L.E.A.D. TRAINING

THE FAMILY COURT SYSTEM

Torah Portion-Shemini

HEBREW WORD OF THE WEEK

Nahal נָהַל-Strong's #5095

- to lead to a watering-place or station and cause to rest there
- to lead or bring to a station or goal
- to lead, guide
- to give rest to
- to refresh (with food)

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY LEADER:

- *Do the people that your leading feel like you make their life easier and bring them rest emotionally, spiritually, and physically?*
- *Do those your leading feel like they are headed toward a goal?*
- *Do those you are leading feel like you are feeding them spiritually?*

Self-Differentiation but Maintaining Connection

To be an effective leader of any consequence, one must self-differentiate. This means you must set yourself apart from the rest of the group while at the same time maintaining connection with the group that is being led. There are many "leaders" that are good at separating themselves but do not maintain the relationship connection that is needed to bring the group toward the intended goal.

READ: Leviticus 8:35

> *Therefore, you shall stay at the door of the tabernacle of meeting day and night for seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, so that you may not die; for so I have been commanded."*

YHWH instructs those that are being inaugurated as priests to stay at the door of the tabernacle, meaning outside the front entrance in the courtyard, for seven days.

READ: Leviticus 9:1,7

> *1 It came to pass on the* ***eighth day*** *that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders* of *Israel. 7 And Moses said to Aaron, "Go to the altar, offer your sin offering and your burnt* offering, and make atonement for yourself and for the people. Offer the offering of the people, and make atonement for them, as the LORD commanded."

Two things we learn from this passage:

- Leadership takes patience, effort and submission to others.
- Leaders must understand that before they can be an effective leader, they must first get right before YHWH and THEN they can help those they are leading get right as well.

LEADER: Explain how all of us are leading someone, whether we know it or not. From this passage we learn that the heart of Yah is that we focus on ourselves first and then helping others. We should have a heart for others, but we also need to see our own faults first. We also see this same principle in the New Testament:

READ: Matthew 7:1-5

> *"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

An effective leader must first be humble enough to admit their own sins, failures, and mistakes before those that they are leading. This creates the NEEDED desire for others to WANT to follow you.

REST FOR A WEEK, THEN NEW ROLE BEGINS

QUESTION

Let's see what happened to Saul.

Read 1 Samuel 13

This was the first sacrifice that was going to be made by Saul after he was anointed king of Israel. He was now going to participate in the priestly duty of making a sacrifice. The Torah required priests to wait 7 days before they could perform their duty. Samuel no doubt knew this and showed up right at the end of the seventh day. All that was left was for Samuel to give the nod that he was ready, and he could make an offering the very next day, the eighth day. But he couldn't wait. He chose to disobey Samuel, and by default God, and then justified his decision using his own logic.

QUESTION

How many parts were there to the instructions of Samuel and what were they?

READ: 1 Samuel 10:8

"You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do."

ANSWER:

- **Wait 7 days**
- **Wait for Samuel to show him what to do**

QUESTION

Why was Saul punished so severely?

ANSWER:

- He was the king of Israel and it was his number one priority to represent the real King of Israel, who knew no fear. Saul displayed a lack of faith in the God of Israel and put all his faith in the sacrifice itself. In doing so, he was treating YHWH as if He was like the other Canaanite gods that could be bribed for favor. So the first reason he was punished was because he displayed to the people a severe lack of faith in the one behind the sacrifice, and put more faith in the sacrifice itself.
- He was told to wait for Samuel. Although Saul was the highest authority in the land, when it came to dealing with God, Saul himself was under authority. And Saul did not respect that authority. Saul was given a time table but did not explain why. Samuel had his reasons but did not disclose them. Instead of Saul trusting the word of the one who he was subject to, he dismissed Samuel's instructions and chose to justify his actions by his own logic.

QUESTION

Can you ever remember a time in your life where you questioned the logic of someone who you were submitted to? Did you choose to disobey those instructions because you could not understand their logic? How did that situation turn out? How does God view us living by our own logic instead of trusting those He has put in charge of us?

READ: Proverbs 3:5-7

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.

Saul was supposed to wait seven days. The eighth day was to be his "new beginning." **His lack of patience produced a lack of faith, even though he didn't know it.** This hasty decision led him to making himself the authority over the situation, which ironically was what led to the removal of **ALL** of his authority and the very blessings that he desired.

QUESTION

What can we learn from Saul's mistakes and what principles can we conclude from this story of how YHWH works in our lives? *(Discuss each person's thoughts and how it might relate to your own family dynamic.)*

NOTE TO FAMILY LEADER: make sure you communicate the fact that the reason why we study the Bible is to understand, through these types of stories, how God works, what He desires, and how we are supposed to relate to both Him and our fellow man. Any other reason that fails to support the two greatest commandments of loving God and loving our neighbor fails. When we read the scriptures, we look for the principles that we can apply today.

