

Sisters for Yah

Impossible? Of course not!

In Gideon's mind, victory over the Midianites most likely seemed impossible. And he was probably correct! At the time, the Israelites were feeble, and the Midianites, along with their allies, were formidable enemies. Yet the moment Yahweh told Gideon to fight them, victory instantly became possible.

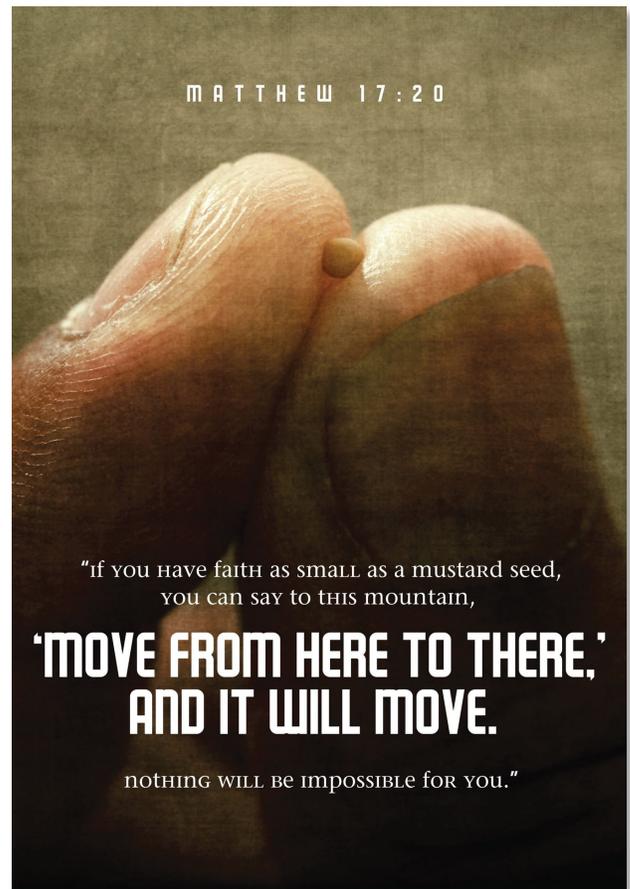
In Judges 6:14, we read, *Then Yahweh turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"*

Who were the Midianites? Scholars say they were an early Arabic nomadic tribe known for their wandering lifestyle and the havoc they wreaked on other tribes, especially the Israelites. Though the Midianites were descendants of Abraham, they were never considered a part of the Covenant People like the Israelites.

When Yahshua commanded His small group of followers to make disciples of all nations, did that seem

possible? Certainly it was possible if Yahshua said it was! When Yahshua said to love our enemies, was He being realistic? Of course! But many have stumbled over this saying. They didn't realize that He was the One who would help in their reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:19-20).

It is easy for humans to treat commands like they are impossible. Some like to modify Yahweh's Word to find an interpretation that seems reasonable to them. But don't discount what is possible with Yahweh. (See Philipians 4:13.) Once Yahweh gives an assignment, it is no longer an impossibility, but rather an absolute certainty. If Yahweh prompts you to do something, the only thing required is your obedience. He will take care of the rest.



Inside this issue:

