

Sharing the Good News

Proverbs 11:30. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life **(Etz Ch'ayim)**, and he who is wise wins souls.

Those who are right, just, living a correct, lawful biblical life wisely produce fruit by winning souls for the Kingdom of Adonai! The metaphor of a tree of life is used to represent the impact of the righteous actions of a person. The actions of a righteous individual bring life and sustenance to others, just as a tree provides sustenance, shelter, and oxygen to those around it. It reveals that our actions have a ripple effect, impacting not only ourselves but also those in our community. The second part of this verse focuses on wisdom and the importance of winning souls for the Kingdom. It suggests that wisdom is not just about acquiring knowledge but also about using that knowledge to make decisions that positively impact the well-being and salvation of others. This ties in directly to Yeshua's words in

John 15:1-2. "I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² Every branch which is part of me but fails to bear fruit, he cuts off; and every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes, so that it may bear more fruit.

Bearing fruit involves living in alignment with Adonai's will, nurturing an intimate relationship with Him, and allowing the Ruach HaKodesh to guide our actions and attitudes. It manifests in obedience, love for others, moral integrity, and most importantly sharing the life changing salvation in Yeshua with others. Bearing fruit has several names: "The Good News, the Gospels, The Great Commission, Evangelism, and raise or restore as found in:

Isaiah 49:6. he has said, "It is not enough that you are merely my servant to raise up the tribes of Ya'akov and restore the offspring of Isra'el. I will also make you a light to the nations, so my salvation can spread to the ends of the earth."

We see a pattern established here that this isn't a Brit Chadesha concept alone, winning souls is a Kingdom concept. We've been further empowered to do so by certain offices:

Ephesians 4:11-12. Furthermore, he gave some people as emissaries, some as prophets, some as proclaimers of the Good News, and some as shepherds and teachers. ¹² Their task is to equip God's people for the work of service that builds **(oikodome {oy-kod-om-ay'}): building, building up, habitate, build the house of God)** the body of the Messiah,

The fivefold offices of Messianic Ministry, All the gifts of the Ruach, the infilling of the Ruach HaKodesh is all for one heavenly, Kingdom, Godly purpose: To build the body of Messiah! To win souls! We've been talking about an awakening, revival, restoration, the revival of Israel both the land and the people for years now! The reality is that this is the base foundation, ground zero, great

awakening 101! This is where the rubber meets the road, this is where we start! Barna's Statistics did a study of America's top Post-Believing cities several years ago. The areas that are apostatizing from God. Hampton Roads ranked #58 in the top 100! Those on this list met at least 9 of these conditions, the top 50 met 13 tenants on this list:

- Do not believe in God
- Identify as atheist or agnostic
- Disagree that faith is important in their lives
- Have not prayed to God (in the last week)
- Have never made a commitment to Yeshua
- Disagree the Bible is accurate
- Have not donated money to a congregation (in the last year)
- Have not attended a believing congregation (in the last 6 months)
- Agree that Yeshua committed sins
- **Do not feel a responsibility to "share their faith"**
- Have not read the Bible (in the last week)
- Have not volunteered at a congregation (in the last week)
- Have not attended weekly services (in the last week)
- Bible engagement scale: low (have not read the Bible in the past week and disagree strongly or somewhat that the Bible is accurate)
- Not Born Again

Going out and winning souls is a divine mandate given to us by Yeshua's! It's His greatest challenge given to us and all those who claim to be His Talmidim, His disciples. Yeshua's command, His commission transcends all socio-economic, cultural, and racial barriers. It doesn't matter how wealthy, famous, intelligent, powerful, good looking, poor, infamous, or unknown you are! You will never lend yourself to a greater cause, a greater purpose then the transformational, life-changing, world-changing, call of God upon your life, upon every one of us, not just myself or a select few to share Yeshua!

We're commanded to take and share His message of salvation, restoration, love and forgiveness to every person of every nation, every tribe, and every tongue, to the Jew First (according to Romans 1:16) starting in Judea, Samaria, and the entire world, and make Talmidim of all the nations.

We live in a fallen world that's in flux, unstable, uncertain, with wars, rumors of wars, cultural conflict, divisive, in the midst of an Islamic religious war with the minions of HaSatan! The word is suffering from widespread, social and moral corruption. People's hearts are filled with fear, anxiety, dread, anger, frustration, and despair. Humanity has proven itself unable to cope with, deal with or provide answers to the trying times of our day! Our issues are blood issues, they cannot be legislated!

