

TRUE FOLLOWERS OF THE MESSIAH (3)

One of the main features of Messiah's ministry was the fact that He continuously reminded his disciples and the crowds at large, that his "coming" into this world was all about following the instructions that He had received from his Father in heaven. Time and again we read words like these in the reports about what Messiah had said and done (especially in the book of Yahuchanan / John): "I am doing as the Father had commanded Me" (John 14:31); "I speak as the Father had said to Me" (John 12:50); "I do as the Father had taught Me" (John 8:28); "I seek the desire of the Father who had sent Me" (John 5:30); "My food is to accomplish his work" (John 4:34); "I came to do the desire of Him who had sent Me" (John 6:38); "I do not seek my own honour" (John 8:50); "I have accomplished the work that You had given Me to do" (John 17:4); "I shall drink the cup that the Father had given Me" (John 18:11); "I have not come of Myself" (John 8:42); "I do none at all of Myself" (John 8:28); "The words that I speak, I do not speak from Myself" (John 14:10); "Of Myself I am unable to do any matter" (John 5:30); "I have guarded my Father's commands" (John 15:10); "This command I have received from my Father" (John 10:18); "I seek the esteem of the One who had sent Me" (John 7:18); "Elohim has been esteemed in Him" (John 13:32); etc.

The pattern that is laid down in the Messianic Scriptures (or the "New Testament"), is that we as believers should honour and follow and obey Messiah as He had honoured and followed and obeyed his Father in heaven (see, for example, 1 Cor 11:3; Eph 1:22; 1 Cor 3:23; 1 Cor 15:17, 28; Matt 17:5; Luke 22:29; Joh 5:26; Joh 17:18; Joh 20:21). This pattern, however, is not restricted to the Messianic Scriptures alone. In the Pre-Messianic Scriptures (or the "Old Testament"), the coming Messiah is consistently pictured as the Servant of Yahweh, as One being sent out to fulfil a task on behalf of Yahweh Himself, but also as a Leader and a Shepherd of Yisrael, who would gather people around Himself, in order to restore them in their relationship with Yahweh (see, for example, YeshaYahu 11:1-5; YeshaYahu 42:1-4; YeshaYahu 61:1-6). It is a tragedy that this pattern has been blurred out by the overwhelming and ongoing emphasis on the Trinity doctrine, where Messiah is elevated to one and the same as Yahweh. When Messiah is seen as one and the same as Yahweh, the Scriptural mandate of following Messiah as He had followed Yahweh, is not understood properly, neither is Yahweh's plan through sending his Son to this world. How can one honestly and faithfully take someone as a role model when you were made to believe that that person was Yahweh Himself? Y'shua's life and obedience to his Father was supposed to inspire and motivate us all to do the same, it was not supposed to discourage us and drive us to a point where we say to ourselves: "How can we, as mere human beings, even begin to follow the example of someone who had been Yahweh all along?"

Knowing that Y'shua was human, like we all are human, we can look at his life, and the example that he had set throughout his life, with renewed interest. Let us return to the first paragraph above and some of the things that we now know about his own way of life. If He was doing exactly what his Father had commanded Him, shouldn't we do the same? If He was speaking about the things that his Father had spoken about, shouldn't we do the same? If He was, more than anything else, concerned about the esteem and the honour and the desire of his Father, shouldn't we be the same? If he let go of his own agenda and his own ideas, for the sake of what is on the agenda of his Father, shouldn't we do the same? If He knew that He was unable to do anything by his own power and his own ability, shouldn't we have the same attitude? Let us look at a few more passages in the Messianic Scriptures where we as believers in Messiah are encouraged to live and to walk as Messiah had walked.

1. COMPASSIONATE, EVEN TO THE UNDESERVED, AS MESSIAH WAS COMPASSIONATE TO PEOPLE, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHO THEY WERE.

Matthew 18:33 'Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, as I also had compassion on you?'

2. CHOOSING RATHER TO BE A SERVANT THAN ONE BEING SERVED, EVEN AS MESSIAH DID.

Matthew 20:27-28 "And whoever wishes to be first among you, let him be your servant, even as the Son of Adam did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

3. BEING HATED FOR NOT FOLLOWING THE WAYS OF THE WORLD, THE SAME WAY AS WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO MESSIAH.

John 17:14 I have given them Your Word, and the world hated them because they are not of the world, as I am not of the world.

4. WALKING IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE, AS MESSIAH WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD AND RECEIVED EVERLASTING LIFE.

Romans 6:4 We were therefore buried with Him through immersion into death, that as Messiah was raised from the dead by the esteem of the Father, so also we should walk in newness of life.

5. ACCEPTING ONE ANOTHER, DESPITE DIFFERENCES AND SHORTCOMINGS, EVEN AS MESSIAH HAD ACCEPTED US.

Romans 15:7 So accept one another, as Messiah also did accept us, to the esteem of Elohim.

6. WIVES SUBMITTING TO THEIR HUSBANDS AND HUSBANDS LOVING THEIR WIVES, THE SAME WAY AS IS TRUE WITH REGARDS TO MESSIAH AND THE ASSEMBLY.

Ephesians 5:23-25 Because the husband is head of the wife, as also the Messiah is head of the assembly, and He is Saviour of the body ... Husbands, love your wives, as Messiah also did love the assembly and gave Himself for it.

7. BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER AND FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, AS MESSIAH HAD FORGIVEN US.

Colossians 3:13 Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other if anyone has a complaint against another, indeed, as Messiah forgave you so also should you.

It will be noticed that the majority of these exceptional trademarks of the life and ministry of the Messiah, tragically, are not always noticeable in the lifestyle of believers. May each one of us, once again, come to that point in our lives where Messiah, and his way of doing, becomes the main driving force and perfect example in everything we do.