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## Becoming Christlike – Learning How from Old Testament Kings and Prophets

### Session 10 – Hidden in Plain View

Last session we used Numbers 15:37-41 as an example of how a few verses of scripture can bring in the entire Bible.

We are going to revisit them:

#### **Numbers 15:37-41**

**37** The Lord said to Moses, **38** “Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to **make tassels** on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner. **39** And it shall be a tassel for you **to look at** and **remember all the commandments** of the Lord, **to do them**, not to follow <sup>e</sup> **after your own heart and your own eyes**, which you are inclined to whore after. **40** So you shall **remember and do** all my commandments and **be holy** to your God. **41** I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the Lord your God.”

We will look again at these verses and the key words in this section. They seem hidden here in the Old Testament. But it can enlighten our understanding with God working in us.

#### **The great lengths God goes to in order to help people.**

Last session we mentioned the priestly significance of the cord of blue. We saw that the tassels were to be a reminder from getting dressed to undressed all day long.

God had given the Old Testament males circumcision as a reminder. Each time they would use the facility they would remember, O Yes, I am in a covenant relationship with God, and right after they would see the tassels on their garment.

God knows we constantly need to be reminded.

In the Book of Deuteronomy “Remember” show up 16 times, giving continual reminders because they were and are needed

Remember that I brought you out of Egypt

Remember what I did for you in the desert

Remember how I rescued you from Pharaoh

Remember the Red Sea

Remember the Manna

Remember the Covenant

This was not just in the Old Testament. Here are New Testament examples:

#### **2 Timothy 2:14**

**14** **Remind them of these things**, and charge them before God<sup>b</sup> not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.

### **1 Timothy 4:6**

**6** If you **put these things before the brothers,**<sup>a</sup> you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

God has Timothy remind people.

### **Phillipians 3:1**

**1** Finally, my brothers,<sup>a</sup> rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

Paul has no problem repeating himself in his letters to benefit people and cause them to remember.

### **2 Timothy 3:16,17**

**16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God<sup>b</sup> may be complete, equipped for every good work.

## **Remember To Do – The Goal is Obedience (Numbers 15:39,40)**

The reason for the reminders is so they would remember to DO the commandments. God's goal is always obedience because it is GOOD FOR HIS PEOPLE.

The book of Romans begins and ends with the obedience of faith. The obedience of faith bookends the whole book of Romans.

### **Romans 1:1-6**

**1** Paul, a servant<sup>a</sup> of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, **2** which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, **3** concerning his Son, who was descended from David<sup>b</sup> according to the flesh **4** and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, **5** through whom we have received grace and apostleship **to bring about the obedience of faith** for the sake of his name among all the nations, **6** including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

### **Romans 16:25,26**

**25** Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages **26** but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, **to bring about the obedience of faith—**

God is consistent in the Old and New Testament of what he wants his people to do.

## **What Should Our Eyes and Heart Do and Follow (Numbers 15:39)**

Someone sent a note: [This is related to spiritual adultery from Session 9. In the Old Testament God described the children of Israel as his wife, they were in a covenant relationship. They were to be intimate with Him and not have other gods. So when they committed idolatry, it was spiritual adultery, hence terms like “whoring after”.

“We Christians actually do not see ourselves as God’s beloved. We do not see Him as the lover of our souls. We do not see ourselves as married to Christ. We do not see that God’s Word is a real love letter to us. We don’t cherish God as we should. How many of us when we sin really believe we are “cheating” on God? How many of us believe we are prostituting ourselves when we continue in sin? How many of us actually believe we are really breaking God’s heart when we continue to sin?”

That is the type of heart we should have, wanting to be faithful and obedient to Him, not wanting to distance ourselves from Him via sin.

Following our own heart and eyes leads us astray. Our culture is totally into “following your own heart.” The world is geared to appealing to our flesh; car ads, vacation brochures, catalogs. We see. We WANT! All because it appeals to our flesh.

God instructs us to look at other things and to use our eyes in a different way.

In the book of Psalms the psalmist cries out to God for help to use his eyes properly. He recognizes his frailty and tendencies and his need for God’s help to look at the right things.

**Psalm 119:6**

**6** Then I shall not be put to shame, **having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.**

**Psalm 119:15**

**15** I will meditate on your precepts and **fix my eyes on your ways.** **16** I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word. (hearkens back to remembering)

**Psalm 119:18**

**18** **Open my eyes,** that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

Not wonderful things in the world!

