

Honoring your Parents and the Sabbath

This morning we welcomed Shemuel ben Sehyah to our household and his guest, Peter, from Colorado, who will be staying with us for a few days. We began our gathering with the song, "El Shaddai, He is able to do what He promises..."

No "Lone Ranger" Disciples

When we started out in the Vine House there were all kinds of people traveling around the United States. A lot of them were so-called "Lone Ranger" Christians. Even Nun's and Ephraim's wives, Sekel and Berachah (Judy and Rebecca), were kind of "Lone Ranger" Christians until they found out they couldn't be. They were just traveling around from place to place.

To believe is to be together and to have all things in common (Acts 2:44). There is no way you can truly believe – to the extent that the Holy Spirit would entrust Himself to you, seal with you His Spirit – unless you are truly immersed in the Body of Messiah. We are individually members of Messiah, but we form a Body.

You can't keep the Sabbath by yourself. It doesn't talk about keeping the Sabbath as an individual person, but only as a member of a people that keeps the Sabbath. You can look up the word "keep" and it is always in association with others, to observe and commemorate the Sabbath. I am thankful we are part of a Body, who live with and love one another. Our Father meets with us and speaks with us here. I am thankful you all share your hearts. I am thankful that we can hear from Him in that way.

Those who Honor their Parents honor the Sabbath

I was looking at Lev 20:9. How does it read?

"If there is anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother, his bloodguiltiness is upon him."

His blood-guiltiness is upon him. That means being *continually* upon him. I don't know if you can't get it off of you. It is upon you. That is the word *curse*, of course, which

means to not honor, or to esteem them less than they deserve. It means to show disrespect to them.¹ I was also looking at Lev 19:3 and saw how it pertained to the Sabbath. It is kind of a mysterious verse, if you didn't really know what it meant.

“Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths: I am the Sovereign your God.” (Lev 19:3)

Those things go together: to honor, respect, fear your mother and father, and to keep the Sabbath. So, you can see only the children or youth who honor their parents can keep the Sabbath. You can stop work, but that is not what the word *keep* means.² There is more to it than that. There was a time when someone in our community got picked up by a Seventh Day Adventist, and he was going ninety or one hundred miles an hour, trying to get home so he wouldn't break the Sabbath. You can see where he was. *He was under the law.* He was breaking a greater commandment. He could have murdered someone in his haste.

Children with whom it is going well with can keep the Sabbath. You can see Dt 5:16 and the carryover in Eph 6:2. You can see that children who revere, respect, and honor their parents, it will go well with them. A child can't keep the Sabbath if it is not going well with him. The child will not give his parents rest. It has to be going well for the youth in order to keep the Sabbath, or he can't actually keep the Sabbath.

There is only one way you can keep the Sabbath. You have to keep it in a fitting way. You can't just stop work and play volleyball. It is rest for your soul. If it is not going well for the child, it is because he is not honoring his parents. A child is protected from the enemy by listening to his parents. There is no protection for the child who doesn't listen to and honor his parents. [Addressing the children:] Don't show disrespect. Don't fail to listen to them, for that is not honoring them, which is cursing them.

¹ *Curse* is # 7043, a primitive root meaning to be light, causatively, to make light [literally (swift, small, sharp, etc.) or figuratively (easy, trifling, vile, etc.)]; abate, bring into contempt, accurse, curse, despise, be light, make light of, treat lightly, esteem lightly, slight, be or make vile, revile.

² *Keep* in Ex 20:8 is #6942, to consecrate, sanctify, prepare, dedicate, be hallowed, be holy.

Keeping the Sabbath is not something you can do in a ritualistic way. There is a great understanding we have to have about the word *keep*. It is to commemorate. It is a wonderful word.

“Children, obey your parents in the Sovereign, for this is right. Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long in the land.” (Eph 6:1-3)

“That it may be well with you.” That *well* is well-being. The Sabbath is for a purpose. It is to restore, bring healing, and bring delight. It can’t be a delight to us if we are restless, like a restless child who can’t keep the Sabbath. A restless child can’t keep the Sabbath because he is not honoring, respecting his parents. Some it goes well with and others it doesn’t. Some of our children grow up and it doesn’t go well with them, for either not honoring their parents or because they weren’t fathered to the extent that it could go well with them. They weren’t properly disciplined, for discipline removes whatever is in the child that keeps him from honoring his parents. The father brings about proper discipline that removes from the child everything that would keep him from honoring the Sabbath (Lev 19:3).

