***What did Yahshua Really Say- Part 16?***

**The Cost of Discipleship**

This week we are at the Feast of Hanukkah held in winter starting on Kislev 25. We are not told it is this Feast till the end of his speaking in chapter John 10:22 but chapters 8-10 are almost all about the Feast in Jerusalem. Hanukkah was also the only Feast in Winter celebrated by the Israelites.

*Yahshua stated in John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

Hanukkah is also called the Festival of Lights and Yahshua always tied what he had to say in with the symbolism of the Feasts.

Most of Chapter 8 in the book of John is conversation between Yahshua and the Pharisees that leave them very confused. Yahshua is continuing a theme he has been speaking to the Religious leaders for the last two Feasts in stating that *“I am sent by the Father, I deliver my Fathers message, and you* ***clowns*** *don’t have a clue who my Father is!*

Yet many believed on Him anyway and Yahshua says to them in verse 31

*31 "If you* ***abide in My word****, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

This is the simple straight-forward message of Yahshua and what His death accomplished for us who believe in Him.

If you **(abide)** (continue always) to walk in My precepts, commands and instruction, then you are my disciples indeed. Any you shall know the “Truth of what the Scriptures really mean”, and that Truth will set you free.

When you come into the knowledge of what the Scriptures really say and what they really meant in their original language and context……

***You will never be more free - than from that moment forward.***

***Lets pick up in John 9****: 1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. 4 I* *must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.
7 And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. 8 Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind* *said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" 9 Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him."* *He said, "I am he." 10 Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of* *Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." 12 Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." 13 They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. 14 Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.*

Yahshua is fulfilling one of the 4 Miracles that the Rabbi’s taught could only be done by the Messiah.

1) Heal a Leper (Luke 17:12-14)

2) Cast out a Blind and Mute Demon (Matthew 12:22

**3) Heal a man born blind** (John 9:32)

4) Raise a man who had been dead longer than 3 days (4th day or longer)

This is why John specifically records the man was born blind and it is also the reason for the lengthy interrogation coming up for the man who was healed.

But lets get back to the crazy way in which Yahshua heals the blind man.

He spit on the ground and made clay with the dirt and put it in his eyes.

Again, Yahshua has a purpose for everything he does. The Rabbi’s had come up with 39 prohibited **types** of work on the Sabbath as recorded in the Mishna Tractate Shabbat along with over 200 laws about Shabbat itself. It states in tractate Shabbat 108:2 that you can not mix anything to be used in a medicinal way for a non-life threatening disease / sickness on Shabbat.

This is **partially** what they are up in arms about. They could care less that Yahshua is revealing himself as Messiah by now having done the third of the 4 miracles that they proclaimed could be done by only the Messiah.

Instead they are furious that he is violating their Rabbi laws and instructing others to do the same. These Rabbi laws are called Takinot. Thus they created all these Takinot that were supposed to protect people from violating the Torah. Over 2000 of these in total in Yahshua’s time and heaven only knows how many more have been added since then.

The only issue is that in creating these Takinot “It was a direct violation of the Torah itself. **Deuteronomy 4:2 and 12:32** *instructed that nothing was to be added to or taken away from the Torah.*

This is why we need to ask ourselves if “We’re living by any man made rules”

There is no difference from a Rabbi rule that violates Torah to a modern day rule that violates Torah. When it’s taught as law or equal to law it is wrong no matter what you and I think! Yahshua commanded us not to follow these rules and the specific verses in Matthew 23 and an in depth study on that will be coming up soon in our teachings of What did Yahshua Really Say.

Teaching your child to wash their hands before eating is a pretty good idea. Telling them it is a commandment of God is wrong, because it is not. It can be a rule in your home but you can’t teach it as law or commandment because that is a violation of the verses we just read in Deuteronomy.

We are going to take a look at some of the Takinot that the Rabbi’s had created but before we do that I want to bring up what Paul wrote in Romans 11. He is talking about the wild olive branches (gentiles or former gentiles) being grafted into the Natural Olive Tree (Israel). Paul instructs us to not boast against the natural branches, but instructs us that the root or the Israelites and the Oracles of God that were given to them first is what supports us. I said that to say this.

