

# מִשְׁפָּטִים

## MISHPATIM - RULINGS



TORAH – SH'MOT (EXO) 21:1 – 24:18

B'RIT HADASHAH – MATTITYAHU (MATTHEW) 15: 1-20

מֹשֶׁה קִבֵּל תּוֹרָה מִסִּינַי. וּמִסָּרָה לִיהוֹשֻׁעַ. וַיְהוֹשֻׁעַ לְזִקְנִים.  
וְזִקְנִים לְנְבִיאִים. וְנְבִיאִים מִסָּרִיהָ לְאַנְשֵׁי כְנֶסֶת הַגְּדוּלָּה.

**Moses received the Torah on Sinai, and handed it down to Joshua;  
and Joshua to the elders, and the elders to the prophets;  
and the prophets passed it on to the men of the Great Assembly.**

*Pikei Avot (Wisdom of the Fathers) 1:1*

*Note: In addition to the written scriptures we have an "Oral Torah," a tradition explaining what the above scriptures mean and how to interpret them and apply the Laws. Orthodox Jews believe G-d taught the Oral Torah to Moses, and he taught it to others, down to the present day. This tradition was maintained only in oral form until about the 2d century C.E (A.D), when the oral law was compiled and written down in a document called the Mishnah.*

*Judaism 101*

**SH'MOT (EXODUS) 21**

**1 "These are the rulings you are to present to them:**

וְאֵלֶּה, הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים, אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׂיִם, לְפָנֶיהֶם

**MATTITYAHU (MATTHEW) 15:1-20**

**1 Then some P'rushim and Torah-teachers from Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) came to Yeshua and asked Him,**

Why would the leaders travel from Yerushalayim to the Galilee region to see Yeshua?

**2 "Why is it that your talmidim break the Tradition (παράδοσις *paradosis*) of the Elders? They don't do n'tilat-yadayim (washing of hands) before they eat!"**

n'tilat-yadayim - washing of the hands Ref: Sh'mot (Exo) 30:18-21; Vayikra (Lev) 15:11

What's wrong in washing the hands before you eat? Ref: Mark 7:2-4

Mark's explanation of *n'tilat-yadayim*, ritual handwashing, in these verses corresponds to the details set forth in Mishna tractate *Yadayim*. In the marketplace one may touch ceremonially impure things; the impurity is removed by rinsing up to the wrist. Orthodox Jews today observe *n'tilat-yadayim* before meals. The rationale for it has nothing to do with hygiene but is based on the idea that "a man's home is his Temple," with the dining table his altar, the food his sacrifice and himself the *cohen* (priest). Since the *Tanakh* requires *cohanim* to be ceremonially pure before offering sacrifices on the Temple altar, the Oral *Torah* requires the same before eating a meal.

..., Yeshua could not be opposing tradition as such because the New Covenant itself speaks favorably of its own traditions (1C 11:2; 2 Th 2:15). And at Yn 7:37 we have an example of Yeshua honoring a tradition spoken of in the Mishna but nowhere in the *Tanakh*.

In fact, traditions are necessary in life. A state cannot be run by a constitution without legislation. Likewise the Jewish nation could not be run by the Written *Torah* alone, without the orderly application of it and addition to it implied in the concept of tradition. But just as a country's legislation cannot contradict or supplant its constitution, so too tradition (Jewish, Messianic, Christian, or whatever) cannot violate or alter G-d's word. The Oral *Torah* comes very close to implying that it can (Bava Metzia 59a, quoted at Ac 9:4N); but according to the present passage this position is inconsistent with Messianic Judaism. <sup>1</sup>

As believers in Yeshua, do we have traditions in America that we observe, even though they are not mentioned in the Bible? What are some of the traditions we at Rehoboth observe?

---

<sup>1</sup>Stern, David H.: *Jewish New Testament Commentary : A Companion Volume to the Jewish New Testament*. electronic edition. Clarksville, MD : Jewish New Testament Publications, 1992; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996 (Logos Library Systems), S. Mk 7:2

**“tradition”** Strong’s #3862 (παράδοσις *paradosis*) {par-ad'-os-is} Meaning, b) a giving over which is done by word of mouth or in writing, i.e. tradition by instruction, narrative, precept, etc.

### **1 Corinthians 11**

*2 Now I praise you because you have remembered everything I told you and observe the traditions (παράδοσις *paradosis*) just the way I passed them on to you.*

### **2 Thessalonians 2**

*15 Therefore, brothers, stand firm; and hold to the traditions (παράδοσις *paradosis*) you were taught by us, whether we spoke them or wrote them in a letter.*

### **2 Thessalonians 3**

*6 Now, in the name of the Lord Yeshua the Messiah we command you, brothers, to stay away from any brother who is leading a life of idleness, a life not in keeping with the tradition (παράδοσις *paradosis*) you received from us.*

Rabbi Sha'ul (Paul) recommended keeping traditions. What's the difference?

