jer 20:1** Now when the cohen Pash'chur son of Immer, chief official in the house of Adonai, heard Yirmeyahu prophesying these things,

**Jer 20:2** he had him flogged and put him in the stocks at the Upper Binyamin Gate of the house of Adonai.

**Jer 20:3** The following morning, when Pash'chur led Yirmeyahu out of the stocks, Yirmeyahu said to him, "Adonai no longer calls you Pash'chur but Magor-Missaviv [*terror on every side*].

Beaten and chained...yet Jeremiah conveys this to his aggressor...

**Jer 20:4** For this is what Adonai says: 'I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends. They will fall by the sword of their enemies, while you watch. I will hand over all of Y'hudah to the king of Bavel, and he will carry them off captive to Bavel and put them to the sword.

**Jer 20:5** Moreover, I will hand over everything stored in this city, all its valuables, all its wealth, indeed all the treasures of the kings of Y'hudah, to their enemies, who will plunder them, take them and carry them to Bavel.

**Jer 20:6** And you, Pash'chur, along with your entire household, will go into captivity; you will go to Bavel, where you will die and be buried — you and all your friends to whom you have prophesied lies.' "

Yet the anguish in Jeremiah's heart towards Adonai is still there...

**Jer 20:7** You fooled me, Adonai; I have been your dupe. You overpowered me, and you have prevailed. All day long I'm a laughingstock; everyone makes fun of me.

**Jer 20:8** Whenever I speak, I have to cry out; I shout, "Violence!" and "Destruction!" Thus the word of Adonai becomes for me the cause of reproach and derision all day!

**Jer 20:9** But if I say, "I won't think about him, I won't speak in his name any more," then it seems as though a fire is burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I wear myself out trying to hold it in, but I just can't do it.

**Jer 20:10** I have heard many whispering their plot: " 'Terror in every direction'? Denounce him! Let's denounce him!" Even all my close friends are watching for me to make a false step — "Maybe he can be tricked, then we'll get the better of him, then we'll take our revenge on him."

and yet, in his depressed state, Jeremiah still functioned and did not sway from the message of Adonai...

**Jer 20:11** But Adonai is with me like a dreaded warrior; so my persecutors will stumble, defeated, greatly ashamed because of their failure; their lasting disgrace will not be forgotten.

**Jer 20:12** Adonai-Tzva'ot, you who test the righteous and see people's hearts and thoughts, let me see you take vengeance on them, for I have committed my cause to you.

**Jer 20:13** Sing to Adonai! Praise Adonai! For he rescues those in need from the clutches of evildoers.

And further yet, it was a daily struggle, a battle from within that Jeremiah was waging.

**Jer 20:14** A curse on the day I was born! The day my mother gave birth to me — let it not be blessed!

**Jer 20:15** A curse on the man who brought the news to my father, "A son has been born to you!" — thus making him very happy.

**Jer 20:16** Let that man be like the cities Adonai overthrew without mercy! Let him hear cries of alarm in the morning and the sound of battle at noon,

**Jer 20:17** because God did not put me to death in the womb and let my mother become my grave, her womb forever filled with me.

**Jer 20:18** Why did I have to emerge from the womb, just to see toil and sorrow, and end my days in shame?

And He endured till the end...

**Mat 24:10** At that time many will be trapped into betraying and hating each other,

**Mat 24:11** many false prophets will appear and fool many people;

**Mat 24:12** and many people's love will grow cold because of increased distance from Torah.

**Mat 24:13** But whoever holds out till the end will be delivered.

Jeremiah suffered greatly, yet withstood the hatred towards him and the anguish from within, having endured to the bitter end where he saw the destruction of Jerusalem and the people he came to save, taken away captive to a conquering nation.

Enduring the deluge of false prophets, who were speaking contrary to the Word of Adonai, ultimately pleasing the ears of the people rather than the truth Jeremiah was sent to convey...

