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Vayechi

(and lived)

B'reshit [Genesis] 47:27-50:26

Bearing a Grudge

B'reshit (Genesis) 50:15

And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Yoseph will hate us, and will fully repay to us all the evil which we did to him."

This is a typical attitude that one will find in nearly every person that is of this world. The brothers of Yoseph had mistreated him as he was growing up. When he had a significant dream and told them, they made fun of him. Then, when an opportunity to do evil to Yoseph presented itself, they sold him into slavery. And had it not been for the pleadings of one brother, they would have killed him rather than sell him into slavery.

Now Yoseph was the ruler of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh. Their father had just died and they were now expecting the worst. Why? They fully expected retribution because that was what was in their own hearts. Even at this late date, they still had not come to terms with their sin. They had not repented of it, nor had they sought forgiveness for their sin against their brother Yoseph.

After this family reunion they had seventeen years to make things right and had not done so. Now they were squarely faced with what they had done and there was no getting around it. Their father was no longer around to protect them. They knew full well that they were at the mercy of their little brother. So what did they do? They set to scheming once again. It was scheming that had gotten them into this predicament in the first place and here they were doing it again. Those in the world do not learn their lessons quickly, if at all.

These ten brothers had to face themselves in the mirror of their lives and they did not like what they were seeing. What was in their hearts was not pretty.

B'reshit (Genesis) 6:5

And YHWH saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

The ten older brothers of Yoseph sure proved this passage with their lives, not only with what they did to Yoseph before he became ruler in Egypt, but also when their father Ya'aqov died and they believed and expected Yoseph to retaliate against them.

Mashiach Himself also taught us this same principle: what is in a man's heart is what will be manifested outside of a man.

Matithyah (Matthew) 15:18-19

18 "But the things which proceed out of the mouth come forth out of the heart; and they defile the man.

19 For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings."

The reason that the older brothers of Yoseph treated him the way that they did, is because this was what was in their hearts. In one sense they could not help but treat him in any other way but the way that they did, because they harbored such ill-will and ill-feelings towards him. Not only did each of them nurse these sinful feelings in himself, but they also nursed these sinful thoughts in each other as well.

Romans 1:32

They know well enough Elohim's righteous decree that people who do such things deserve to die; yet not only do they keep doing them, but they applaud others who do the same.

It is these types of attitudes that we find quite prevalent in our world today. We find them in the business world. We find them in the political realm. We find them in the scientific realm. We even find them in religions of all sorts.

Whenever you hear someone say what is in the heart and mind of another person, listen well; for that person is most likely telling you what is in his own heart. A word to the wise, if he will hear; be slow to speak what motivates another person, for in doing so one often is simply revealing what is in his own heart and mind. If you read that and find it offensive, then perhaps it strikes too close to home.

Ya'aqov (James) 3:5-10

5 So the tongue also is a little member, and boasts great things. Behold, how much wood is kindled by such a small fire!

6 And the tongue is a fire; the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is set on fire by hell.

7 For every kind of beasts and birds, of creeping things and things in the sea, is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind.

8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is a restless evil, it is full of deadly poison.

9 With it we bless YHWH and the Father; and therewith we curse men, who are made after the likeness of Elohim;

10 out of the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

Brothers and sisters, just because YHWH blesses us with a little bit of knowledge and understanding gives us no right to run roughshod over our fellow servants. Doing so is the way of Babylon and we are supposed to be coming out of Babylon, not reinforcing that wrong behavior.

It is time that we carefully measure the words that come out of our mouths, regardless of who they are directed towards.

Ya'aqov (James) 1:26

If any man thinks himself to be religious, while he bridles not his tongue he deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.

The way of the world is to not take into account any of the words that come out of one's mouth. While we in His kingdom are to be our brother's keeper; we are to do this with the greatest of compassion and mercy as we would want and desire to receive from our heavenly Father.

Matithyah (Matthew) 7:12

"Always treat others as you would like them to treat you; this sums up the teaching of the Torah and the prophets."

One of the things that I often speak of in my own home is the *Torah of Kindness*. It must be the overriding motivation of everything that we do in our relationships with one another. But one will say to me: but we are to love YHWH our Elohim first and foremost, and then our neighbor as ourselves. Furthermore, we are not to fear any man, but we are to fear Elohim. Well, I have heard all this before and quite frankly it is used quite often as an excuse to abuse one's fellow servants.

Matithyah (Matthew) 18:6

"But whosoever shall cause one of these little ones that believe on Me to stumble, it would be better for him that a great millstone should be hung around his neck, and that he should be cast into the depth of the sea."

Who is a little one? It would seem wise to understand a little one as one who professes to believe in Yeshua as Mashiach, but does not yet know or understand all of the Torah to walk therein.

There are many counterfeit shepherds in this world today. And just because you or I do not agree with the doctrine of a teacher does not necessarily make him a counterfeit shepherd. A counterfeit shepherd is one YHWH says is leading His people away from Him instead of to Him. Many of these counterfeit shepherds, perhaps even most, are counterfeits because of their pursuit of money. They lead many of His little ones astray. But in dealing with these phonies, we need to do so with the wisdom that only

comes from YHWH. Otherwise, in the pulling out of the tare, we root up wheat as well. And that brothers and sisters, is a price that none of us can afford! Please re-read the above verse now.

Before we act rashly and in a hasty manner, we need to spend more time in prayer making sure that we see the situation clearly, whatever situation that may be at any given moment.

Matithyah (Matthew) 7:5

“You hypocrite, first cast out the log out of your own eye; and then you shall see clearly to cast out the speck out of your brother's eye.”

The truth is that we need to help our brother get the speck out of his own eye. But before we do, we need to get the log out of our own eye first. This is not a suggestion, by the way. This is a direct command from Yeshua our Mashiach. If you violate this commandment, then you will cause a whole row of other commandments to fall like one domino knocking over another even to the point that you may very well cause one of His little ones to stumble. Then, according to Yeshua one would be better off dead!

This is serious and it is time we started treating it with the seriousness that our Master Yeshua told us to treat it with. It is time that we carefully guard our tongues and consider carefully what comes out of our mouths, for this is what defiles us!

Let us continue to come out of Babylon by putting a bridle upon our words so that every word spoken by us is not only pleasing to YHWH, but honoring to Him as well. Then our speech will be edifying to all our brothers and sisters in Mashiach as they should be.

ABBA YHWH, give us wisdom in this matter that our words would be healing and not hurtful in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

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Chazak! Chazak! Venischazeik B'Mashiach Yeshua!

Be strong, be strong, and may you be strengthened in Mashiach Yeshua!

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

zerubbabel@onetorahforall.com

www.onetorahforall.com