

Sisters for Yah

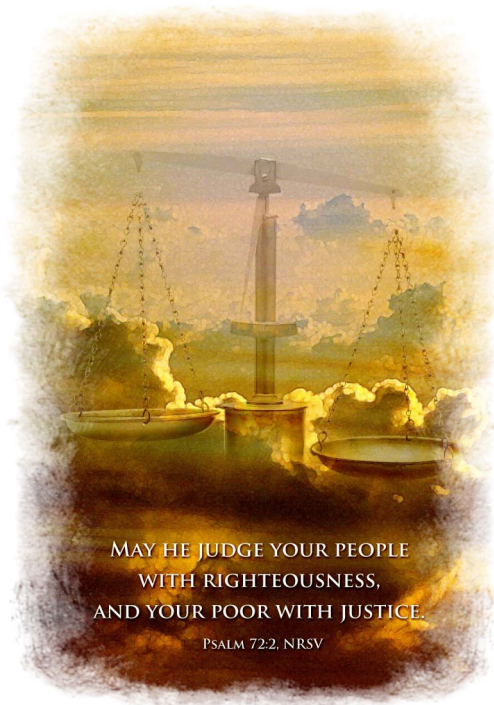
JUDGE NOT?

One of the most recognizable verses among Yahweh's people is this one: *Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven,* Luke 6:37.

Right from the start, let's get this out of the way: There is a significant difference between judgment and discernment. We know that Yahweh sees our hearts and knows our motives (Prov. 16:2). Only Yahweh can accurately judge those who deserve punishment. Ultimately, Yahshua will sit in judgment upon all in the Day of Judgment spoken of in 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Our problem is, that we like to sit in the judgment seat and pronounce condemnation upon those whom we think have sinned! Scripture commands us not to judge or condemn others, for we cannot be judgmental and redemptive at the same time. It is difficult to pray sincerely for someone if we are condemning them at the same time. At times, our judgmental attitudes can seem to provide us an excuse not to become involved in Yahweh's redemptive work in someone's life. Scripture reminds us that Yahweh will treat us with the same grace or severity with which we treat others. (See Luke 6:38.)

Keep in mind this is not talking about people who are openly and willfully sinning with no intention of repenting and changing their ways. Such people have



already condemned themselves.

While Yahweh does indeed command us not to judge others, He does want us to be discerning. We will know a person's spiritual condition by the fruit of their lives (Matt. 7:16). Grapes are not produced by thorn bushes. Therefore, if a person's life produces thorns, we can easily assume a person is not a grapevine! Are we being judgmental in such a situation? No, we are being discerning. We are told not to associate with scoffers or fools (Prov. 22:10). Unless we are able to identify scoffers and fools, we obviously cannot obey Yahweh's command to avoid them. As believers, we have no choice but to observe the lives of others so that we can help them, and at the same time avoid sinful influence. Let us all become "Discerners for Yahweh."

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Thoughts about the "Day of Yahweh"



I find it interesting that many Christians think that "the L-rd's day" as expressed in Scripture, is Sunday, the first day of the week. But how ludicrous is that! How could they think so, when the Scripture declares, *For you yourselves know that the L-rd's day so comes as a thief in the night*, 1 Thessalonians 5:2?

The exhortation in Scripture to prepare for Yahweh's Day is given to His people, rather than to unbelievers. Believers need to be prepared for Yahshua's return, so that they can properly respond to Him. And yes, we are told that it comes unexpectedly. Here are some Scriptures that refer to the Day of Yahweh: Isaiah 13:6, Joel 2:11, and Malachi 3:2. Also in Amos 5:18, Amos predicted it would be far different from what people thought. The people of his day thought it would come with joy and singing, yet Amos said there would be grieving and judgment of sin.

When Yahshua came the first time, His coming caught some by surprise. Most people of His day were expecting Him to come in a different way. They expected Messiah to come as a powerful warrior King, to overturn the Roman occupation of their land and to restore Israel to glory.

That's why many did not recognize Him.

However, as we know, Messiah is coming again! His second coming will be much different from His first. We must prepare for that Day now. Pay attention to the signs of the times. Get right with Yahweh. Choose this day Whom you will serve!