II Timothy 3:1-3. Moreover, understand this: in the acharit-hayamim will come trying times. ² People will be self-loving, money-loving, proud, arrogant, insulting, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, uncontrolled, brutal, hateful of good, ⁴ traitorous, headstrong, swollen with conceit, loving pleasure rather than God,

These are the days of our generation! The core of my rabbinical teachings in general reflect Biblical culture, Israeli culture, Hebrew idioms, Torah and other such teachings of the Torah, Tanach, and Brit Chadasha. I don't do this just because we're a Messianic Synagogue and it's expected. When Rebbetzin Barb and I accepted the divine, heavenly calling on our lives from God it was not only a radical life change, but it also called us to a higher standard of accountability and responsibility. As a Congregational leader I have a personal commission, a divine mandate, a responsibility to bring you into a close, intimate relationship with Adonai through Yeshua and the TRUTH of His word. Every Congregational Leader, no matter the title has the same commission; To make "Talmidim, Disciples".

What exactly does it mean to be a Talmidim or disciple and more importantly what did it mean to Yeshua? The droshes you hear week to week and the manner in which I present them is purposed. Too truly know Yeshua, to understand the His words, His Idioms, Parables, and Teachings they must be presented in the context and culture in which they were first given and to whom was He saying them. Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah came for the lost House of Israel according to His own words.

He traveled the Nation Judah, commissioned and trained twelve of His Jewish brothers to be Talmidim or disciples. Yeshua kept and celebrated Shabbat, the Moedim (Biblical Feasts) and attended synagogue in whatever town He was currently in. Yeshua never, I repeat never once set foot in a Church because they didn't exist then and wouldn't for another 350 plus years. I know that statements like this sometimes ruffle feathers but we must fundamentally get back to the truth to have heavenly power and understanding revealed and restored. This is critical for revival to break forth. I can't tell you much it pains me to hear a Pastor talk about the 1st century church which didn't exist! Its an untruth that misleads people into error.

Most Discipleship training today teaches an adherence to a certain Talmudic Yeshiva, a Church Doctrine, or denominational Theology. This is NOT what Yeshua was doing 2,000 years ago. A disciple or Talmid in Hebrew is: one who accepts, mimics, and assists in spreading the doctrines of another: as a: one of the twelve in the inner circle of Yeshua's followers according to the Gospel accounts b: a convinced adherent of a school or individual

We are commissioned and called to be Talmidim, disciples of Yeshua – not believers. This means we are to do what He did! This is why the greater body is in apostasy, ineffective, and powerless. Yeshua called us to be Talmidim, to go

into the nations and make Talmidim. This means we replicate, we mimic what He did! This is incredibly simplistic. What did He do?

Luke 4:15-16. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone respected him. ¹⁶ Now when he went to Natzeret, where he had been brought up, on Shabbat he went to the synagogue as usual. He stood up to read,

I'm going to read this again from the King James Version which will be a revelation:

Luke 4:15-16 (KJV). And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. ¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

IT says the same exact thing no matter which translation! Restored Truth is foundational for restoration and revival! We must go back to the future! We have to reconcile to Absolute Truth and begin doing what Yeshua did! He went to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He said He had other sheep that were not in the Jewish pen and they would come along as well! Physically, culturally, biblically, and spiritually Yeshua was and is a Jew! He came, lived, taught, interacted with, provoked, and died in Judeah among His own people! To be His Talmid means we are to act just like Him! One cannot be a believer, a Christian and be Antisemitic! If a person hates Jews that hate God! Sharing the Good News is the great command, the great commission of Yeshua to you and I:

Mark 16:15-18. Then he said to them, "As you go throughout the world, proclaim the Good News to all creation. ¹⁶ Whoever trusts and is immersed will be saved; whoever does not trust will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who do trust: in my name they will drive out demons, speak with new tongues, ¹⁸ not be injured if they handle snakes or drink poison, and heal the sick by laying hands on them."

