

Not By Bread Alone

"⁸...then He fed you manna—which neither you nor your fathers had known—in order to make you understand that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of Adonai" (Deut. 8:3)

In my August 8, 2020, message entitled *Remember and Do Not Forget*, I wrote: "Have you ever heard a loving parent sharing his concerns with his older son or daughter about his/her own welfare? It is usually not loud, and you do not hear harsh words. Instead, you can almost sense the tears in the parent's eyes as he pleads with the son or daughter, exhorting them to follow in the parent's ways. You know that they are listening, or at least giving the appearance of paying attention. But, more than all else, you can sense, hear, and see the parent's compassion and graciousness. Somehow, all of this seems to ooze out of the parent's words and expressions toward their offspring. In the end, you are confident that if the progeny follows the parent's teaching and pleas, life will be happy and productive for him/her. But if they do not, you are afraid that the warnings the parent gives will, in fact, somehow come to pass and the son or daughter will once again be in the presence of the parent. Only this time, the tears will be in the child's regretful eyes as well as in the sensitive and broken eyes (and heart) of the loving parent. This is in fact a very good summary of the context of this week's *Torah* Reading: *"¹²This shall be the reward when you sh'ma these instructions (ordinances), and you guard and perform them..."* or as the TLV renders it: *"¹²Then it will happen, as a result of your listening (sh'ma) to these ordinances, when you keep and do them, that Adonai your Elohim (God) will keep with you the covenant kindness (favor) that He swore to your fathers..."* (Deut. 7:25)"

Also, in this week's *Torah* Reading the Father tells His children to be careful to *remember and do not forget*, e.g., *"²You are to remember all the way that Adonai your Elohim (God) has led you these 40 years in the wilderness..."* (Deut. 8:2). In fact, He tells them specifically to *remember* five times (Deut. 7:18, 8:2, 8:18, 9:7, and 9:27) and *do not forget* four other times (Deut. 8:11, 8:14, 8:19, 9:7). Doesn't it seem to you like *Adonai* wants His children to keep something fresh in their minds? In essence He said: (1) "*Remember from Where You Have Come,*" (2) "*Remember Your Inheritance,*" (3) "*Remember The Way (HaDerech),*" (4) "*Remember Me (The Lord!),*" and (5) "*Remember What I Have Said – My Word.*"

What does *Adonai* want us in *Kol Simcha* to remember and do not forget today? Last week I spoke about focusing on Him, His character – who He is. Today we are to continue to honor *Adonai* in our heart and in our deeds. In listening to Rebbetzin over 43 years, I have heard her say, many times: *Ask Adonai to give you (and us) His Heart, to see and experience the things that we do that break His heart, but also to see and experience the things that gladden His heart.* In my mind, I had never considered *Adonai's Heart Issues*. I never really imagined His Heart would be grieved or gladdened, mostly because I am exceedingly selfish, after all. The one giant I continually fight is the giant of self, or as the apostle put it *my flesh*. I rejoice on His goodness and His favor. Often, I am reminded that this is not another entitlement. Our society is replete with entitlements and subsidies. In my opinion, entitlements spelled ruination for my sixties Puerto Rico and our early seventies America. The resulting crime, lawlessness, and selfishness has been particularly difficult to experience. Our beautiful, hard-working, community-minded Latin community had been served poison in their diet! It is the same story for African Americans, Cuban American, and Mexican Americans in the United States. Today we live in a society that expects and demands entitlements. We cannot let this mindset creep into my worship. The time is here where we in *Kol Simcha* **MUST remember and not forget** who He is and how to approach Him in His Holiness. Elul beckons, and we must *sh'ma* (prove that we heard by doing what He said) and demonstrate that He does have a loving and committed remnant that truly cares about His Heart of Hearts. By faith, this is *Kehilat Kol Simcha. Shabbat Shalom!*