**Jer 14:14** Adonai replied, "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I didn't send them, order them or speak to them. They are prophesying false visions to you, worthless divination, the delusions of their own minds.

**Jer 14:15** Therefore," Adonai says, "concerning the prophets who prophesy in my name, whom I did not send, yet they say, 'There will be neither war nor famine in this land' — it will be war and famine that will destroy those prophets.

I hear the words of Tevye "if we are the chosen people, couldn't you have chosen someone else?"

Yet through all of that, he endured until the end.

Where was His Heart?

In spite of it breaking daily, in spite of the anguish Jeremiah was committed to Adonai.

I've read what the Prophets have said to Israel, instilling so many truths about Adonai and yet they "didn't get it".

Yet, I also look at Yeshua and the challenges He faced with His talmidim. All prior to the Ruach Ha Kodesh being poured out, yet, Yeshua still experienced frustration...

In this case, Philip...

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

**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 14:8** Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it will be enough for us."

**Joh 14:9** Yeshua replied to him, "Have I been with you so long without your knowing me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Or T'oma...

**Joh 20:24** Now T'oma (the name means "twin"), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Yeshua came.

**Joh 20:25** When the other talmidim told him, "We have seen the Lord," he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger into the place where the nails were and put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe it."

**Joh 20:26** A week later his talmidim were once more in the room, and this time T'oma was with them. Although the doors were locked, Yeshua came, stood among them and said, "Shalom aleikhem!"

**Joh 20:27** Then he said to T'oma, "Put your finger here, look at my hands, take your hand and put it into my side. Don't be lacking in trust, but have trust!"

**Joh 20:28** T'oma answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

**Joh 20:29** Yeshua said to him, "Have you trusted because you have seen me? How blessed are those who do not see, but trust anyway!"

Their lack of faith...

**Mat 17:14** As they came up to the crowd, a man approached Yeshua, knelt down in front of him,

**Mat 17:15** and said, "Sir, have mercy on my son, because he is an epileptic and has such terrible fits that he often falls into the fire or into the water.

**Mat 17:16** I brought him to your talmidim, but they couldn't heal him."

**Mat 17:17** Yeshua answered, "Perverted people, without any trust! How long will I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him here to me!"

**Mat 17:18** Yeshua rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, so that from that moment he was healed.

**Mat 17:19** Then the talmidim went to him privately and said, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

**Mat 17:20** He said to them, "Because you have such little trust! Yes! I tell you that if you have trust as tiny as a mustard seed, you will be able to say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there!' and it will move; indeed, nothing will be impossible for you!"

I look back at the last three years of the many incredible things that have been revealed to you by Adonai, and I am seeing the same things Moshe and the Prophets have seen. Hence my frustration and discouragement.

Yes there is a faithful remnant who are in essence “bucking the trend” and growing in their faith daily, yet, this faithful remnant at the time of Jeremiah were caught up in the expulsion, because it was an entire nation that transgressed.

Jeri conveyed many things to you in her drash, one is enthusiasm...

*Enthusiasm plays a big part in our personal spiritual growth; without it, we are not motivated to read our Bible or spend time in prayer. We end up exercising our spiritual disciplines out of obligation. We become dry, and unable to absorb what we are to learn. Or, we give it up and use all kinds of excuses such as lack of time or fatigue. When our spiritual lives suffer, so does our ability to relate our experience to others, and we become ineffective leaders and partakers in the building of the Kingdom of God.*

*Enthusiasm fuels our initiative as shown in Proverbs 22:29; Ephesians 5:8-14; Philippians 3:14; 4:13-15; Hebrews 10:24-25. Having initiative will help us to take the front position so we can recognize and do what needs to be done before being asked to do it. When we see something undone, we do not wait for someone else - we do it.*

One such passage I want to share in its fullness...

**Heb 10:22** Therefore, let us approach the Holiest Place with a sincere heart, in the full assurance that comes from trusting — with our hearts sprinkled clean from a bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

**Heb 10:23** Let us continue holding fast to the hope we acknowledge, without wavering; for the One who made the promise is trustworthy.