In no way am I criticizing the Jewish or Israelite people and or the Oracles of God that was entrusted to them. I am however pointing out that the Rabbi’s and Pharisee’s of this and many generations have rejected Messiah and in effect have been removed from the Natural olive tree.

I am criticizing the “Act” of creating these man made laws which violate the Torah much in the same way I would criticize any modern day religious system that would see to create man made laws contrary to Torah.

Yahshua hated these laws and violated them at every chance. Scripture records that they were burdens that no man could bear. Paul wrote that Yahshua nailed the “Handwriting of Ordinances” or the Takinot to the cross.

I have a great deal of love and respect for the Israelite people and pray for them, but the religious leaders that took people *“seeking the truth and made them a two fold child of Hell as themselves”…….* I feel the same way about them as our Messiah did. He loved them but hated their deeds and actions.

With that hopefully very clear and the belief of Messiah Yahshua very clear on this matter I thought I would share just a few of the Takinot that are recorded in the Tractate Shabbat Mishna just to give you some perspective. These are only about the Sabbath and a very small percentage of the over 200+ Takinot on the Sabbath recorded in the Mishnah’s.

The Rabbis decreed that one should not only avoid forbidden acts but also must not do anything that resembles a prohibited act or could be confused with it.
The rabbinic enactment of measures to prevent these possibilities was termed "putting a fence around the Torah" (as recorded in Avot 1:1). For example, ripping up a piece of paper was forbidden since it resembles "cutting to shape" or could be confused with it.

Similarly, climbing a tree is forbidden, because it may lead to breaking twigs or tearing leaves, which could be construed as "reaping".

*Other activities that by extension are prohibited on the Sabbath include:*

Adding fresh water to a vase of cut flowers (sowing).

Making a bouquet of flowers (making a sheaf).

Removing good fruit from spoiled fruit (winnowing, selecting, sifting).

Brushing dried mud from boots or clothes (grinding).

Adding cold milk directly to hot tea or coffee (baking-cooking).

Cutting hair or nails (shearing sheep-removing outer covering of a human or animal).

Applying makeup (like dyeing). Braiding your hair (like weaving).

Rubbing soap to make lather or applying face cream (rubbing, or polishing).

Sharpening a pencil (cutting to shape-altering the size or shape of an item).

Painting, drawing, typing (writing, making durable marks on a durable material).

Opening an umbrella or unfolding a screen (building something).

Switching off an electric light (extinguishing a fire).

\*They do now allow programmable lighting that works automatically! New

If you think these man made laws are ridiculous then you are in good company because Yahshua thought they were and violated them every chance he got. In fact in Matthew 23 he sternly warns us not to follow their Takinot and Ma’asim, because they in themselves are violation of the Torah.

• If Yahshua instructed us to not follow the Pharisees Takinot then that is good enough for me. We will be studying this in depth in a couple of weeks but you can see me after if you would like to discuss this in more detail.

*John 9:15 Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 16 Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep* ***(Our Takinot)*** *on the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. 17 They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." 18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. 19 And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" 20 His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." 22 His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."*

Being put out of the synagogue was a horrible thing in this day and time and people were very careful about what they would say in order to not have this happen to them. This is why the Pharisees that did follow Yahshua did so secretly and in private.

The synagogue was the center of life for the Israelites.

• Most of the schooling came through the local Synagogue.

• Most of your fellowship in your community came through the Synagogue.

• If you were put out you would not celebrate Holy Days with them.

• Everyone in the town was part of the Synagogue so you would truly be

 an outsider if you were cast out of the Synagogue.

\* It was not like today where 10% of the population even goes to church. They went regularly and would not dare miss. It was that important to them to honor God.

They still aren’t done with this guy because too much is at stake here. Their entire religious system is being attacked so lets read on.