Children that give their parents no rest cannot keep the Sabbath. They are restless, disrespectful, and disobedient children. And that applies to any of us also. The Sabbath means rest. It is not just a ceasing from labor, not waiting until it gets dark so you can get back to work, as Nehemiah had to contend with.

Lev 19:3 — The word *keep* means you have to supply what is necessary in order for the Sabbath to be kept. You have to have rest. You can’t keep it by just not working that day. It can’t be physical rest only, but it has to be rest that is spiritually pleasing to our Father. The two have to be together. You have to look forward to the Sabbath, the day you commemorate with your extended family, with the whole clan in Israel that you live in.

It is an impossibility to keep the Sabbath by yourself. It is like trying to be a disciple by yourself, as though you could lay down your life for your brothers when you don't have any. If you don't have brothers allied in the same cause, standing back to back, then you don't have salvation. You have to be brought into the Body and become one Spirit with Him.

The word *keep* means you have to be faithful to remember the Shabbat. To commemorate is to have a "co-memory" of the Sabbath – to celebrate it, to remember it with all. It is spoken to a people, not individuals. You can't keep the festivals alone. There is no way possible to keep the festivals without being established as a twelve-tribed nation. That is errant. There are a lot of people who try to keep the festivals, but they are not even a part of the Twelve Tribes.

You have to keep the Sabbath fittingly. To keep it means to conform to its name. You have to rest, cease. You have to continue to maintain the quality of it and not defile it. You have to keep it continually, not keep it one Saturday and break it the next. We have to celebrate its cause. The Sabbath was made for man. Our Father rested on the Seventh Day, having been satisfied by what He had done for six days. We have to come to the same satisfaction about our work: how we labored and accomplished our purpose. Now we rest with our brothers and sisters. We commemorate the Sabbath together. We remember the Sabbath.

Otherwise we revile God, as in Ex 22:28. To *revile* means to bring into contempt, for our Father commands His children to keep the Sabbath and they don't do it. We are not to revile Him or a leader of His people. When you revile, it shows what is in your heart. You make light of the commandment. When you do that, you make light of the One who gave the commandment.

We have to keep the Sabbath fittingly, as the word *keep* means. This is just a little bit of understanding of what the Sabbath means. Children respect parental authority. To rebel against that inborn thing is satanic. When it talks about rebellion, it always means

something satanic. Satan influences anyone who is rebellious. That is always the case. He is a rebel and leads people astray to make them rebels. He causes others to rebel against the truth. Children who are rebellious are under a satanic influence. They are in tune with an evil spirit. Why? It is not going well with them.

They would be protected if they were honoring their parents. If they are not, it will not go well with them and they will not remain in the Community. There are many verses that speak about honoring your parents. The child is to be trained up in the way he should go. He is to be trained up to honor and keep the Sabbath. Children who are restless are not going to keep the Sabbath. You can see some children who are restless and some who are not, it is just according to how they honor their parents, which is according to how they have been trained and raised up.

There is some respect and honor in the nations, but we have to be a light to them, superceding what the natural man can do.

Ha-êmeq – What you said about rebellion reminded me of what you said the other day about “The party’s over...” Whenever the thought of rebellion comes it is the evil one’s ugly head rising up, but you can’t tell it because he masquerades. You’ve got reasons...people don’t understand...you’re so confused, but really it is just the evil one raising his ugly head up.

Children like that don’t give their parents rest. In fact, the Sabbath might be the parent’s hardest workday, trying to figure out how to make these little human beings happy. They set their alarm clock early, knowing how the children will be. They need some time to make a plan, for soon the children will be awake, demanding and pushing their own ways. Instead, when they wake up they should think, “What can I do to make my parents happy?”