**Psalm 119:33-37**

**33** Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.<sup>f</sup>

**34** Give me understanding, **that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.**

**35** Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

**36** **Incline my heart to your testimonies,** and not to selfish gain!

**37** **Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;** and give me life in your ways.

He is crying out to God for help, knowing his human tendencies lie in worthless directions.

**Jeremiah 2:5**

**4** Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the clans of the house of Israel. **5** Thus says the Lord: “What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and **went after worthlessness, and became worthless?**”

Why did they do this? Because they did not keep their eyes fixed on God, they looked around them at the pagan gods with their rites and rituals, followed their eyes, and went astray.

C.S. Lewis in his book, *Surprised by Joy* wrote this about his own internal life:

“a zoo of lusts, a bedlum of ambition, a nursery of fears, a haram of fondled hatred; their name is legion” there are a thousand of them.”

The latin phrase was coined by either Augustin 4<sup>th</sup> C or Luther 15<sup>th</sup> C...

*Incurvatus in se* ([Latin](#) for "turned/curved inward on oneself") is a theological phrase describing a life lived "inward" for oneself rather than "outward" for God and others.

### **1 Peter 2:11**

[11](#) Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

There is a war going on within us.

## **Be Holy**

God's call to Abraham...he told him to be holy

In the garden Adam and Eve were created in the holy likeness of God

The book of Revelation ends with holiness in the holy city

All ungodly things, all unrighteous things all unholiness will be burned up

### **Revelation 22:18,19**

[18](#) I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, [19](#) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the **holy city**, which are described in this book

### **Revelation 21:8**

[8](#) But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, **their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.**"

Everything that is ungodly, unholy, unrighteous, false, lying, immoral, faithless, cowardly, detestable will be burned up and all that will be left is holy.

We need to take heed to that as we consider the end times. Some preachers and teachers think it is the end of end times.

Paul said that time is short. For every human being we have just a short time to be alive on the earth and to make our impact. We have one life to live, we only have so much time to be obedient and do what God wants us to do.

Many people are asking how close we are to the end times. We do not know!

We do know from Genesis when the Nephalim co-habited with humans producing non-humans, God put an end to it with the flood.

Here is an excerpt from a "Jerusalem Post" article by a Jewish rabbi on how advances in science and technology are bringing us to the place where we are toying with what God created.

*Has Humanity Violated God's Boundaries in Pursuit of Science* - By MOSHE TARAGIN

AUGUST 25, 2023

<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-756096>

"Medical science is now entering a bold new era. Having mapped the human genome, we can re-engineer human DNA and, potentially, alter human identity. We can clone new life,

and we can manufacture 3D-artificial limbs and organs. [Artificial intelligence](#) will, ultimately, enable the creation of enhanced human beings by fusing technology with human biology. We are toying with the building blocks of the world God created. This is a very different type of technology and poses a very different religious question.”

Michael’s opinion is that God will not allow non-human beings to exist who do not have the free will to choose Christ and be born again.

#### **Ephesians 5:15-16**

[15](#) Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, [16](#) making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Is there any question as we look around that the days are evil? Look at how even our wonderful United States that was founded as a Christian nation based on Christian principles which has always been the bastion of freedom and liberty has become plagued by lawlessness.

Congress just investigates the lawlessness of both parties because there is no standard for right and wrong.

At the end of Peter’s life he wrote.

#### **2 Peter 3:8-11**

[8](#) But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. [9](#) The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you,<sup>a</sup> not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

God wants as many as possible to repent and receive eternal life.

[10](#) But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies<sup>b</sup> **will be burned up and dissolved**, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.<sup>c</sup>

[11](#) Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, **what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness**, [12](#) waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! [13](#) But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Two times here Peter uses the word “promise”. We know that God keeps his promises.

#### **Joshua 21:45**

[45](#) Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

Everything God ever promised we can trace through the Bible and through history and it has happened. Therefore we can have total confidence that what he says will happen in the future absolutely WILL HAPPEN.

**This section in Numbers is hidden in plain sight.**

People like adventures, exploration and discovery and go to great lengths to experience them

and come away with nothing lasting. The greatest adventure is seeking, searching, and exploring the heart of God in His Word.

