

March 23, 2024

The Faith of Your Jewishness – Part 2

Last Shabbat I began this focus on the faith of your Jewishness, not by conveying your need to be Jewish but to view your faith through those that are Jewish. Our first witness to this faith was none other than Yeshua. It is His faith that we need to look towards and thus His willingness to lay down His life for us.

Joh 10:17 "This is why the Father loves me: because I lay down my life—in order to take it up again!

Joh 10:18 No one takes it away from me; on the contrary, I lay it down of my own free will. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again. This is what my Father commanded me to do."

Yet He experienced great anguish for which His time of prayer just prior was one of struggle yet also one of conviction.

Mat 26:36 Then Yeshua went with his talmidim to a place called Gat-Sh'manim and said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

Mat 26:37 He took with him Kefa and Zavdai's two sons. Grief and anguish came over him,

Mat 26:38 and he said to them, "My heart is so filled with sadness that I could die! Remain here and stay awake with me."

Mat 26:39 Going on a little farther, he fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if possible, let this cup pass from me! Yet—not what I want, but what you want!"

Mat 26:40 He returned to the talmidim and found them sleeping. He said to Kefa, "Were you so weak that you couldn't stay awake with me for even an hour?"

Mat 26:41 Stay awake, and pray that you will not be put to the test—the spirit indeed is eager, but human nature is weak."

Mat 26:42 A second time he went off and prayed. "My Father, if this cup cannot pass away unless I drink it, let what you want be done."

Mat 26:43 Again he returned and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy.

Mat 26:44 Leaving them again, he went off and prayed a third time, saying the same words.

His faith was absolute in the Father and not deterred yet He knew what He would experience in human form and thus asked, but Adonai did not relent. We see a similar aspect with Sha'ul, asking of Adonai, trusting then embracing the response...

2Co 12:6 If I did want to boast, I would not be foolish; because I would be speaking the truth. But, because of the extraordinary greatness of the revelations, I refrain, so that no one will think more of me than what my words or deeds may warrant.

2Co 12:7 Therefore, to keep me from becoming overly proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from the Adversary to pound away at me, so that I wouldn't grow conceited.

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.

2Co 12:10 Yes, I am well pleased with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and difficulties endured on behalf of the Messiah; for it is when I am weak that I am strong.

It was by Adonai's grace that Sha'ul was answered and it was by Adonai's grace that Yeshua was answered. Ultimately exemplifying Yeshua's promise...

Mat 24:7 For peoples will fight each other, nations will fight each other, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various parts of the world;

Mat 24:8 all this is but the beginning of the 'birth-pains.'

Mat 24:9 At that time you will be arrested and handed over to be punished and put to death, and all peoples will hate you because of me.

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.

The faith of His Jewishness is to be exemplified, to be lived out. We have seen this throughout the Tanakh.

When we think of trusting in Adonai with think about the following...

- Our family
- Our needs

Yeshua conveys to us...

Mat 6:25 "Therefore, I tell you, don't worry about your life—what you will eat or drink; or about your body—what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

Mat 6:26 Look at the birds flying about! They neither plant nor harvest, nor do they gather food into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they are?

Mat 6:27 Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to his life?

Mat 6:28 "And why be anxious about clothing? Think about the fields of wild irises, and how they grow. They neither work nor spin thread,

Mat 6:29 yet I tell you that not even Shlomo in all his glory was clothed as beautifully as one of these.

Mat 6:30 If this is how God clothes grass in the field—which is here today and gone tomorrow, thrown in an oven—won't he much more clothe you? What little trust you have!

He is talking about our needs, yet do we not see Him providing for our needs on a regular basis?

Consider Psalm 23...

Psa 23:1 [*A psalm of David:*] Adonai is my shepherd; I lack nothing.

Psa 23:2 He has me lie down in grassy pastures, he leads me by quiet water,

Psa 23:3 he restores my inner person. He guides me in right paths for the sake of his own name.

Psa 23:4 Even if I pass through death-dark ravines, I will fear no disaster; for you are with me; your rod and staff reassure me.

Psa 23:5 You prepare a table for me, even as my enemies watch; you anoint my head with oil from an overflowing cup.

Psa 23:6 Goodness and grace will pursue me every day of my life; and I will live in the house of Adonai for years and years to come.

He is our shepherd relating to every aspect of our lives.

- Restoring our inner being
- Guiding us on the right path (the narrow path)
- He protects us
- He corrects us
- His goodness and His grace will follow us

In doing all this leads us to the Kingdom where we are to live in the house of Adonai for years and years to come.

This Psalm exemplifies many in Scripture but there is one to start with I want to focus on and that is Avraham.

Adonai called him out specifically and made promises to him. Direct promises that would impact him directly but would also impact the world.

Gen 12:1 Now Adonai said to Avram, "Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you.

Gen 12:2 I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing.

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

The promises made to Avraham:

- I will make you a great nation
- I will bless you
- I will make your name great
- You are to be a blessing

Then the protection of Adonai's promise

- I will bless those who bless you
- I will curse anyone who curses you

The fulfillment of this promise to Avraham:

- By you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

Adonai is Lord over Avraham life from the very start. The moment He makes this promise to Avram and Avram responding is seen as an act of trust, Avram faith...

Heb 11:8 By trusting, Avraham obeyed, after being called to go out to a place which God would give him as a possession; indeed, he went out without knowing where he was going.

Whether he knew it or not Avraham had placed his Trust in Adonai at the very beginning. Living by way of a promise later to be revealed to Moshe and placed upon Avraham's descendants as they prepare to enter the land promised to him hundreds of years prior...