*24 So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." 25 He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." 26 Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" 28 Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. 29 We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."*

**Listen carefully to these next few verses.**

*30 The man answered and said to them, "Why, is this a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! 31 Now* ***we know*** *that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshipper of God* ***and*** *does His will,* ***God hears him****.* ***32 Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.*** *33 If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."*

They are getting a Torah lesson from this man and their arrogance now kicks into full gear.

The supposed foolish is teaching the supposed wise. He is declaring that God does not answer the prayers of people who are not following Him. **Which is true as we will read in Proverbs**, but the one prayer he will hear when you are in Sin or not following Him and it is the **prayer of repentance**.

*Proverbs 28:9 As for the man whose ear is turned away from (Shama)* ***hearing, listening and obeying*** *the Torah, even his prayer is an abomination.*

This is the Wisdom of Solomon so don’t be mad at me!

***If ever there was something in Scripture we should avoid it is – Abomination!***

Verse 32 is the second half of the reason they are so upset. Yes, healing him on the Sabbath by violating their man made Rabbi laws was bad in their eyes, but here the ex-Blind man is spelling it out for them.

Lets read verse 32 again……

***32 Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind.***

***Let me paraphrase……..***

Hey knuckleheads, don’t you remember the 4 miracles all of you highly educated intelligent Rabbi’s concluded could only be done by the Messiah? Wake up. This is one of them. It’s never been done before since the beginning of time. He is ***The Prophet*** Moses talked about. He is Messiah!

• And then the Pharisees responded.

“My goodness, you are right, we never thought of that before. Thank you so much for showing us just how arrogant and wrong we have been. We really appreciate your insight into the Torah and are heading to the Temple quickly to give offerings so God may forgive us………. **Hardly.**

*34 They answered and said to him,* ***"You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.***

Remember the disciples saying did this man sin or was it his parents? This was a common teaching of the day and even the disciples were aware of it. But Yahshua made it clear from the beginning - NEITHER. He was born blind for the glory of Yahovah and to prove that He was the Messiah of Israel!

We must be careful at what we complain about. Our circumstances, our problems may be something we have done wrong and hence we talked last week about examining ourselves daily, but if you are following God’s instructions, then just maybe, it is to show the Glory of God one day.

*35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"* *36 He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" 37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." 38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him. 39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind." 40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.*

As we close out this chapter lets look at those last two verses regarding “Seeing and Blindness”.

He is speaking of the Pharisees being spiritually blind through their arrogance. In verse 29 they shout “We know God spoke to Moses”. They **read it** but yet when the Son of God is right in front of them **speaking to them** their arrogance won’t allow them to see it.

Yahshua states that “those who see may be made blind.” Again, this is the prideful and arrogant of heart that thinks they know everything and have it all figured out and are NOT relying on the Scriptures for what they know. That arrogance and lack of humility will make you blind.

Had the Pharisees admitted they were spiritually blind in humbleness, they would have been forgiven and their sins as well.

But they could not do it…….

***“They were living by their man made rules – Their Takinot***

***Their lips spoke of Yahovah but their hearts were far from Him!***

***John 10*** *1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. 7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the* ***door of the sheep****. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*

The door in Greek is Thura 2374 and strongs defines it like this:

1. the door through which sheep go in and out, the name of him who brings salvation to those who follow his guidance
2. "an open door" is used of the opportunity of doing something
3. the door of the kingdom of heaven (likened to a palace) denotes the conditions which must be complied with in order to be received into the kingdom of God

We enter into Heaven or the Kingdom of God by the door. Yahshua is the door and what he taught us……. The Word from the beginning is the only way to salvation. It all ties in together. Yahshua taught us from Mt. Sinai and retaught us throughout Israel as recorded in the Gospels and it is the only way to Heaven.

• Not our way, or some version of compromising and following what is convenient but HIS WAY.

\*Repent of your sings, believe in Yahshua as your Messiah, and follow Him which means follow HIS instructions and commandments.

