

בַּלָּק

Balaq

(Balak)

B'midbar [Numbers] 22:2-25:9

הברית החדשה

HaB'rit HaChadashah

(the new covenant)

Pride vs. Humility

Ivrim (Hebrews) 12:1

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

Please notice that there are two different and separate things mentioned in this verse which hinders each one of us in this race that we are in: the race for eternal life. The first thing mentioned is "every encumbrance," which consists of many things. These things are different from person to person. Whatever it is that hinders you personally from running a good race, i.e., attaining eternal life, you should set it aside and not do it or have it to be a part of your life.

The second item mentioned in the above verse which hinders us is "the sin" which so easily causes each and every one of us to falter in this race that we are all a part of. Please note that this sin is singular indicating to us that this sin is the same for every single person. This immediately brings us to the question of just exactly what is this sin which is common to us all and which each and every one of us wrestles with? Simply put it is the sin of the self-will. It is the sin of self exalting itself over everyone and everything. In Scripture we find this sin described as pride. This aspect of one's fallen nature is perhaps one of the most resilient and most difficult to put aside because it is so very deceiving.

Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly corrupt; who can know it?

פִּינְחָס

Pinchas

(Phinehas)

B'midbar [Numbers] 25:10-29:40

Self wants what it wants and will do anything to get it. It will lie, steal, cheat and murder to get its own way. Yeshua taught us this about the heart of man.

Marqos (Mark) 7:21-23

21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, evil thoughts proceed, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,

22 covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, railing, pride, foolishness;

23 all these evil things proceed from within, and defile the man."

Even though pride is listed by Yeshua as one of the evils which come forth from the heart of man, it is also that which lies under each and every other one of those listed. Self most accurately manifests itself in pride. Pride in itself is one of the evils manifested, but it is also the root of the others. The exaltation of self and self needing to have its own way above every other thing or person is evil.

Mishle (Proverbs) 28:26

He that trusts in his own heart is a fool;

But whoso walks wisely, he shall be delivered.

Pride in a person's heart and life dictates that he will not trust in another, including YHWH. Pride dictates that there is no need to trust in any other except in self. But herein is the way that leads to death, because self cannot provide salvation nor escape from a certain terrifying judgment.

In these next two verses is an astonishing connection between pride and the way of destruction.

Matithyah (Matthew) 7:13

"Enter in by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby."

The English word "broad" comes from the Hebrew root word רחב – "rachav" which means "broad", "enlarge" or "widen." We find a form of this same word in the following verse.

Mishle (Proverbs) 21:4

A high look, and a proud heart,

Even the lamp of the wicked, is sin.

The English word "proud" in the above verse comes from the same Hebrew root word רחב. Yeshua in teaching about the way that leads to death is being very explicit in His teaching for those who have ears to hear. The way that is "broad" is the way of a proud heart.

Pride dictates that the problem cannot be "me", but the problem has to be anywhere else but "me". Therefore, pride thinks that the solution is to be found elsewhere. For example, there are those who think that if the right person were to be president then all the problems would be fixed. This is simply

ignoring what Scripture teaches us. Or perhaps some other political fix will do what is necessary; for example, the right law or the right policy, etc. But there is simply nothing that man can do that will fix his dilemma, politically or spiritually.

The problem is not in the wrong man being in office. It is not the fault of Congress. It is not all the crime or criminals. It is not the justice system run amok. It is not my neighbor. It is not because more people have not accepted Yeshua as Mashiach. The problem is “me”. Once a person comes to this realization, then a true fix is close at hand. The problem looks back at each one of us when we look in a mirror.

Mishle (Proverbs) 16:25

***There is a way which seems right to a man,
But the end thereof is the way of death.***

Self and pride tell a person that his own way is the right way, but this way leads to nowhere good.

Mishle (Proverbs) 16:18

***Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before a fall.***

Please note this well: if there is pride in a person then it is only a matter of time before destruction comes. The only way to stop this sure destruction from coming is to repent of the pride and to remove it completely from a person’s life.

