

The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 83

Yeshua's Preparation of the Emissaries for the End ~ Part 5

In our last post, we examined **Yeshua Heals A Demon-Possessed Boy**. This post looks at several topics starting with **Yeshua's Death is Again Foretold**.

Yeshua's Death is Again Foretold

²² As they were going about together in the Galil, Yeshua said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of people ²³ who will put him to death, and on the third day he will be raised." And they were filled with sadness. ¹

Mattityahu's first reference to **Yeshua's** impending betrayal by **Judas Iscariot**. The **talmidim** are grieved but do not dispute this prediction, as **Kefa** did the first time.

The Temple Tax

²⁴ When they came to K'far-Nachum, the collectors of the half-shekel came to Kefa and said, "Doesn't your rabbi pay the Temple tax?" ²⁵ "Of course he does," said Kefa. When he arrived home, Yeshua spoke first. "Shim'on, what's your opinion? The kings of the earth - from whom do they collect duties and taxes? From their sons or from others?" ²⁶ "From others," he answered. "Then," said Yeshua, "The sons are exempt. ²⁷ But to avoid offending them - go to the lake, throw out a line, and take the first fish you catch. Open its mouth, and you will find a shekel. Take it and give it to them for you and for me." ~ Mattityahu 17:24-27.

A per-capita tax of **one half-shekel** to support the activities of the *cohanim* is specified in Exodus 30:11–16, 38:26. This was equivalent to one or two days' wages for an average worker.

Unique to **Mattityahu's Gospel**, this passage addresses whether **Jewish** followers of **Yeshua's** day should continue to pay the **Temple tax**. This was particularly relevant to **Mattityahu's** audience since they were most likely **Jews**. **Yeshua's** response communicates the **Temple's** continued sanctity and demonstrates the miraculous ways in which **God** provides for His people.

Who Is the Greatest?

³³ They arrived at K'far-Nachum. When Yeshua was inside the house, He asked them, "What were you discussing as we were traveling?" ³⁴ But they kept quiet; because on the way, they had been arguing with each other about who was the greatest.

The **talmidim's** inability to comprehend Yeshua's destiny, or perhaps its significance, matches their distorted understanding of their own futures.

³⁵ He sat down, summoned the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all." ²

Servant of all echoes the words of **Isaiah** 52:13–53:12, which **Yeshua** will fulfill. He demonstrates this principle by sacrificing His own life.

¹ Mattityahu 17:22–23 (see also Mark 9:30-32 & Luke 9:43b-45).

² Mark 9:33–35.

⁷ If one of you has a slave tending the sheep or plowing when he comes back from the field, will you say to him, 'Come along now, sit down and eat'? ⁸ No, you'll say, 'Get my supper ready, dress for work, and serve me until I have finished eating and drinking; after that, you may eat and drink.' ⁹ Does he thank the slave because he did what he was told to do? No! ¹⁰ It's the same with you—when you have done everything you were told to do, you should be saying, 'We're just ordinary slaves, we have only done our duty.'" ³

This passage's final set of **Yeshua's** sayings is unique to **Luke's Gospel**. *'We're just ordinary slaves'* implies that His **talmidim** should comport themselves as humble slaves to **God**, in contrast to the self-aggrandizing **P'rushim**.

² He called a child to Him, stood him among them, ³ and said, "Yes! I tell you that unless you change and become like little children, you won't even enter the Kingdom of Heaven! ⁴ So the greatest in the Kingdom is whoever makes himself as humble as this child." ⁴

In our next post, we continue to examine **Yeshua's Preparation of the Emissaries for the End** by looking at **Yeshua's Concern for the Young** and other encounters.

³ Luke 17:7–10.

⁴ Mattityahu 18:2–4.