***You need to “Count the Cost of Discipleship”!***

***Lets flip over to Luke 11: 37-42*** *37 And as He spoke, a certain Pharisee asked Him to dine with him. So He went in and sat down to eat. 38 When the Pharisee saw it,* ***he marveled that He had not first washed*** *before dinner. 39 Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness. 40 Foolish ones! Did not He who made the outside make the inside also? 41 But rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you. 42 But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*

Not washing before dinner was not obeying their Takinot to wash the hands and to it in the prescribed manner they taught. Perhaps he marveled because he figured at the very least, In my home, he will surely obey our Takinot!

**Do you think Yahshua ever washed His hands?** Of course he did. He may have done it all the time as there was nothing wrong with washing your hands in and of itself. I believe He chose this opportunity to make a point as he did frequently through His ministry. I am not obeying your silly Takinot as you never had any right to violate Deuteronomy where I specifically told you not to add to or take away from the Torah.

**Yahshua moves on to the reason they are corrupt** on the inside and uses the example of tithing. This is a simple statement affirming that they should have tithed but also done the other matters of Justice and the Love of God. There is a similar passage in Matthew 23 that we will study in a few weeks.

**Do not neglect one part of the Torah for another.** Follow it all. In Matthew Yahshua encourages us not to neglect the “Weightier Matters” of Torah. Yes God did have different judgments for different violations. ALL sin separates us from God, but it still does not negate that they are weighted or have different penalties for different violations.

**Coveting was not a command** that would receive the death penalty, but blaspheming God’s name or not keeping the Sabbath would. They were obviously more weighty than coveting, but according to Yahshua we should keep all of them out of obedience and love.

***Continuing in 43*** *Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. 44 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!* *For you are like graves which are not seen, and the men who walk over them are not aware of them." 45 Then one of the Torah Scholars (lawyers) answered and said to Him, "Teacher, by saying these things You reproach us also." 46 And He said, "Woe to you also, (lawyers)! For you load* ***men with burdens hard to bear*** *(Ordinances or Takinot), and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. 47 Woe to you! For you* ***build*** *the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. 48 In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs. 49 Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,' 50 that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation. 52 Woe to you lawyers (Torah Scholars)! For you have* ***taken away the key of knowledge****. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered." 53 And as He said these things to them,* *the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, 54 lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.*

Yahshua is tearing apart their system of man made ordinances (Takinot) by ripping them up one side and down the other. In fact, he is going as far as to say that “Those who were entering the kingdom, you have hindered or stopped from entering.” They had the key of knowledge because he states that they took it away and have not entered in themselves.

What was the Key of Knowledge?

The Torah & Prophets and it’s in-depth teaching.

Why were they hindering themselves and others from the Kingdom?

They were violating Torah daily and teaching others to do the same.

This is a stern warning to them and anyone today who would consider continuing to follow the Rabbi Takinot in their search for truth. We must avoid this or any “man made religious laws” from other denominations that will hinder others from believing unto salvation in Yahshua Messiah.

Anything that teaches contrary to the Scriptures, anything that twists the Scriptures, or anything that takes away from or adds to the Scriptures should be avoided at all costs. I am of course referring to things added to or taken away and taught as law, requirements or commandments.

**Your life is on the line and your Messiah made it clear!**

***You Need to Count the Cost of Discipleship***

***Lets read in Luke 12:*** *1 In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. 3 Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops. 4 "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! 6 Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. 8 "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. 9 But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.*

Many of the disciples and followers would soon have to face this reality. They would lose their lives if they did not denounce Yahshua in the coming persecution in Israel. This persecution followed for well over a thousand years in various persecutions against anyone following the Jewish Messiah, reading anything in Hebrew and following the instructions that God gave to HIS children that were to be forever…. The Moedim or Feasts of God.

• The main disciples stayed faithful unto death.

• Many other disciples may not have as history records many people denounced the faith to save their life through out all the persecutions. Truly only a few were saved.

If you want to read about amazing faith…. Go read the Macabee’s to see how “True Faith” is lived out.

