

הַשׁוֹמְרוֹנֵי הַטּוֹב

The Good Samaritan

Yeshua had sent His talmidim on a mission. They were to go to the cities of Israel and proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of Heaven. When they had returned, they were reporting to Yeshua that they were able to put demons to flight in His name, and they were rejoicing over the success of their mission. A *בַּעַל הַתּוֹרָה* (*ba'al haTorah*), [which means a “lawyer,” one who is well studied in the Torah], was there and had overheard the report of the talmidim. He was not so sure about the message of Yeshua, so he sought to put Yeshua to a test. He stood up and said, “Rabbi, what must I do to inherit a place in the world to come?”



Like all of the great Masters of Torah, Yeshua answered the lawyer's question with a question: “What is written in the Torah? How do you understand how the Torah answers your question?” After all, the man was a *ba'al haTorah*! Surely he knew the answer to his own question! So the man answered by quoting the Shema and adding VaYikra (Leviticus) 19:18– “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” The lawyer had added the phrase “with all your mind” to the Shema, because apparently he understood “with all your strength” to include not only one's monetary possessions, but also one's knowledge of the Torah (which he considered his most valuable possession).

Our Master responded by quoting VaYikra 18:5– “You have answered correctly; (as the Torah commands), do this and you will live.” Then the lawyer asked a second question, that he thought would “stump” the Master and show everyone just how smart he was: “And how should one define the word “neighbor” used in the Torah text?” To answer his question, Yeshua told a story. Once upon a time there was a man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho, and while he was on the way, robbers jumped him, took all his belongs, beat him up, and left him for dead on the side of the road. A cohen, who was on his way to the Temple to perform his duties, came by and saw the poor man, but didn't stop to help him. He didn't want to become unclean and forfeit his prestigious place in the Temple service. Then a levi also came along the same road, saw the poor fellow, and passed by without helping him. He too was afraid if he stopped to help the man, he might become unclean and therefore unfit to enter the Temple precincts. Finally a Samaritan came down the road. Now the Samaritans were despised by the rest of the Jews, because they had intermarried with foreigners and were therefore not considered full-blooded Jews. But when the Samaritan saw the wounded man, he immediately felt sorry for him, and stopped to help him. He bound his wounds with bandages, using wine as a disinfectant and oil for a soothing balm. Then he lifted the wounded man upon his own donkey, and took him to the nearest hotel. He told the hotel owner to give the man a room, and paid the fees. Then he even told him that if the man needed to stay longer, when he returned from his journey, he would pay the extra amount.

Finishing His story, Yeshua looked at the lawyer and said, “Which of these three men do you think proved to be a neighbor to the wounded man?” The lawyer realized that Yeshua had spoken true wisdom! He answered, “The one who showed mercy to him.” Yeshua answered, “You are right again! Go and do the same! If your life is characterized by mercy, then this will prove that you love God with all your heart, soul, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. You will have proven by fulfilling the greatest *mitzvah* that you are truly righteous.”

The Two Great Commandments

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from below after you unscramble them

You shall love _____ your _____
 with all your _____, and with all your _____
 with all your _____ and with all your _____
 and your _____ and _____.

eghinorb Aainod harte esourylf trensthg oGd ulos dimn

Use the code below to finish the verse from Leviticus 18:19

you shall _____ your _____


as _____


I am the _____.



= A = B = C = D = E = F = G = H
 = I = J = K = L = M = N = O = P
 = Q = R = S = T = U = V = W = X
 = Y = Z