

The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 74

Miracles and Multitudes ~ Part 7

In our last post, we continued the topic entitled **Miracles and Multitudes**. In this post, we conclude the topic of **Miracles and Multitudes**.

Defilement Contrasted

¹⁴ Then Yeshua called the people to him again and said, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand this!" ¹⁵ There is nothing outside a person which, by going into him, can make him unclean. Rather, it is the things that come out of a person which make a person unclean!" ¹ ¹² The talmidim came to him and said, "Do you know that the P'rushim were offended by what you said?" ¹³ He replied, "Every plant that my Father in heaven has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴ Let them be. They are blind guides. When a blind man guides another blind man, both will fall in a pit." ¹⁵ Kefa said to Him, "Explain the parable to us." ¹⁶ So He said, "Don't you understand even now? ² Don't you see that nothing going into a person from outside can make him unclean? ¹⁹ For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and it passes out into the latrine." (Thus, He declared all foods ritually clean.)

This last parenthetical phrase has been highly controversial. David H. Stern opines:

Thus He declared all foods ritually clean, even if the participants at the meal had not washed their hands. But **Yeshua** did *not*, as many suppose, abolish the laws of **kashrut** and thus declare ham **kosher!** Since the beginning of the chapter, the subject has been ritual purity as taught by the **Oral Torah** concerning **n'tilat-yadayim** (ritual handwashing) and not **kashrut** at all! There is not the slightest hint anywhere that **foods** in this verse can be anything other than what the **Bible** allows **Jews** to eat: **kosher** foods. Neither is **kashrut** abolished in Acts 10:9–28 or Galatians 2:11–16.

Instead, **Yeshua** continues His discussion of spiritual prioritizing (**Korban** in v. 11). He teaches that **tohar** (purity) is not primarily ritual or physical but spiritual (vv. 14–23). On this ground, He does not entirely overrule the Pharisaic/rabbinic elaborations of the laws of purity, but He does demote them to subsidiary importance. **Yeshua** here is making Messianic **halakhah** (Oral Torah).

Declaring all foods clean. These words are not part of the quotation but are Mark's interpretation of **Yeshua's** statement. They link this story and the account of the Syrophenician woman that follows (Mark 7:24–30).³

²⁰ "It is what comes out of a person," he went on, "that makes him unclean. ²¹ For from within, out of a person's heart, come forth wicked thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² greed, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, arrogance, foolishness.... ²³ All these wicked things come from within, and they make a person unclean." ⁴

¹ After this, Yeshua traveled around in the Galil, intentionally avoiding Y'hudah because the Judeans were out to kill Him. ⁵

In our next post, we will examine **Yeshua's Extensive Ministry Throughout the Galil**.

¹ Mark 7:14–15.

² Mattityahu 15:12–16.

³ Faithlife Study Bible Mark 7:19.

⁴ Mark 7:18–23.

⁵ Yochanan 7:1.