We don’t know for sure but we may face this very thing in this country in the not so distant future. **Will we deny Yahshua and the words he spoke?**

Or will be stand strong and remain faithful to the end?

***You Need to Count the Cost of Discipleship Now!***

*10 And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.*

**What is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?**

It was denouncing the power of God at work. Yahshua had just cast out a mute demon and they had declared that he cast out demons by the prince of demons Baal Zebub. They knew this was impossible but were grasping at straws to explain what can only be explained as the power of Heaven at work in this mans healing.

• They blasphemed the Holy Spirit by attributing the mighty power of God at work in Yahshua’s life and said those works were from devil himself.

*Luke 12: 11 Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. 12 For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." 13 Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" 15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."*

Yahshua is giving deep profound teaching and a man cry’s out: Master, tell my brother to hand over the cash from our inheritance so I can be rich.

Have you ever been deep in teaching the Word and someone interrupts with a statement that is of the wall and totally out of place? This is one of those moments.

• The oldest brother would receive the full inheritance but he was also responsible to take care of the family. Rather than follow the proper customs of the day he instead desired to have all the money or his portion to do as he wished. He was coveting what his brother had which was the right to the inheritance and the responsibility of providing for his family.

• This mans interruption gives way to a great parable from Yahshua.

*16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' 21 So is he who lays up treasure for himself,* ***and is not rich toward God."***

The last verse is the key. We must be rich toward God. Everything we have and own belongs to Him anyway. We are not promised tomorrow and all we really have is today. Do not waste an opportunity today…. **To do God’s will!**

This is not instruction to get rid of every possession you own and build a nest with twigs, but rather an encouragement for you to be rich toward God. This is in prayer time, studying, DOING HIS WILL, & your time and resources.

• Make God number one in your life above all things and you are being rich to Him.

***In reality we are told to Count the Cost of Discipleship!***

He goes on to tell us to not worry about food, clothes, housing, etc.

 *"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life.*

Worrying is the opposite of Faith. If the Scriptures tell us in Hebrews 11:6 that it is impossible to please God without Faith…… then why would we want to worry which is the opposite of Faith?

• There is an old saying that 95% of what we worry about never comes to pass. Of the 5% that does, all the worry in the world can’t change that anyway!!!

***Lets read in 33*** *Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Looks like I am kind of caught as I just said before it was not a directive to sell everything we have….. Well; which is it Tom?

If we take a look at the Greek for “Sell what you have” in Strong’s 5224 it refers to “possessions, goods, wealth, property”. I would submit to you that if you have excess, things that are not needed or necessary, and especially if they are purchases that came from your desires and not God’s direction to you, then you may want to consider selling them, give alms to the poor and focus your life on Kingdom important things and matters. As we discussed last week you need to **Examine Yourselves** and not others.

• Have you stored up possessions for **yourself** at the expense of doing Kingdom work or the will of God? Where has the primary amount of your resources of time and money gone to? God or yourself?

This entire teaching is revolving around the man who was covetous of his brothers handling the inheritance and wealth that was left to the family of which he wanted to take his share and spend it on his pleasures. Hence the covetousness.

**You should not feel guilty if you are a good steward and you are rich toward the kingdom of God and he has blessed you because of it.**

This is not a directive to go buy a tent and a gun, sell everything you own and ask History channel to do a new show about your family called:

***“The Real Mountain Men of North GA!***

***We simply need to take a close look and “Count the Cost of Discipleship”***

**Lets read again starting in verse 45.**

*45 But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. 47 And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.*

Verse 46 clearly states that that servant not doing the will of the Father will be cut in two (this can be scourging or a brutal death from being cut in half).
I doubt you want either of these.

• He is then appointed his portion with the unbelievers.

 This is written in a style that indicates that prior to his poor behavior he was faithful and would have had a portion with the believers.

His error and rejection of doing his Masters will is what assigns him the portion with the unbelievers.

• **It’s a Shocker** – but he had not been taught once saved always saved!