Deu 31:6 Be strong, be bold, don't be afraid or frightened of them, for Adonai your God is going with you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you."

Avraham would trust in Adonai for his family too.

First in the promise that he would even have a family...

Heb 11:11 By trusting, he received potency to father a child, even when he was past the age for it, as was Sarah herself; because he regarded the One who had made the promise as trustworthy.

Heb 11:12 Therefore this one man, who was virtually dead, fathered descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky, and as countless as the grains of the sand on the seashore.

Have you placed your trust in Adonai in such a way as Avraham for your family. He does not stop here. I want you to see the level of trust Avraham has placed in Adonai...

Heb 11:17 By trusting, Avraham, when he was put to the test, offered up Yitz'chak as a sacrifice. Yes, he offered up his only son, he who had received the promises,

Heb 11:18 to whom it had been said, "What is called your 'seed' will be in Yitz'chak."

Heb 11:19 For he had concluded that God could even raise people from the dead! And, figuratively speaking, he did so receive him.

Avraham was willing to do anything for Adonai. Even the sacrifice of his only son through Sarah whom he understood came the promise of Adonai. Not through Yishmael nor any other children he would have but through Yitz'chak.

That is faith.

I believe Avraham through all the testing Adonai would put him through came to this realization because he lived it first hand, experiencing it daily.

Num 23:19 "God is not a human who lies or a mortal who changes his mind. When he says something, he will do it; when he makes a promise, he will fulfill it.

Once Adonai said something He would do it. Hence the enormous amount of faith he must have wielded when Adonai told him to sacrifice his son, his only son.

As I shared with you earlier about provision being made for us, He did so for Avraham...

Gen 14:17 After his return from slaughtering K'dorla`omer and the kings with him, the king of S'dom went out to meet him in the Shaveh Valley, also known as the King's Valley.

Gen 14:18 Malki-Tzedek king of Shalem brought out bread and wine. He was cohen of El `Elyon [*God Most High*],

Gen 14:19 so he blessed him with these words: "Blessed be Avram by El `Elyon, maker of heaven of earth.

Gen 14:20 and blessed be El `Elyon, who handed your enemies over to you." Avram gave him a tenth of everything.

Gen 14:21 The king of S'dom said to Avram, "Give me the people, and keep the goods for yourself."

Gen 14:22 But Avram answered the king of S'dom, "I have raised my hand in an oath to Adonai, El `Elyon, maker of heaven and earth,

Gen 14:23 that I will not take so much as a thread or a sandal thong of anything that is yours; so that you won't be able to say, 'I made Avram rich.'

Gen 14:24 I will take only what my troops have eaten and the share of the spoil belonging to the men who came with me—`Aner, Eshkol and Mamre; let them have their share."

and thus affirms this promise revealed to Moshe in Deuteronomy...

Deu 8:11 "Be careful not to forget Adonai your God by not obeying his mitzvot, rulings and regulations that I am giving you today.

Deu 8:12 Otherwise, after you have eaten and are satisfied, built fine houses and lived in them,

Deu 8:13 and increased your herds, flocks, silver, gold and everything else you own,

Deu 8:14 you will become proud-hearted. Forgetting Adonai your God—who brought you out of the land of Egypt, where you lived as slaves;

Deu 8:15 who led you through the vast and fearsome desert, with its poisonous snakes, scorpions and waterless, thirsty ground; who brought water out of flint rock for you;

Deu 8:16 who fed you in the desert with man, unknown to your ancestors; all

the while humbling and testing you in order to do you good in the end—

Deu 8:17 you will think to yourself, 'My own power and the strength of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.'

Deu 8:18 No, you are to remember Adonai your God, because it is he who is giving you the power to get wealth, in order to confirm his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as is happening even today.

This all stems from our desire to follow Adonai as Yeshua has established our path and set forth our direction, a direction that leads to the Kingdom, His Kingdom.

Mat 6:31 "So don't be anxious, asking, 'What will we eat?,' 'What will we drink?' or 'How will we be clothed?'

Mat 6:32 For it is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all.

Mat 6:33 But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Mat 6:34 Don't worry about tomorrow—tomorrow will worry about itself! Today has enough tsuris (troubles) already!

Do you have the faith of Avraham in every aspect of your life?

Do you trust Adonai with your family?

Do you trust Adonai with your finances?

Do you trust Adonai with your Faith?

2Ti 2:1 So then, you, my son, be empowered by the grace that comes from the Messiah Yeshua.

2Ti 2:2 And the things you heard from me, which were supported by many witnesses, these things commit to faithful people, such as will be competent to teach others also.

2Ti 2:3 Accept your share in suffering disgrace as a good soldier of the Messiah Yeshua.

2Ti 2:4 No soldier on duty gets involved with civilian affairs, since he has to please his commanding officer.

2Ti 2:5 Also an athlete can't win a contest unless he competes according to the rules.

2Ti 2:6 The farmer who has done the hard work should be the first to receive a share of the harvest.

2Ti 2:7 Think about what I am saying, for the Lord will enable you to understand everything.

2Ti 2:8 Remember Yeshua the Messiah, who was raised from the dead, who was a descendant of David. This is the Good News I proclaim,

2Ti 2:9 and for which I am suffering to the point of being bound in chains—but the Word of God is not bound in chains!

2Ti 2:10 Why do I persevere through it all? For the sake of those who have been chosen, so that they too may obtain the deliverance that comes through the Messiah Yeshua, with eternal glory.

2Ti 2:11 Here is a statement you can trust: If we have died with him, we will also live with him.

2Ti 2:12 If we persevere, we will also rule with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us.

2Ti 2:13 If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.