

Two Very Important Words to Yeshua.

Below are two of the most important words to Yeshua, the Jesus of history and his followers:

צְדָקָה & שְׁלוֹם
tzedaqah shalom

Readers of English translations are unaware of the Hebrew words Yeshua used because translators of our English translations translate ancient manuscripts that were written in Greek. Today, because the findings of archeologists and power new computer technologies, it is clear that the teachings of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) were spoken in Hebrew and passed down orally in Hebrew long before they were translated into Greek.

In order to remind English readers of the Hebrew meanings behind their English words, we translated the words above as **righteousness (TDQ)** and **peace (SLM)**. Below are two of Yeshua's blessings from his *Sermon on the Mount* (Matthew 5:9-10):

*Blessed are the peace (SLM) makers,
for they shall be called Sons of God.*

*Blessed are those who pursue righteousness (TDQ),
for they are the Kingdom of God.*

English translations make it not only difficult but impossible for native English speakers to see the links peace and righteousness have to each other. But the ancient Hebrew speaking audiences Yeshua addressed knew them very well. When they heard Yeshua pronounce the blessings above they knew Yeshua was echoing the words of Isaiah the Prophet (32:17):

*The work of righteousness (TDQ) will be peace (SLM),
and the service of righteousness (TDQ) will be quietness and trust forever.*

This is what Isaiah meant.

Doing acts of righteousness (TDQ) creates peace (SLM).

This is how Isaiah's words relate to Yeshua's blessings:

Peace (SLM) makers are people who are doing acts of righteousness (TDQ).

Pursuers of righteousness (TDQ) are creating peace (SLM).

Isaiah (58:6-7) gives examples of *acts of righteousness (TDQ)*.

- *Breaking bread with the hungry.*
- *Bringing the homeless home.*
- *Giving clothes to cover the naked.*
- *Seeking out, instead of hiding from relatives.*

In Yeshua's *Great Day of Judgment Parable* (Matthew 25:31-46), the righteous will enter into eternal life because they had done the things below.

1. *Gave food to the hungry.*
2. *Gave drink to the thirsty.*
3. *Gave clothes to the naked.*
4. *Gave a stranger shelter.*
5. *Visited the ones that were sick.*
6. *Went to see those in prison.*

Modern Bible readers view acts like those above as "*charity*," but the meaning of "*charity*" is very different from *righteousness (TDQ)*.

- *Acts of righteousness (TDQ) are performed as a matter of obligation.*
- *The needy have a right to receiving acts of righteousness (TDQ).*
- *Those possessing means have a duty to do acts of righteousness (TDQ).*
- *A person receiving acts of righteousness (TDQ) must in turn do acts of righteousness (TDQ) for others in need.*
- *Acts of righteousness (TDQ) are not religious rituals they are acts of social justice.*

This brings us to *peace (SLM)*. The word "*peace*" is a very important word to everyone, not just Bible readers. "**SLM**" reminds us that the meaning of peace (SLM) comes from the Hebrew word "**shalom**."

The English word "peace" has a *passive* or even *negative* meaning -- "the absence of strife or conflict."

The Hebrew word *shalom* is pregnant with positive, active and *energetic* meanings and associations.

*Shalom is the completeness and richness of
living in an integrated social milieu.*

Peace (SLM) makers pursue opportunities to do acts of righteousness (TDQ) which make individuals safe, healthy, wholesome, and complete so they can live together in ways that are mutually beneficial to all people.

Jesus did not found a new religion called Christianity. His goal was to fulfil a very ancient prophesy:

*The Kingdom of God will manifest itself in the latter days.
It will be a Kingdom of Sons and Daughters of God
who are the Creator's Co-Shepherds Over All Life on Earth.*

That's why *tzedakah* and *shalom* mattered a lot to *Yeshua, the Jesus of History*. That's also why it is so easy today to recognize that most people do not understand the words he spoke. The bottom line for Yeshua was this:

Human lives matter more than money, religious beliefs and rituals!

Thank you for reading this and your interest in our work. Please share and discuss it with others.

Shalom,
Jim Myers

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