• Verse 48 is both stern and merciful.

*48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few* He who did not know (what?) The Will of the Master.

He is deserving of stripes but will be beaten with few. He will still be punished, but not as severely as the man who knew God’s will and rejected it or did not bother with it or thought it was done away with etc. etc. etc.

Either way- I don’t want either option and my guess is you feel the same way.

I prefer to choose no stripes at all by being faithful to the end and being about my Masters business on a daily basis!

***Again….. We must count the Cost of Discipleship!***

*49 "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!
50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!*

What is the fire he came to send on the earth? It is the Holy Spirit that would be given at Shavuot after he was resurrected, but before that could happen he had to go through the Baptism of Suffering and Death which Paul wrote about in Romans 6: 3-4

*Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Messiah Yahshua have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death...*

Yahshua knew ahead of time this was going to be a very difficult task as he states *“How distressed am I till it is accomplished”.* At this point it is only months away and coming quickly and He is aware of it.

***Reading on in verse 51*** *Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth?
I tell you, not at all, but rather division. 52 For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. 53 Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."*

Yahshua did not come to bring or deliver peace on earth. He is telling us clearly that we will have division in homes and families. Are we prepared to choose HIM. Are we prepared to make HIM our top priority?

**Do we choose Him over everything including family members?**

***Lets go to Luke 13:* *22*** *And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23 Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, 24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.
25 Once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord (LORD), open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,'
26 then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' 27 But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of* ***iniquity****.' 28 There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. 29 They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.*

Verse 27 is strikingly similar to Matthew 7:23 – Those who thought they were saved, who knew Him are left in horror as he states “Depart from Me all you workers *who do not follow the Torah*”. Yes, that is what iniquity means. It is Anomia, Greek for without Torah (A=without Nomia=Torah or Law).

But lets go back to verse 24 where Yahshua says to Strive to enter the narrow gate.

Verse 24 – Strive is Strongs 75 Ago need zomai and means

 to contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers

 to endeavour with strenuous zeal, strive: to obtain something

So why would Yahshua ask us to “Strive” (to endeavor with strenuous zeal) to enter through the narrow gate if we are saved by a simple hand raising at an altar call that can not be found anywhere in the Scriptures?

Because salvation is our reward for “Striving” for our faith to the end. It is NOT gifted to us at the moment of the hand raising or the moment of our conversion.

• Rev 3:11 states Behold, I come quickly: hold fast to have you have, that no man **take thy crown**. These are the words of Messiah here telling us that if we don’t hold fast then someone could take our crown.

\*One of the definitions of “Take” in the concordance is to circumvent by fraud. That would fit here perfectly because I believe that when we are in the Fathers hand **no one can remove us** but unfortunately, if we allow ourselves to be defrauded or if we are simply crazy enough to want to………

**We have the free will to jump out of His hand.**

Salvation is an ongoing process in this life that reaches a culmination when we kneel before our Savior and are given our crowns of life.

• If we remain in HIM, abide, follow and never turn away from HIM – He will protect us and preserve us here in this life, but it is our choice as we have all been given the blessing and curse of FREE WILL!

Why do I spend so much time on this? It is the most important part of the Gospels. It will determine where you spend eternity.

***You Have to Count the Cost of Discipleship***

**Our last reading today will be from Luke 14:25-33**

*25 Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them,
26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and* ***count the cost****, whether he has enough to finish it-- 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.*

Yahshua is not violating Torah by instructing that we hate our parents. In fact this may be one of the best arguments why this was not written in Greek. In stead lets look at the entire teaching in context.

We see that if we do not make Yahshua our priority above Father, Mother, Sister, Brother, Son or Daughter then we are not worthy of Him.

Yahshua is teaching us that there is far more to “Following Him” or becoming His Disciple than we have been made to understand. He is explaining in great detail so we know what we are getting into when we follow Him.

• These last 9 verses simply boil down to one simple truth.

***We Must All*** ***Count the Cost of Discipleship***