And again in:

Matthew 28:19. Therefore, go and make people from all nations into talmidim, immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruach HaKodesh

We effectively fulfill the Great Commission by following Yeshua's command given here: go and make people from all nations into Talmidim! Immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son, and the Ruach HaKodesh! This means actively engaging with others, with great intentionality, to share the message of salvation through Yeshua, inviting them to follow Him, and helping them grow in their relationship with Adonai. We are called to not only proclaim the "Good News" but also to disciple new believers, guiding them in their faith journey and helping them mature spiritually into Talmidim. Remember that a Talmidim mimics, copies, and replicates the behavior of the rav, the teacher. This is not the same as being a believer. James states:

James 2:19. You believe that "God is one"? Good for you! The demons believe it too - the thought makes them shudder with fear!

HaSatan and his minions are all believers in Yeshua but they are not talmidim, disciples of Yeshua. Exactly what does it take to be Yeshua's Talmidim (from Yeshua's biblical and cultural perspective) and what do His teachings mean regarding Talmidim?

1. Sacrifice.

Yeshua makes a statement regarding sacrifice that's required to follow Him:

Luke 9:23. Then to everyone he said, "If anyone wants to come after me, let him say 'No' to himself, take up his execution-stake daily and keep following me.

Sacrificing to follow Yeshua means willingly giving up personal desires, material comforts, and even some relationships to prioritize Adonai as first in our lives and live according to His will. It is not just about enduring hardships.

2. Commitment.

Yeshua, full of compassion and mercy ensures there are no false expectations about the sacrifice required to follow him, we are forewarned to calculate the cost:

Luke 14:33. So every one of you who doesn't renounce all that he has cannot be my talmid.

God must be first in our lives, above everything else. For many this is not the case. God is in your mix but He's not #1. Your fruit is the evidence that convicts you. Commitment and loyalty are intertwined. Every time Moshe went up into the Kavod on My Sinai, every time Moshe went into the Mishkahn to talk to God, every time Moshe performed miracles who was right there with him? Y'Hoshua (Joshua), for FORTY YEARS! I'm sure they didn't agree on everything, and certainly they were two different leaders, two different men of God. Individuals aren't reaching their potential because they won't loyally commit. They don't learn conflict resolution, humility, or obedience. They depart at the slightest offence or infraction vice Joshua who was a committed, loyal servant and when Moshe died Adonai put him in charge. There is to be no other agendas before Adonai. He demands your commitment and loyalty. This is a life or death matter!

3. Persevere

Humanity has been rejecting God and Yeshua since the beginning of creation! We are told to:

II Timothy 4:2-5. proclaim the Word! Be on hand with it whether the time seems right or not. Convict, censure and exhort with unfailing patience and with teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not have patience for sound teaching, but will cater to their passions and gather around themselves teachers who say whatever their ears itch to hear. ⁴ Yes, they will stop listening to the truth, but will turn aside to follow myths. ⁵ But you, remain steady in every situation, endure suffering, do the work that a proclaimer of the Good News should, and do everything your service to God requires.

Remain steady, persevere, keep sowing seed, proclaim the word in season and out, move forward in unfailing patience. Do the work that a proclaimer of the Good News should! Never give up, don't grow weary, don't become angry, endure suffering and remain steady in every situation. Adonai will judge, you just proclaim, exhort, convict, instruct, warn and share the Good News! Here's the key: We're commanded to be faithful and sow seed which isn't always successful. We must proclaim in the face of rejection, trials, tribulations, temptations, sorrows, hardships, failures, political correctness in Love! We must proclaim with great zeal, tenacity, passion and fervor! We've gotta fight:

Jude 1:3 (TLV). "Loved ones, though very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I felt it necessary to write to you urging you to continue to contend **(epagonizomai {ep-ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee}: contend, strive, fight, to endeavor with strenuous zeal, to obtain something earnestly)** for the faith that was once for all handed down to the kedoshim."

Everyone of us are called, mandated to be His Talmidim-Disciple. The three questions to you are: 1. Will you sacrifice? 2. Will you commit? 3. Will you persevere and fight?

We all, Jew and Gentile alike profess Love for our people, we share in Sha'uls desire to see all Israel saved! But how far will we go for this love, how much are we willing to suffer to sacrifice for Israel's restoration revival, and salvation? Adonai desires us to be energized, filled with fire, zeal and passion. Do you love Israel enough to fight for her salvation! To sacrifice everything to see her revival and restoration? To start demonstrating the power of Heaven, to become bold, zealous, passionate about the Messianic Age. We're not waiting on God, He is waiting on us! It time to release your war cry! Do the work that a proclaimer of the Good News should, and do everything your service to God requires