**Heb 10:24** And let us keep paying attention to one another, in order to spur each other on to love and good deeds,

**Heb 10:25** not neglecting our own congregational meetings, as some have made a practice of doing, but, rather, encouraging each other. And let us do this all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**Heb 10:26** For if we deliberately continue to sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

**Heb 10:27** but only the terrifying prospect of Judgment, of raging fire that will consume the enemies.

**Heb 10:28** Someone who disregards the Torah of Moshe is put to death without mercy on the word of two or three witnesses.

**Heb 10:29** Think how much worse will be the punishment deserved by someone who has trampled underfoot the Son of God; who has treated as something common the blood of the covenant which made him holy; and who has insulted the Spirit, giver of God's grace!

**Heb 10:30** For the One we know is the One who said, "Vengeance is my responsibility; I will repay," and then said, "Adonai will judge his people."

**Heb 10:31** It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God!

**Heb 10:32** But remember the earlier days, when, after you had received the light, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings.

**Heb 10:33** Sometimes you were publicly disgraced and persecuted, while at other times you stood loyally by those who were treated this way.

**Heb 10:34** For you shared the sufferings of those who had been put in prison. Also when your possessions were seized, you accepted it gladly; since you knew that what you possessed was better and would last forever.

**Heb 10:35** So don't throw away that courage of yours, which carries with it such a great reward.

**Heb 10:36** For you need to hold out; so that, by having done what God wills, you may receive what he has promised.

**Heb 10:37** For "There is so, so little time! The One coming will indeed come, he will not delay.

**Heb 10:38** But the person who is righteous will live his life by trusting, and if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him."

**Heb 10:39** However, we are not the kind who shrink back and are destroyed; on the contrary, we keep trusting and thus preserve our lives!

So I ask, Where is Your Heart Today?

Jeri talked about the many things we are concerned about for this congregation.

We can function as we are, but we will not grow beyond where we are...if anything we will decline. The condition of the congregation is based on your heart. Your heart makes the congregation's heart beat. As you go, so goes the congregation.

The disease of apathy impacting the congregation's heart, I would equate to cholesterol of the human heart. It is the silent killer that in a matter of time destroys a once healthy heart.

We have grown comfortable, yet dare I say complacent.

This is not exclusive to Kehilah Portland, but is impacting and affecting the body of Messiah throughout this nation, not to mention around the world. When I say post Christian, it is the end result of apathy. It has devoured Europe. It is spreading in the body of Messiah in North America.

Yet my prayer is...not this congregation.

Can you say this...

**Psa 86:12** I will thank you, Adonai my God, with my whole heart; and I will glorify your name forever.

The many sermons I have shared with you over the years pertaining to Shabbat, a day set apart, yet in many ways, it is still being treated as common...in other words, like any other day.

First – this day is Adonai's

**Gen 2:2** On the seventh day God was finished with his work which he had made, so he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

**Gen 2:3** God blessed the seventh day and separated it as holy; because on that day God rested from all his work which he had created, so that it itself could produce.

**Exo 20:8** ¶ "Remember the day, Shabbat, to set it apart for God.

**Exo 20:9** You have six days to labor and do all your work,

**Exo 20:10** but the seventh day is a Shabbat for Adonai your God. On it, you are not to do any kind of work — not you, your son or your daughter, not your male or female slave, not your livestock, and not the foreigner staying with you inside the gates to your property.

**Exo 20:11** For in six days, Adonai made heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. This is why Adonai blessed the day, Shabbat, and separated it for himself.

Is Your Heart Here Today?

Countless times, many of you have placed others ahead of Adonai, by choosing others, you are in essence placing them over and above Adonai, thus creating a sense of idolatry. You have chosen not to worship Adonai on this day.

“Well, I was worshipping on my own”

**Lev 23:2** "Tell the people of Isra'el: 'The designated times of Adonai which you are to proclaim as holy convocations are my designated times.