### **MATTITYAHU (MATTHEW) 15 (CONT)**

**3 He [Yeshua] answered, "Indeed, why do you break the command of G-d by your tradition?"**

A Bible commentator stated that, "Tradition deals with ritual, while G-d's truth deals with reality." Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

**4 For G-d said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.'**

Ref: Sh'mot (Exodus) 20:12, 21:17

**5 But you say, 'If anyone says to his father or mother, "I have promised to give to G-d what I might have used to help you," 6 then he is rid of his duty to honor his father or mother.' Thus by your tradition you make null and void the word of G-d!**

Ref: Mattityahu (Matthew) 5:34-37

### **Mark 12**

*44 For all of them, out of their wealth, have contributed money they can easily spare; but she, out of her poverty, has given everything she had to live on."*

Why the difference between Yeshua condemning the Pharisees for devoting a portion of their money to G-d and praising the widow who gave all her money to G-d?

**7 You hypocrites! Yesha'yahu (Isaiah) was right when he prophesied about you, 8 'These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from Me. 9 Their worship of Me is useless, because they teach man-made rules as if they were doctrines.'"**

How does one not fall into this trap?

### **Yesha'yahu (Isaiah) 29**

13 Then Adonai said: "Because these people approach me with empty words, and the honor they bestow on me is mere lip-service; while in fact they have distanced their hearts from me, and their 'fear of me' is just a mitzvah of human origin-

### **Keeping Your Confession Without Hypocrisy**

FAITH'S CONFESSION. Yeshua quotes from Is. 29:13 in charging the Pharisees with setting aside G-d's Word by their traditions. Yeshua dismisses their worship because their hearts were not aligned with their lips. Living faith—true worship—requires that the mouth and the heart be together to avoid Yeshua's charge of hypocrisy.

Praises and true faith emanate from lips that draw from the depths of the heart. As a living principle, faith's confession is not a ritual recitation of slogans; otherwise, it is only acting out a human tradition and, as Yeshua notes, is potentially hypocritical.

Just as we are called to genuine praise and worship, not as pretenders or ritual performers, so let our confessing of G-d's promises be without hypocrisy. Let us speak what G-d's Holy Spirit has truly birthed in our hearts, thereby bringing us to faithfully speak with our lips. <sup>2</sup>

### **MATTITYAHU (MATTHEW) 15 (CONT)**

**10 Then He called the crowd to Him and said, "Listen and understand this!**

Why did Yeshua begin addressing the crowd?

**11 What makes a person unclean is not what goes into his mouth; rather, what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him unclean!" 12 The talmidim came to him and said, "Do you know that the P'rushim were offended by what you said?"**

### **"offended"**

Strong's #4624 σκανδαλίζω skandalizo {skan-dal-id'-zo} ("scandalize") Meaning: 1) to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, upon which another may trip and fall,

Why would this offend the P'rushim (Pharisees)?

<sup>2</sup> Spirit Filled Life Study Bible. electronic ed. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1991

**13 He replied, "Every plant that my Father in heaven has not planted will be pulled up by the roots.**

What does this uprooting signify? Ref: Mattityahu (Matthew) 13:24-30

**14 Let them be. They are blind guides. When a blind man guides another blind man, both will fall in a pit." 15 Kefa (Peter) said to him, "Explain the parable to us." 16 So He said, "Don't you understand even now?**

What would cause Kefa (Peter) not to understand?

**17 Don't you see that anything that enters the mouth goes into the stomach and passes out into the latrine? 18 But what comes out of your mouth is actually coming from your heart, and that is what makes a person unclean.**

What makes you clean? Ref: Yochanan (John) 15:3

**19 For out of the heart come forth wicked thoughts, murder, adultery and other kinds of sexual immorality, theft, lies, slanders.... 20 These are what really make a person unclean, but eating without doing n'tilat-yadayim (washing of hands) does not make a person unclean."**

Do you feel that Kefa (Peter) understood what Yeshua was saying? Ref: Acts 10:14

### **Galatians 1**

*13 For you have heard about my [Paul] former way of life in [traditional] Judaism- how I did my best to persecute G-d's Messianic Community and destroy it; 14 and how, since I was more of a zealot for the traditions handed down by my forefathers than most Jews my age, I advanced in [traditional] Judaism more rapidly than they did. 15 But when G-d, who picked me out before I was born and called me by His grace, chose 16 **to reveal his Son to me**, so that I might announce Him to the Gentiles, I did not consult anyone;*