It all depends on how we are trained, whether we are doing what we want all week long or doing our Father’s will. If we are seeking our own pleasure during the week, then the Sabbath will be Recreation Day. It will depend, for our children, on whether they are trained to honor their parents or to live for their own pleasure. The way we want to go is to really learn how to rest. It is like if I said, “Amidah, keep this for me,” I wouldn’t expect her to have lost it or left it lying around here or there. I would expect her to carefully keep it for me. If we keep the Sabbath, it won’t be

all those things Isaiah 58:13 talks about. If we don't like that, if we don't understand these things, we have to recognize the rebellion in our hearts to revile God and our parents.

I just want the mask to be torn off of the head of rebellion. I want the masquerade to be ripped off of the evil one so our children can see him for what he is. If our children could just recognize what that feeling is that comes when your parents tell you to go upstairs and you grunt or groan or inwardly say something. It is the ugly head of the evil one rising up in your soul.

It is the independent head. If you follow it, you will grow up independent.

Chanowk – Our Father is always faithful to communicate a will to His children. Pr 22:6 – He wants us to keep the way and train our child to keep the way he should go. That is why He chose Abraham. He doesn't want us to depart from that way. The child training teachings say that if we leave our children to themselves, we leave them in the care of the evil one.

The way for our children that is our Father's way is having a will for them all the time. We have a way to communicate our will to a baby, to a little one, and as they get bigger. At whatever stage they are, there is a will for them. If not, the evil one will have a will for them, and he will tell them to seek their own pleasure, to live for themselves, and not to honor their parents. He has many things to tell them.

We have to give our children a will all the time, whether they are one, six, eight, ten years old, whatever, there's a will. When our Father gave the people of Israel a will through Moshe, that tested them. When we give our children a will, if they don't do it, we deal with it. That is very simply how you train them to obey and respect you. If you don't train them to do your will, they will not respect you. It is very simple and boils down to every day from the child's conception communicating our Father's will and way.

As parents, we have to see what discipline means. Discipline is not just spanking a child. Discipline is to remove whatever is there that is disobedient. You remove it. You don't just spank and it stays in there. In fact, then it gets worse. The more you remove it the more the child is going to respect and honor his parents. That is what it means to train up a child in the way he should go.

Chanowk – Discipline brings the child back into the way he departed from. You remove the hindrance that caused him to depart from the way. In this

way you prepare the child for bar mitzvah, for then it will be our Master's blood that removes his sin. If the child doesn't want to receive discipline, then there is no removal of sin. It is continual preparation, from day one, to receive our Master's sacrifice.

Parents have to have faith. You must be persuaded by our Father that your son or daughter is going to receive the Holy Spirit. If you stand there and you don't have that persuasion, then it is a curse. A curse comes upon both child and parent. For any of us, faith is being persuaded by our Father that when you go into that water you are going to receive the Holy Spirit. A parent knows the heart of his son or daughter. [To Elad ben Aharon] They know that you want to receive the Holy Spirit at age thirteen or fourteen. They know you want eternal life. They wouldn't stand there and administer a ritual. That would be the worse thing they could do.

Shemuel – This reminds me of what spoke to me about my nephew's circumcision. We can perform this ritual on the eighth day but it has got to be a commitment we make for the rest of our life. I saw that part of that child was cut away. I now see as an adult that there are parts of me that need to be cut off. They have been there my whole life. They are not easy to cut off. I saw how much it took Shomer to circumcise his child, but it won't happen in his son's life unless he is 100% devoted. If we are not totally deliberate to cut these things off, then they are going to hinder us from entering the Kingdom. I realized that there is a false sense of security in hanging onto these things. The real security is in cutting these things off.

Amen. It is wonderful to hear from Shemuel, isn't it?

You will always see that you can go to a tree and some fruit will fall off right into your hands. Others take a little tug. Some people are easy picking and others take a little more. One way or the other, He is going to get and use all that fruit. We are the fruit of the suffering of His soul and He is going to be satisfied with it. Isa 53:10-11 – He is going to be satisfied with that. We are His offspring that came forth from His side, His wife. His offspring is going to carry out His good pleasure. He rejoices that He has offspring that will be obedient and carry on His purpose.