**Lev 23:3** " 'Work is to be done on six days; but the seventh day is a Shabbat of complete rest, a holy convocation; you are not to do any kind of work; it is a Shabbat for Adonai, even in your homes.

All Adonai is asking is for a day for you to focus solely on Him, in concert with others – A Holy Convocation.

The plague of apathy can be stopped.

However, the first thing we must do, starts with us...

T'shuvah...Repentance

We are in the month of Elul...The month of [Elul](#) is a time of repentance in preparation for the High Holidays of

[Rosh Hashanah](#), leading us to [Yom Kippur](#), The nation's Day of Atonement. A day I have shared with you will be the day when Israel accepts Yeshua's atoning death on Passover.

Yet, the shedding of His blood on the altar not made by human hands is far from just an atonement, but is rather more powerful than any goat or bull. The Passover Lamb is not an atoning death but rather a death of deliverance from death.

[Exo 12:13](#) The blood will serve you as a sign marking the houses where you are; when I see the blood, I will pass over [*Hebrew: pasach*] you — when I strike the land of Egypt, the death blow will not strike you.

Yom Kippur is the day when Israel's sins are atoned, yet on the Yom Kippur for when Yeshua returns, it will not be a mere atonement, but rather...

[Rom 11:15](#) For if their casting Yeshua aside means reconciliation for the world, what will their accepting him mean? It will be life from the dead!

Tradition teaches that the month of Elul is a particularly propitious time, a favorable time for repentance. This mood of repentance builds through the month of Elul to the period of [Selichot](#), to Rosh Hashanah, and finally to Yom Kippur.

The name of the month (spelled [Alef-Lamed-Vav-Lamed](#)) is said to be an acronym of "Ani l'dodi v'dodi li," "I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine," a quote from Song of Songs 6:3, where the Beloved is [G-d](#) and the "I" is the [Jewish people](#). Grafted into the Olive Tree which is Israel...makes this available to you also.

Are you truly His beloved...can you say...

**Psa 86:12** I will thank you, Adonai my God, with my whole heart; and I will glorify your name forever.

If your heart is someplace else, now is the time to seek Adonai and return to Him.

[Psa 86:1](#) [*A prayer of David:*] Listen, Adonai, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

[Psa 86:2](#) Preserve my life, for I am faithful; save your servant, who puts his trust in you because you are my God.

[Psa 86:3](#) Take pity on me, Adonai, for I cry to you all day.

[Psa 86:4](#) Fill your servant's heart with joy, for to you, Adonai, I lift my heart.

[Psa 86:5](#) Adonai, you are kind and forgiving, full of grace toward all who call on you.

[Psa 86:6](#) Listen, Adonai, to my prayer; pay attention to my pleading cry.

[Psa 86:7](#) On the day of my trouble I am calling on you, for you will answer me.

[Psa 86:8](#) There is none like you among the gods, Adonai; no deeds compare with yours.

[Psa 86:9](#) All the nations you have made will come and bow before you, Adonai; they will honor your name.

[Psa 86:10](#) For you are great, and you do wonders; you alone are God.

[Psa 86:11](#) Adonai, teach me your way, so that I can live by your truth; make me single-hearted, so that I can fear your name.

**Psa 86:12** I will thank you, Adonai my God, with my whole heart; and I will glorify your name forever.

[Psa 86:13](#) For your grace toward me is so great! You have rescued me from the lowest part of Sh'ol.

[Psa 86:14](#) God, arrogant men are rising against me, a gang of brutes is seeking my life, and to you they pay no attention.

[Psa 86:15](#) But you, Adonai, are a merciful, compassionate God, slow to anger and rich in grace and truth.

[Psa 86:16](#) Turn to me, and show me your favor; strengthen your servant, save your slave-girl's son.

[Psa 86:17](#) Give me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me will see it and be ashamed, because you, Adonai, have helped and comforted me.

What is the answer to the sign David is asking for?

Yeshua.