

## The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 115

### The Perea Ministry ~ Part 9

In our last post, we followed **Yeshua** as He left **Yerushalayim** to go to **Perea**. In this post, we continue to examine **His Perea Ministry as He Continues to Teach in Parables**.

#### The Law and the Kingdom of God

Some commentators regard verses 15 to 18 as disconnected remarks by an editor - Yeshua's response to the **P'rushim** reaction (v. 14) to His parable of the Dishonest Manager. Verses 15–18 are therefore all connected and connected with the following story (vv. 19–31); note especially that vv. 16 and 31 deal with the **Torah** and the **Prophets**. Thus, there is a cumulative effect to what **Yeshua** is saying, with v. 18 presenting a telling example of how the **Torah** cannot become void, more when the **Kingdom of God, God's** active present rulership, is so near. <sup>1</sup>

*<sup>14</sup> The P'rushim heard all this, and since they were money lovers, they ridiculed him (literally, "they turned up their noses at Him.) <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "You people make yourselves look righteous to others, but God knows your hearts; what people regard highly is an abomination before God! <sup>16</sup> Up to the time of Yochanan, there were the Torah and the Prophets. Since then, the Good News of the Kingdom of God has been proclaimed, and everyone is pushing to get in.*

Up to the time of **Yochanan the Immerser**, the **Torah** and the **Prophets** were giving their prophetic and predictive witness to the coming of the **Kingdom of God**. The verse does not mean that the authority of the **Torah** and the **Prophets** ended when **Yochanan** appeared. But since then, in addition to their witness, the **Good News of the Kingdom of God**, which is now "near," has been proclaimed directly, first by **Yochanan** (Mt 3:1–2) and now by **Yeshua** (Mt 4:17, Mk 1:15), with the result that everyone *is pushing to get in*.

*<sup>17</sup> But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter in the Torah to become void. <sup>18</sup> Every man who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and a man who marries a woman divorced by her husband commits adultery.* <sup>2</sup>

See Mattityahu 19:3–9 on **Yeshua's** position on divorce, but this pronouncement of **Yeshua's** is not primarily a teaching on divorce. Instead, it demonstrates that the **Torah** and the **Prophets** continue to have authoritative force, as v. 17 has explicitly stated. The **P'rushim** are not to use their position of power to interpret **Scripture** in ways that contradict its intent.

In our next post, **Yeshua Continues to Speak in Parables in Perea**.

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<sup>1</sup> David H. Stern, Jewish New Testament Commentary.

<sup>2</sup> Luke 16:14-18.