POINTS TO DISCUSS

- **Authority** and chain of command
- **Patience** (Love is patient)—which is one of the fruits of the spirit and one of the hallmarks to prove that you love God and your neighbor. · **Trust**
- **For children**-when they trust those that God has put over them, they are trusting God Himself.

  Why? Because Yah gave them that authority and all authority comes from God (Romans 13:1). And if they make a wrong choice, they must answer to God for that, which is the child's appeal system (discussed below in the Family Court System).
- **For Adults**-trusting employers or those that might be over us in a particular area of our lives, trusting God at His Word, His promises, etc.

THE FAMILY COURT SYSTEM

> ***Disclaimer:*** *Although this system works best under the ideal family system of a husband and a wife that both love God and have submitted to His Word, this Family Court System can also be successfully adapted inside of single family homes and other home structures as well.*

BASIC PREMISE

Each person in the home has a voice and has the right to have their voice heard on appeal. Facts are presented, judgments are reached based on those facts, and everyone is submitted to the Lord.

Let's go in reverse order so we can see who the ultimate Judge of this Family Court System is.

READ: Ephesians 6:1-4

> *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

We see here that there is a court system at work and instructions are given to both. Children are to submit to the Lord through their parents. **BUT** fathers are **not** to provoke their children to wrath either. And I have found that this happens when the children don't feel heard or respected but yet they are expected to listen and respect.

RESPECT IS THE KEY ELEMENT IN THE HOME

When everyone gives it with the understanding that we all need grace for the times that we are not very respectable, the whole family unit grows exponentially, and Yah is ultimately honored. Let's read another set of scriptures to see another layer of the system.

READ: Eph. 5:22-29

> *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason*

a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

In these scriptures we see that the next level of respect is a wife to her husband, *"as to the Lord (Yeshua)."* **BUT** he is to love her as Christ loved the Church and DIED for her.

Husbands, do you die for your wives, or do you just always have to be right and in control? How much do you sacrifice for her well-being and how often do you choose to be wrong to make it right? Pride and ego are hard to submit to.

COURT AUTHORITY STRUCTURE

We see that the system of family government is: children submit to the Torah of mom **(district judge)**; the wife submits to the husband **(appellate judge)**; AND the husband submits to Christ **(Supreme Court Judge)** and is to be a loving example of that Judge to those under his care. And this is where the Family Court System starts.

Example 1

Child goes to mom and asks for something. Mom says no. Child goes away feeling angry that they didn't get their way and didn't feel heard.

Example 2

Using the **FCS** (Family Court System): Child goes to mom and asks for the same thing but presents their perspective and any supporting facts of why they believe they should be able to do such and such. Mom listens to child and agrees that some of her points were good. Child feels respected and heard and then mom gets to share her viewpoints and reasons why she still believes it's not a good idea.

***DISCLAIMER:** Sometimes the situation is as such where the child doesn't need to understand. They just need to Shema (hear and obey). They also might not be old enough to reason.*

CRITICAL STEP

Mom asks the child if she understands where she is coming from. The child then gets a chance to respond to mom's reasons and then mom makes the final decision. **THIS** is what makes the other person feel heard and that their voice matters.

THE APPEAL

If the child doesn't like the decision, they are allowed to file a motion with the Appellate Court (aka, dad). ***IF THERE IS NO FATHER, then the child is allowed to come back later and file an appeal again but should be taught to bring up more points than the ones that were given before (this teaches critical thinking skills).***

Dad then hears the child out and then talks to mom to hear her side. Dad then unbiasedly considers all the facts and makes the final decision. If the decision doesn't go in the child's favor, the child then has the right to file an appeal with the **Supreme Court (Yeshua)** and leave the final results to Him to change the hearts of his/her parents if need be. In the meantime, they submit to their parents' decisions "as unto the Lord."

THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS FAITH

In other words, if the decision is not against Scripture, they assume that because their parents have been given authority by God, that it is in fact God that they are serving. So, they are taught to look at it as an opportunity to serve Christ through their trial and to *"consider it pure joy"* (James 1:2). If they truly believe it is unfair, then they **KNOW** that they can trust Yahweh to *"work all things out for their good" (Romans 8:28).*

The foundation stone of all decisions then becomes YHWH and everyone has had their voice heard and felt respected along the way.

WE WANT THEM TO KNOW YHWH AND HAVE HIS IMAGE

In the 8th century B.C., the prophet Hosea proclaimed,

> *"For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings." (Hosea 6:6)*
> *"For you do not desire sacrifice or I would give it; a burnt offering you would not accept. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a contrite, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn." (Ps 51:16-17)*

Blessings and shalom!

Jim Staley

Passion For Truth Ministries