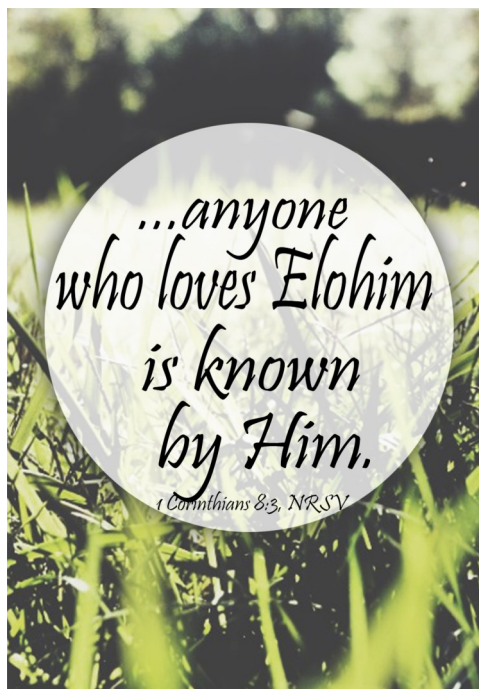
Our impact on others

Our lives impact on others whether we intend it or not. Hopefully, our impact is positive and not negative. The Apostle Paul wanted to leave a spiritual blessing with other believers. (See Romans 1:11.) He had heard of the Believers in Rome, and made mention of them in his prayers, longing for them to build up their faith (Rom. 1:9-10). While Paul waited for an opportunity to visit Rome, he wrote a letter to the Assembly there. His letter to the Romans is one of the most cherished and challenging Books in the New Testament.

Obviously, we should share Paul's goal of leaving a spiritual blessing with everyone around us. We all have opportunities to strengthen other Believers, and even family members and co-workers. Regrettably, some Believers tend toward self-centeredness which causes them to seek blessings from others, instead of blessing others. Being determined to focus on giving rather than receiving, is a good habit to form. Do you look at others in terms of what they can do for you, instead of you doing for them? As you go about your day, strive to be a positive influence on everyone you encounter. Even something as simple as being cheerful to a postal clerk can make a huge impact!



We are known by Him



I began learning about my Heavenly Father from a very young age. I remember being fascinated and thrilled to read that Yahweh knows the number of hairs on our heads! Even before we call on Him, the Father has already begun to provide all we need. (See Isaiah 65:24.) In fact, Yahshua wanted His disciples to learn just how intimately Yahweh knew and loved each of them. That's why He told them to pray. He assured them that even before they prayed, Yahweh knew all about their situation. Matthew 6:8 says, *Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*

Prayer is not designed for us to inform Yahweh of our needs, for He already knows them. Why, then, should we pray? For one thing, prayer enables us to experience Yahweh more intimately. All relationships thrive with communication. In fact, lack of communication is one of the biggest destroyers of marriages! Praying helps us experience the loving provision of our Parent. As Yahweh intervenes in our lives, we become more convinced of His unrelenting love. Yahweh recognizes His children's needs before they do. Yahweh knows exactly what we will face today and next week. He is eager for

us to go to Him every day, but many times we humans think we know what would benefit us. We can even be foolish enough to assume we don't really need Yahweh. But to our surprise, we often discover that Yahweh knows far better than we do about what is best for us. Yet, our Father wants us to go to Him in our need (Matt. 7:7). He stands ready to show His strength through our weakness.

Standing in the Gap

Yahweh looks for those whose hearts are prepared to be intercessors before Him. Intercessors have hearts in tune with Yahweh's heart. Most people don't "volunteer" to be an intercessor. Yahweh enlists them! Some intercessors are so acutely aware of what is at stake, for their land or country, that they will stay before Yahweh as long as necessary in order to obtain His answer.

Most people fear becoming intercessors because the needs are so large. The problems facing the world can seem insurmountable. Indeed, some intercessors have expressed exhaustion and frustration. Intercession can be a lonely business, too. There may be many days or years when there appears to be no results for your labor. I'm sure Yahshua felt the same way when He cried out that many times He wanted to gather the people to Him, but they would not have Him. Yet, intercessors are often the only ones standing between a family and Yahweh's judgment, or between an individual or nation and Yahweh's wrath. Yahweh's love does indeed compel us to plead with Him on behalf of this fallen world facing imminent judgment. Don't lose hope. Continue interceding on behalf of others according to Yahweh's will.



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Winter Fruit Salad

- 1 pound clementine oranges (about 5), peeled and segmented
- 2 pears, cored and cubed
- 2 apples, cored and cubed
- 4 kiwis, peeled and sliced
- 1 to 1 1/2 cups pomegranate seeds
- 3 T. honey
- 2 T. lime juice
- 2 T. lemon juice

Toss it all in a big bowl. Keeps well in the fridge.



Italian Pasta Bean Soup

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 yellow onion, sliced
- 2 carrots, sliced
- 3 celery stalks, sliced
- 1 t. dried oregano
- 1/4 t. red pepper flakes
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1 can white beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (15 ounce) diced tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cups dry pasta, any shape
- 3 cups kale, de-stemmed and chopped
- 1 lemon, juiced
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Top with Parmesan cheese



Sauté the onion, carrots, and celery in the olive oil until softened, about 5 minutes. Add all the rest and simmer about 10 minutes until the pasta is cooked. Ladle into bowls and sprinkle with parmesan if desired. Great with crusty bread served on the side.

