

## Matthew Lesson 10

**Last** week Yeshua reminded us that if persecution comes to us, and we are persecuted for His sake, we are to take a surprising attitude. We are to rejoice - not rejoice about the persecution, but about the great reward we are going to get in heaven. Though we are on earth and being persecuted on earth, we have to be heavenly minded - remembering as Yeshua said, that we are in good company - as the prophets also endured persecutions, and though He never complained, the persecutions He endured were unspeakable.

1. Do these thoughts change your mind toward persecution if it is for His sake?

Today we will continue Yeshua's teaching and pick it up with His directions about marriage, and He begins with a teaching about marriage!

**Matthew 5:27-30** You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery. But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.



When Yeshua says, gouge out your right eye if it causes you to stumble, He is planting the understanding in our minds, that adultery is a grievous sin, and whatever you have to do to avoid it, do it. Don't play with fire, so to speak. It is better to live with the pain of not having something you greatly desire, than it is to give in to the sin and, face eternal consequences.

2. If we look at all of our actions through the light of eternity, how would that change our actions?

God can speak with an understanding heart, because He was left by the "wife" He has loved and cared for and that has turned away from Him. We can clearly see G-d's heart as He speaks with Hosea the prophet:

**Hosea 1:2** When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to him, Go, take for yourself a wife of prostitution and have children of (her) prostitution; for the land commits great acts of prostitution by not following the LORD.

**Hosea 2:1, 2b**.....So call your brothers Ammi (My People), and call your sisters Ruhamah (Loved). Plead with your mother; (Israel) plead with her. She no longer acts like my wife. She no longer treats me like her husband. Tell her to stop acting like a prostitute. Tell her to remove the lovers .....

Gomer is the name of the wife of the prophet Hosea. She is an unfaithful woman, and a picture of what G-d saw Israel doing to Him. Gomer had three children, each with a name that also speaks of G-d's heart.

Ruhammah

LoAmmi

Jezreel



But in spite of the heartbreak that Israel caused G-d, listen to what else He says in Hosea:

**Hosea 2:19-23** Israel, I will make you my wife forever.

I will be honest and faithful to you.

I will show you my love and compassion.

I will be true to you, my wife.

Then you will know the LORD. On that day I will answer your prayers, declares the LORD. I will speak to the sky, it will speak to the earth,

and the earth will produce grain, new wine, and olive oil.  
You will produce many crops, Jezreel. I will plant my people in the land.  
Those who are not loved I will call my loved ones.  
Those who are not my people I will call my people.  
Then they will say, You are our God!

### 3. What lessons do we learn about G-d from these verses?

In the days when Yeshua was teaching this, the Herods were living lustful lives; Herod the great having an affair with his half-brother Philip's wife. Lust was more important to them than covenant, and religious leaders were in positions where they were often paid by these leaders, so their positions on anything, including marriage, were compromised. We remember that John the Baptist spoke up about the sexual exploitations of Herod, and he ended up being be-headed!

So Yeshua takes this issue on.

**Marriage is a brit – a covenant relationship between a man and a wife.**

### **What is covenant?**

**Malachi 2:3-5** Behold, I will rebuke your descendants, and I will spread dung on your faces, the waste from your feasts, and you will be carried off with it. Then you will know that I have sent you this commandment so that My covenant with Levi may continue, says the LORD of Hosts. My covenant with him was one of life and peace, which I gave to him; it called for reverence, and he revered Me and stood in awe of My name.

### 4. What does this verse make clear about how seriously G-d takes covenant?

God is very sensitive about the marriage covenant. He brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, and took them into the wilderness to marry them. He came with great thunder, fire, smoke, Mt Sinai was shaking greatly, then the trumpet sounded long becoming louder and louder.....

The people said, We Do .... "We will do and we will hear". We will do even before we understand!!

Then G-d proclaimed His love for them by giving them His commandments. And as the people witnessed all of this, they trembled and said to Moses - You talk to G-d for us - Don't let Him talk to us directly - We are out of here.....

