

A SABBATH'S DAY JOURNEY

You are not to walk more than 1,000 paces without resting. A sabbath days journey was considered to be 2000 cubits (18 inches/cubit) which is about 3000 feet, or 3/5-3/4 of a mile (Exod. 16:29 & Num. 35:5).

Traditionally the Orthodox Jews were prohibited from going any great distance on the sabbath. They were to walk only a maximum of 3/5 of a mile, after that distance it was considered working on the sabbath. It was traditionally 3/5 of a mile because it was in reference to the city of Jerusalem which is a very up and down hilly city. If you walk more that 3/5 of a mile in that city, it starts to get difficult and you will begin to sweat, which is when the Orthodox Jews say it becomes work. That is why to this very day, Orthodox Jews live very close to their synagogue, so they don't have to walk more than 3/5 of a mile to go to shul. The verse in Exodus is specifically talking about going out on the sabbath to gather manna out in the wilderness, but the Jews have taken it and added, extended it to mean something more than was originally intended. They have done this with many verses in the tenakh. They have added to the torah, which is exactly what Yah said not to do. In Europe during the diaspora it was the distance of traveling that was between one of the three meals of the day, sabbath days journey.

There are hundreds more examples of silly man made rules that these people follow. By understanding some of these rules, you can see what Yeshua meant when he spoke harshly to the Pharisees about their laws that had made things burdensome for the people.

NOTE: There is a rule in Israel called "Pikuach Nefesh Dokhech Shabbat". It refers to when an emergency situation arises on shabbat. In this situation one may help without being afraid of breaking the oral shabbat rules. In Mark 1:21-28 Yeshua was put in one of these "Pikuach Nefesh" situations when He helped a man having convulsions.

One must realize that Yeshua was raised amidst all the Rabbinical laws for 30 years, so He was very familiar with them. He didn't really despise their rules, He simply wanted them to understand that the rules of Yah were more important, and that their man-made rules were to always take a back seat to those set down before the people by Yah. Yeshua wanted to make it clear to all the teachers of the laws that the word of Yah came first, and then perhaps their silly traditions could be followed, but their traditions were not important. Yeshua was very harsh to those Pharisees and teachers of the oral law because they gave it significance that Yah didn't. He called them hypocrites because that's exactly what they were. They were teaching man-made laws and being "legalistic" about the Biblical laws, but weren't following them from their hearts. Yeshua knew "a spade was a spade not an agricultural implement". He rebuked them tremendously for their terrible actions and lack of leadership. **Matt. 23:13** ***"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from men; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in."*** Here Yeshua is not holding back, He is scolding the priests for not sharing the proper fullness of the word with their people. **Matt. 23:23-24** ***"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."*** **You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!**

This is the equivalent of the Messiah saying "do you walk the walk and talk the talk or do you just talk the talk"? It gets much scarier, Yeshua holds back nothing now, He tells the truth to these hypocrites. He tells them that they are following man's rules, but they are supposed to be doing and teaching the Word and laws of Yah.

Matt. 23:25-33 ***"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. "You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. "Even so you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the***

monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had been {living} in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in {shedding} the blood of the prophets.' "Consequently you bear witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. "Fill up then the measure {of the guilt} of your fathers. **"You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell?"** Here, Yeshua scolds the clergy for being hypocrites and not doing and teaching what the law says. This is the same scolding that some clergy today should receive for acting exactly the same as the Pharisees and Sadducees of Biblical times. If Yeshua were here today He would rebuke many ministers, and probably punish them accordingly. This is another reason why so many are spiritually dead, cursed.

Yeshua may be hinting at something else, a thematic connection here, when we look real close. He may be comparing them to pigs, which are biblically symbolic of hypocrisy. Pigs appear on the outside to be clean because they have split hooves, but on the inside they are unclean.

When Yeshua's disciples broke the tradition of the elders, in Matthew, and the Pharisees rebuked them, they were rebuking them because the disciples were breaking the oral Rabbinical law called "n'ti latya da yim". It was no law of the Old Testament or Renewed Testament. The men were eating without washing their hands first. This was perfectly OK, because the food was clean, and whether or not you wash your hands before eating it, will not change it to be unclean. **Matt. 15:1-3** "Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Yeshua from Jerusalem, saying, "Why do Your disciples transgress **the tradition of the elders?** For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." And He answered and said to them, "And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of Yah for the sake of your tradition? **Mark 7:2-5** "and had seen that some of **His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed.** (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, {thus} observing the traditions of the elders; and {when they come} from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?" What He meant was that you didn't need to wash your hands before you ate clean food. The people were putting more emphasis on the "netilat yadayim" (orthodox ritual of washing hands in a specific manner according to the halakhah [oral Torah]) than necessary. Their emphasis was on the ritual rather than common sense. Their emphasis was on the Rabbinical tradition and rules rather than the Biblical instructions.

Matt. 15:9 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'" It could be because of this false teaching and tradition of the Rabbis that Yeshua said "call no one Rabbi (Father)" in Matt. 23:9.



Some Jews have made a mockery of the law, through additions achieved by human reasoning. (Matt. 15:8-9, Isa. 29:13, Col. 2:20-23, Titus 1:14) Satan himself has inspired the man-made additions to the sacred divine law of Adonai through the Judaist leaders, so as to make Adonai's law a laughing matter to many Believers. Because of the (mostly Jewish people), who have made Adonai's law corrupt by changing it and adding to it, the other nations of the world identify the law with the Jews only. They have distanced themselves from the Jews and therefore have not received the many teachings of the Jews that are of great benefit to the Believing churches. They have not learned from the oracles of Yah like they should have, because of Satans achievement with the Judaizers (Zech. 23:8).

The mishna gives more man-made details of the Torah laws of the Bible, and the Talmud goes into further details.

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