Mishle (Proverbs) 16:5

***Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to YHWH;
Though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.***

Every single person who is proud of heart is an abomination to YHWH. That is the plain and simple truth of Scripture. A person can reason this away, but if he does, he does so to his own destruction. There are no exceptions, a person’s heart cannot be lifted up with pride and not be an abomination to YHWH.

Mishle (Proverbs) 11:2

***When pride comes, then comes shame;
But with the humble is wisdom.***

Notice the contrast between pride and humility in this passage. With pride there will be shame and destruction. However, with humility there is wisdom; the greater the humility, the greater the wisdom. We will discuss humility more in detail shortly.

Mishle (Proverbs) 29:23

***A man's pride shall bring him low;
But he that is of a humble spirit shall obtain honor.***

The choice before every single one of us is do we want honor? Or do we want to be dishonored? It is up to us. Pride deceives one into believing that honor can come through the exaltation of self. But this is exactly opposite of the truth. Pride brings one down to dishonor. To be humble of spirit shall bring to us honor. The question is whether one is willing to pay the price and to remove all pride from his life.

Mishle (Proverbs) 8:13

***The fear of YHWH is to hate evil;
Pride, and arrogance, and the evil way,
And the perverse mouth, do I hate.***

Do you hate pride? It is easy to hate pride in others. In fact, there isn't any one of us that doesn't detest pride in others. The more pronounced that the pride is in another person the more disgusting that we think that it is. However, do we hate this same pride in ourselves? Many times it is not even seen for what it truly is.

There are many ways in which pride manifests itself in a person's life. There are those who are proud of the things that they have. Perhaps it is their home or land. Perhaps it is their car or boat. Perhaps it is their coin collection or some other trinkets that they collect. Perhaps it is their prize pet or prize winning livestock that one is proud of. If a person can possess it, then there is someone somewhere that is proud of it.

There are those who take great pride in their physical appearance. This can take many forms. For some it will be in the form of body building. For others it will take on the form of healthy nutrition and all that goes along with that. For others still, it is all about what they are wearing and the designer clothes they must have to impress others. If what one is doing is to impress another, anyone at all, then pride is lurking somewhere in the shadows.

Then there are those who are proud of what they have done, their accomplishments. This can be anywhere from what one does as a profession or employment to his hobbies. It can even include what one has done for Messiah, like going witnessing and bringing another to Messiah; or, perhaps going to the mission field on a mission trip. While many things in our lives can be and are legitimate, it is what we do with them and how these things relate to us in our everyday living that will make the difference between being prideful and being humble.

Still others are proud of the education that they have attained. Others still are prideful in their personal abilities whether learned or natural. Then there are those who may have had some type of special experience that they are particularly proud of. There are those who are proud of whom they know and are not afraid to drop names whenever possible to elevate themselves in another's eyes.

But perhaps there is no other area that one may find pride in than in one's family. This is particularly so when it comes to our children. It is very easy to be lifted up with pride in this area. We can be proud of

what our children do. We have a tendency to be lifted up with pride whenever our children make noteworthy accomplishments in their lives. Furthermore, we are not afraid to let everyone know about it as well. But even if we are not proud of what they have done or who our children have become, we can be proud of them just because they are our children. Brothers and sisters in Mashiach, this is sin!

It does not matter what form the pride takes. It does not matter the occasion of the pride. Pride is sin. And this will lead one to destruction. No ifs, no buts, and most definitely no exceptions!

Matityah (Matthew) 23:12

“And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be humbled; and whosoever shall humble himself shall be exalted.”

So you say to me, “Well then, if I am not supposed to be proud of my children and what they have accomplished, then what am I to do?” I am glad that you have asked this question. Let us turn to Scripture to see what the answer is.

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 4:7

For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

The truth of the matter is this. There is not one single thing in our lives that we can rightly call our own. Every single thing that we have we have received from somewhere or from someone. The talents and abilities we were either born with or we learned. And if we learned them, then we were given the ability to learn them, but did not come by them on our own. Shaul asks us the question, since we have received everything that we have, why are we boasting as if we had not received it? Pretty good question, don't you think?