Moses goes back up the mountain, receiving more of G-d's commandments - as they were written become the Ketubah of the marriage ceremony. Moses comes down and the people affirm the covenant saying, **All that the Lord has said, we will do.** Moses seals the covenant by sprinkling blood on the people saying, **This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD made with you according to all these words.**

And what happens next, **they build the golden calf!!**

They had broken the marriage covenant already! And what was G-d's reaction? He was so upset and heartbroken, that he said to Moses, They have turned aside quickly.....Now therefore, let Me alone that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them.....(Ex. 32:8,10)

So G-d is speaking from knowing the pain of having a marriage covenant broken, and He doesn't want it happening casually. In the culture of Israel, it was easy for a man to divorce a woman. He could do so even for things as innocent as burning a husband's breakfast! Yeshua is now setting the record straight, and taking the reason for divorce to a much more serious level. He is saying, marriage is to be honored and protected.

**But knowing people's hearts, He realized people would not always be able to be married to one another.**

**Matthew 5:31** It has been said, Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.

The Jewish term for "certificate of divorce" is a "get".

A get is explained in the following way:

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**Matt 19:3-9** And some Pharisees came to Him, tempting Him, and saying, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause at all?"

And He answered and said, Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, And said, 'For this cause a man shall leave

his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and the two shall become one flesh'? Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.

They say unto him, Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate and divorce her?

He said to them, *Because of the hardness of your heart, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. And I say to you, Whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman, commits adultery.*



### OATHS

**Matthew 5:33-37** Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord. **But I say to you,** do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But **let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'** For **whatever is more than these is from the evil one.**

Yeshua again is straightening out something that has been confused. He is bringing light to the way people are thinking and being taught. So what is He saying? Don't swear about a matter - Don't swear by anything. Keep it simple. Just simply let your yes be yes and your no be no. **BE PEOPLE OF YOUR WORD.** If you say you are going to show up - be there. If you've taken on a task - do it. It is really showing honesty, integrity, and kindness to keep your word.

4. Why is it dangerous to say more than "yes" or "no"?
5. Where do additional words come from according to Matthew 5:37?

**Matthew 5:38-42** You have heard that it was said, Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. **But I tell you**, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

**BUT I TELL YOU!**

Yeshua addresses what our reaction should be when we feel humiliated!

**minimizing our own honor causes G-d's honor to be maximized!**

**By using this kind of self control, we are allowing G-d to be the One in control, and He will be the vindicator.**

**6. Would we consider this "meekness?"**

**\*\* Was Yeshua changing the Law or was He asking His followers to change their hearts?**

7. How would you summarize verses 38-42 in just a few words?

8. How is this perspective on humiliation different than we have been taught?

**Matthew 5:43-48** You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. **But I say to you**, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

**BUT I TELL YOU**

How do we treat our enemies?

G-d makes the sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

8. How do we have to adjust our thinking (or our hearts) to love our enemies?



9. What is the hardest part of loving our enemies; why is that so difficult?

10. Define: an enemy.

**Matthew 6:1,2,5,11** Be careful not to perform your righteous acts before men to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. Truly I tell you, they already have their full reward...And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. Truly I tell you they already have their full reward.....When you fast, do not be somber like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they already have their full reward.

\_\_\_ There is not an exact Hebrew translation for hypocrite, but the idea of a hypocrite began in the Tanach in relation to insincere worship, evil or sin in general or a corrupt person, and in the Brit Chadahsah it takes on more facets of pretense and insincerity.

### TRUE PURPOSES

Righteous acts are to build trust in relationships. Righteous acts recognize contribution of time, effort and insights of others. They are never for self promotion. They are always about following G-d's laws to bring peace and love into the community.

**THEY ARE ALWAYS ABOUT BRING HONOR TO GOD!**

GIVING

FASTING

ALL RIGHTEOUS ACTS

All of these were Jewish practices which the hypocrites had apparently hijacked and perverted. This is what Yeshua wanted to bring back into focus and prevent the entire nation from becoming like the hypocrites.

12. There is a common thread that runs through each of the concepts Yeshua mentioned. Do you see what it is

*\*\*What is the main point you will remember from the Sermon on the Mount?*

*\*\*How do we maximize the honor G-d receives from our lives?*

