



Jews For Yeshua

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To the Torah & the Testimony
If anyone does not speak according to these words
It is because they have no light in them.
Yesh'yahu (Isaiah) 8:20; Revelation 12:17; 14:12



Torah Thought of the Month

No. 7, Jul. 2018

"It is Not They Who Are Well Who Need a Physician, but They Who Are Sick"

Mark 2:17

Shalom Brothers and Sisters,

This moon cycle I would like to share some of my observations over the years of what to expect from the body of Messiah when attending an assembly. To start I want to make it clear Adonai Yeshua's words, that it is not the healthy who need a physician, but the sick, and that He came not to save the righteous who need no repentance, but sinners. So going into this, understand my perception of the called out assembly of believers (the "church") is that of a hospital full of patients - and that even as we would expect the patients to be sick and therefore in need of healing, even so we can expect the assembly of called out ones (the "church") to be full of sinners in need of repentance, guidance, and healing.

On the other hand, even as we can expect the physicians of a hospital to be healthy and of sound mind, even so, we should rightly expect the leaders of the called out assemblies (the "churches") to be blameless by God's standard required of elders, and to be of sound mind and upright lifestyle as well.

With this in mind, I would also recommend that if you find an assembly of called out ones (a "church") full in sinners, but the leadership "overall" sets good examples and are responsible in their leadership, and/or provide sound teaching, then stay at that hospital (church), but if the leadership "overall" is not sound, sets poor examples, and is not blameless or any more mature than the sinners they are supposed to be helping to "overcome", then I would recommend finding another hospital (church) to check into.

With this in mind, this is what the Scriptures say in brief concerning what a person in leadership should look like.

In **Shemot (Exodus) 18:21**, leaders should be "capable men who fear God, men of truth who hate covetousness." So they should be more concerned with how to please God than how to please men or assimilate into the culture. Should be capable of responsibly leading and instructing others, should be

men of integrity - hating dishonesty, deception, and lying, and should be non-materialistic in their lifestyle and pursuits in life.

By this standard alone, most men in position of eldership today do not qualify for the responsibility of elder. But then in addition to this **I Timothy 3:1-13** provides the details that had been added to the above standard by the time of Adonai Yeshua's day as to how that standard should look upon closer inspection.

An elder must blameless (above reproach), must be married and have raised their family well. Must be a watchful person, serious minded, righteous in their behavior, hospitable, capable of teaching, not prone to alcohol abuse, not violent, not greedy for material gain, patient, not quarrelsome, or covetous, not young and immature (not a novice. Scriptures initially state age 30 as the youngest to go into ministry, Yeshua Himself abiding by this standard), and should be of good reputation. They should not speak with a deceptive tongue, and their wives must likewise be serious, not slanderous of others, not prone to alcohol abuse, and also rule their children well. They should also hold the hidden truth of the Faith with a pure (loyal) conscience (having no doubts concerning the Faith).

If you are an elder not qualifying under this standard of Scripture then you need to step down until you are able to remedy these deficiencies in your walk. On the other hand, if you know somebody who has these qualities, then I would recommend you do everything you know how to have that person elected/appointed into a leadership position.

And why is this so important. Because as the Scriptures teach us concerning the Kings of Israel and Judah, and as our own life experiences have even taught those of us who have lived through numerous presidents and governors and educational systems, that the people will ultimately follow the examples of their leaders and teachers. Like the Scriptures state in **Mishlei (Proverbs) 28:28**, "When the wicked arise, men hide themselves; but when the wicked perish, the righteous increase.

So if the leadership is materialistic, then so will the congregation as a whole so become, or fail to overcome in this area of sin and related sins (such as pride, envy, covetousness, stealing, deception, etc...).

Likewise, if the leadership is dishonest and deceptive, then the congregation as a whole will so become, or fail to overcome this area of sin and related sins (such as false accusation, slander, back biting, untrustworthiness, covenant breaking, etc...). And if the leadership feigns righteousness before others, while acting sinfully behind closed doors (hypocrisy), then so shall the congregation as a whole so become, or fail to overcome this area of sin (such as politics, positioning for power, character assassinating anybody who threatens ones position of power or reputation, etc...).

Or if the leadership is holy on the Sabbath, but on every other day of the week looks and acts no differently than the culture around it, then so shall the congregation as a whole also so become, or fail to overcome this sin (such as long dresses on Sabbath, and bikinis at the beach on Sunday for the women, and loose slacks and long sleeves on Sabbath for the men, while the rest of the week are wearing tight jeans and are bare chested). So on and so forth.

So next time you are tempted to leave a congregation, do not base your decision on how many sinners you find in the congregation, for every hospital is created to heal the sick, not those who are well. But rather, base your decision on how many righteous you see in leadership. For if the leadership, overall, is

healthy, then the congregation, overall, is going to be healed of its sins and overcome its fallen nature. But if the leadership is overall corrupt, then little salvation will come out of that hospital (assembly) for its patients (congregants) - and you should consider checking into a different hospital (assembly).

As a Sabbath keeper I am ashamed to say that often times the leadership of the Sunday churches is considerably healthier than their Sabbath keeping counterparts. I pray that someday soon our Father in Heaven will remove the false shepherds from among His people and raise up shepherds more worthy of their calling, and who more accurately reflect the True Shepherd, Yeshua, in their place; **Yechezk'el (Ezekiel) 34:1-10**.

May all of you find assemblies led by humble, faithful, shepherds who will feed you the spiritual food necessary to endure the things to come, and who will lead you in victory to overcome, and not fleece you of your hard earned goods like businessmen strip their sheep of their wool for personal gain and pet projects.

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