The same is true for our children as well. They do not have anything that they have not received from somewhere or someone else. So where have we received all these things from?

Ya'aqov (James) 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

The testimony is clear from cover to cover in Scripture, all that we enjoy is from our heavenly Father the Creator. We enjoy all the wonderful things of this world, water, food, even our next breath is a gift from our Creator to us. There is absolutely no room for boasting. We exist because He has willed it so.

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 6:19-20

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from Elohim? And you are not your own;

20 for you were bought with a price; glorify Elohim therefore in your body.

Furthermore, not only have we received everything that we have from our Creator, but He came in the form of a man, Yeshua, and purchased our redemption. He bought us with His own Blood. Not only is all that we enjoy from our heavenly Father, but we ourselves belong to Him. We do not belong to ourselves. Since we do not belong to ourselves, then where is there any room for boasting? There simply is no room for pride!

Now take careful note of what these next passages teach us on how we are to relate to our children.

Mishle (Proverbs) 23:15-16

- 15** ***My son, if your heart be wise,
My heart will be glad, even mine;***
- 16** ***Yes, my heart will rejoice,
When your lips speak right things.***

When one of our children does something noteworthy, then we are to be glad and we are to rejoice. When our children show wisdom, then we are to lift our voices in praise to Him who gave our children the talents and abilities to do what they have done.

Mishle (Proverbs) 23:24-25

- 24** ***The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice;
And he that begets a wise child will have joy of him.***
- 25** ***Let your father and your mother be glad,
And let her that bore you rejoice.***

In order for this joy to be complete, then we are to teach our children to rejoice also and to praise our heavenly Father for what He has enabled them to be able to do. We are to teach our children to walk in humility before our heavenly Father.

However, instead of teaching our children to be humble, most teach them to be full of pride. Surely this will not only cause the downfall of oneself, but also his children. Let us be wise in the matters that YHWH has taught us concerning pride and humility and let us teach our children to be wise, walking before YHWH with knowledge and understanding that they are not their own, that everything that they have is from our heavenly Father and that we are to do His will rather than our own will.

Do not think in your heart and mind that this is just a matter of semantics; for many will say to me that this is what they mean when they say that they are “proud” of their children. If this is what you mean, then stop saying it in a way that the Scriptures clearly condemn and say what you mean!

So how does one be humble?

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 8:3

“And He humbled you, and caused you to hunger, and fed you with manna, which you knew not, neither did your fathers know; that He might make you know that man does not live by bread only, but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of YHWH does man live.”

First it begins with the knowledge and understanding that true life does not consist of the things found in this world. There is nothing in this world that is not temporary. What true life does consist of, is every word that comes forth from YHWH. Even more specifically, true life is found in the Word made flesh, Yeshua our Mashiach.

Yochanan (John) 6:47-51

47 “Amein, Amein, I say to you, he that believes has eternal life.

48 I am the bread of life.

49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

50 This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if any man eats of this bread, he shall live forever; yes and the bread which I will give is My flesh, for the life of the world.”

Many start on the road of humility only to turn back because the cares of this world remove their focus off Mashiach Yeshua. There is nothing in this world that can give us life. We need to be focused upon His kingdom and doing His work.

Matityah (Matthew) 6:33

“But you seek first His kingdom, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.”

Pride attempts to convince us that we need to be seeking the things of this world in order to get by. But YHWH has promised us that if we will do His will, then He will provide for our every need. This is not to say that it will all be easy and a bed of roses. To the contrary, doing the will of our heavenly Father is a very challenging task; one which takes all of one’s focus and effort to do it well. But if a person has pride in anything in his life, then this will be a great hindrance to him and at some point a decision must be made as to which one it will be: His will or one’s own will. Each person must make this decision.

Pride is a killer! If there is pride in your life, then get rid of it before it is too late.

ABBA YHWH, please remove every bit of pride from our lives and teach us to walk in humility before you at all times; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

www.onetorahforall.com