Impossible?	1
Helpful articles	3
Recipes	4

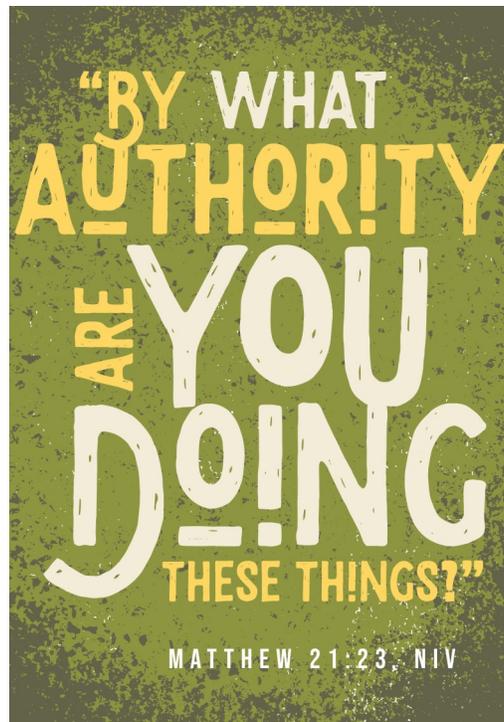
Speaking with Authority

Mark 1:22 tells us, *And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

Yahshua was not the first to teach the Scriptures to a group of disciples. The people in Yahshua's day had heard other teachers of the Scriptures, such as the Pharisees. There were also competing "schools of thought" back then, such as Hillel and Shammai. What set Yahshua apart is that He spoke with authority given by Yahweh. To many of the scribes, the Scriptures were meaningless, nothing more than dry, dusty collections of speculation. But Yahshua taught the Scriptures as the Living Word of Yahweh. Even John the Immerser claimed that a man could only receive that which had been given to him by Yahweh. (See John 3:27.)

When the religious leaders searched the Scriptures, they came away empty-handed. But when Yahshua read the same Scriptures, the Father gave Him a full measure of His wisdom and His authority. There is a radical difference between practicing religion and sharing Yahweh's Word. There is significance between worldly reasoning and counsel that comes directly from the Living Word of Elohim! So, is it possible to teach a message from the Bible, but not from Yahweh? Yes, this happens all the time, when people impose their own interpretation upon Scripture. The scribes and Pharisees did this all the time, leaving their listeners spiritually-destitute.

Is it possible to counsel someone with advice that "appears" to come directly out of the Bible? Yes, if one forces a Scripture to say what they want it to say, instead of what it actually says. When we share Scriptures with others, we must be very careful that the words we share are indeed from Yahweh, and not just our own opinions. Otherwise we may be in danger of being a false prophet. (See Deuteronomy 18:20-22). Yahweh promises to stand by every Word He has ever spoken (Isaiah 55:10-11). So that when we share a Word that has come from Yahweh, we can do so with utmost confidence.



The Key to Redemptive Missions

I love John 17:21, which states, *That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*

Yahweh often uses human relationships to redeem a lost world. See John 13:20 and Matthew 24:40. One reason He gives for a husband and wife to live in unity is to produce "righteous seed." Similarly, an Assembly is the Body of Messiah. An assembly cannot be in mission with the Father if their members are waging war with one another. If at all possible, we should live peaceably with all men (Rom. 12:18). Yes, troubles will come. Our family members may reject us, or our coworkers may ridicule us. That's okay! Just stay strong in your convictions. The harvest will come later. Right now, we are simply planting seeds. One day it will all make sense. Yahweh's purpose is being accomplished, even when we can't see through our pain and trials. Hold onto Him and don't let go!

Do you know Yahweh?

Knowing Yahweh through experience is radically different than knowing “about” Yahweh. Biblical knowledge always involves experience. For instance, it’s one thing to read about the Sabbath and Holy Days, but it’s another thing to actually KEEP them. Don’t settle for a second-hand knowledge of living Yahweh’s way. I knew a man who was very interested and fascinated about Yahweh’s Food Laws, but he never actually kept them. I, and others, had encouraged him to do so. He died of cancer, and I still wonder if perhaps his life may have been prolonged if he had practiced healthy, kosher eating.