## Two Ways to Learn God's Word and Will

There are two major ways to explore and find the hidden treasure in God's Word.

### Proverbs 25:2

[2](#) It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out

God has certain things hidden in His Word. Think of the parables, they were not intended to make things clear. People had to stick around to get the meaning of the parables.

Searching the Word can be like prospecting for gold. This is an academic and forensic way. One brings all his tools: His **Brain**, Greek, Aramaic, Hebrew Concordances, Commentaries, Manners and Customs, History, Culture then digs and studies. It might confine the depth of the Word to a certain type of brain and a type of ability to do this.

Another way to discover hidden truths in plain sight [like our 5 verses in Numbers] is that God will teach us as we read and study while asking Him to open our eyes so we can see what God really wants us to know. You don't need an academic degree or seminary training to do this.

Consider the Book of Acts believers. They had no tools at all. They simply heard and believed the Word that was spoken to them. They shared it with everyone around them and the Word grew mightily. Signs, miracles, and wonders followed those who believed.

### Acts 19:20

[20](#) So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

Why? Because the Word lived in the hearts of the people. We can get too caught up in academics. If I read, study, and seek with God present He is going to teach me!

## Who is the One Teacher?

### Matthew 23:8-12

[8](#) But you are not to be called rabbi, **for you have one teacher**, and you are all brothers. [9](#) And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. [10](#) Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. [11](#) The greatest among you shall be your servant. [12](#) Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

God's spirit dwells within every one of us who is born again.

Christ is no longer physically with us but what did he say at the end of his ministry?

### John 14:16,17

[16](#) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,<sup>f</sup> to be with you forever, [17](#) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be<sup>g</sup> in you.

That Christ, instructor, teacher, rabbi is IN US and will teach us.

**John 14:23**

“If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. **24** Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

**25** “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. **26** But the **Helper, the holy spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, *he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

Christ was among them doing signs, miracles, and wonders. They were so moved by it they crucified him. He was hidden in plain sight because their hearts were not oriented toward God, humble and seeking.

We have the Word written for us and taking the place of the absent Christ. God will teach us. God will put it all together for us. Christ in us will enlighten us.

We don’t need to think there are just a few scholars or experts among us.

God will show us how it all fits and how it applies to life.

**Deuteronomy 29:29**

**29** “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

What a great gift we have! To be able to read the Word and have God enlighten our understanding. We have to show up though!

Every word should explode in meaning in light of all we have covered so far!

**Proverbs 2:1-**

My son, **if** you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you,

It is conditional, IF, God is establishing that He communicates through words. What do we treasure? We treasure what we really value.

**2** making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;

We have to make our own ears attentive. We have to lean our heart toward him.

**3** yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,

IF you say God, I really want to know you. I really want to know my savior. I really want to know my place in the body of Christ.

**4** if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,

We know what people are like in seeking silver! Just look at the world chasing after financial gain.

**5** then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

THEN, finally after all these “ifs” either written or implied...THEN you will understand what? The fear of the Lord. You will understand that God is God, and I am not! God is God the government is not! God is God the culture is not! He’s the creator. I am a created being. We are all going to

appear before the judgement seat of Christ. Everything He has said IS going TO COME TO PASS. I am in awe of God. I am in fear of the Lord.

and FIND the knowledge of God.

**6** For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

The Lord gives wisdom, not your professor, not your political leaders, not your pundits or experts!

**7** he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,  
**8** guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.

God protects us: shield, guard, watch over. Do you want the blessings of God? Do you want the protection that comes with obedience?

**9** Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path;  
**10** for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

Wisdom WILL COME INTO your heart. It is not innate in there. We are not born with it!

**11** discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you,  
**12** delivering you from the way of evil, **from men of perverted speech,**

They are everywhere!

**13** who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness,

AKA our entire culture today.

**14** who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil,  
**15** men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways.

Written by Solomon in 900 BC, perfectly describes what we are living in 2023. Instead we can be delivered out.

### **Colossians 1:13**

**13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

We have been delivered from these wicked perverse people.

What a blessing and benefit we have, having the scriptures. Having Christ the one true teacher in us via holy spirit.

A short section of scripture like Numbers 15:37-41 can lead us to an understanding of the whole Word. Of whom God is, who we are, who our savior is and of all that is coming in eternity and we can live for that.