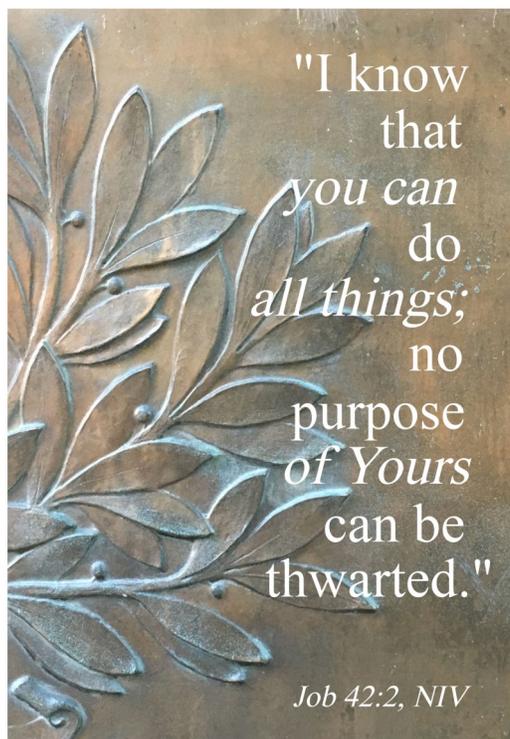
Yahweh wants us to know Him. He doesn’t want us just to read about Him in the Bible, then go on our merry way. There are reasons He tells us to keep Sabbaths and Holy Days, and eat kosher. He wants us healthy. Head knowledge is not enough. Yahweh is a very action-oriented Elohim. Ask Yahweh if there are any adjustments that you need to make in order to know Him better. Bring your experience up to the standard of Scripture, never reduce Scripture to the level of your experience. Yahshua wanted us to become one with Yahweh. Nothing less can satisfy. Don’t give up on the promises of Yahweh. Stay with them until you are fully experiencing them.

Nothing is ordinary with Yahweh

Moses was going through the routine of his day when he noticed an ordinary thing: a bush. However, there was something extraordinary about the situation. The bush was burning, but it was not being consumed by the flames! Understandably, this really got Moses’ attention. Read the passage in Exodus 3:2-4:

And the Angel of Yahweh appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of the bush. So he looked and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” So when Yahweh saw that he turned aside and looked, Yahweh called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

Everything that Yahweh had been doing for forty years in Moses’ life brought him to this moment. There will be times when we are immersed in the ordinary events of our lives and be oblivious to the extraordinary. Even our common moments can be filled with the presence of Yahweh. I remember someone telling me about a profound experience when they hiked to the top of a mountain. Many hikers do the same every day. But this person said he felt such a powerful emotion as he looked at the expanse below, that he just knew that Yahweh had created everything and nothing was left to chance as many atheists claim. It was an extreme faith-strengthening event for him, even though hiking to the top of a mountain is an everyday event for many hikers. Yes, we can sometimes certainly see the unusual in the midst of the mundane. It may be that Yahweh has ordained that a certain common moment might be a life-changing one.



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Fiesta Bubble Pizza

1 1/2 pound ground beef or chicken, cooked and drained.
1 can condensed tomato soup
3/4 cup water
1 packet taco seasoning
2 cups shredded cheddar
1 tube large refrigerated biscuits (16 ounces)
Toppings: Shredded lettuce, chopped tomatoes, salsa, black olives, sour cream, and thinly sliced green onions.

Press the biscuits into a large pan and bake according to package instructions. Mix the beef or chicken with the soup, water, and taco packet. Heat through. Spread over the biscuits. Top with cheese. Bake a few minutes until cheese is melted. Cut in slices and serve with your favorite toppings.

Classic Summer Potato Salad — bring this to your next picnic!

3 pounds potatoes, cubed
Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste
8 eggs
1 cup mayonnaise
4 T. sweet pickle relish
3 T. yellow mustard
2 T. Dijon mustard
1 red bell pepper, finely chopped
1/2 of a red onion, finely chopped
2 celery stalks, finely sliced
Garnish with BBQ seasoning (found in the spice aisle at the store), paprika, or black pepper

Boil the potatoes until fork-tender. Don't over cook, or you will have mashed potatoes (which will still work, but most prefer chunky potato salad). Drain, and allow to cool. Once cooled, add the rest of ingredients. Garnish with the BBQ seasoning, paprika or black pepper if desired.

