

Let Your Yes be Yes! and Your No be No!

"But let your Yes be Yes, and your No, No. Anything beyond this comes from the evil one" (Matt. 5:37, NCB)

In today's *Torah* portion (*Parashat Vaetnachan*) Moses pleads with *Adonai* to let him enter the Promised Land. Evidently Moses wanted to undo the mistakes of his past. But *Adonai* denied him, as He did in last week's *Parasha*. *Rav lecha!* *Adonai* said, which loosely translated means *too much!* or *let it suffice you!* We see that with *Adonai* a *Yes* is a *Yes* and a *No* is a *No*. *Adonai* is not fickle or vague and He does not change ("For I am *Adonai*. I do not change..." *Mal. 3:6*). *Messiah Yeshua* reminded us about this very thing in *Matt. 5:37*, but we tend to want to negotiate between this binary Divine Law and turn things into maybes.

Vaetnachan is a *Vav-Conversive* Hebrew Construction, and it is formed using a beginning *Vav* which means *and* plus a future command form verb. In our case we have the future command tense of a derivative of *chanan* (חָנַן), or *etchanan* (אֶתְחַנֵּן), which the DavkaWriter Hebrew word processor translates as *to plead or to beseech [I-Future]*. *Chanan* (Strong's 2603) is a primitive root; properly, to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; *to favor*, bestow or causatively *to implore* (i.e., *move to favor by petition*). It is translated in the KJV as *beseech*, very fair, (be, find, shew) *favour* (-able), deal, give, grant graciously, intreat, (be) merciful, have (shew) mercy (on, upon), have pity, pray, *make supplication*. According to Wikipedia the name of our elder John is: "*John is the English form of Iohannes, the Latin form of the Greek name Ἰωάννης (Ioannes), itself derived from the Hebrew name יְחֻזְכָּנָן (Yochanan) meaning יְרוּחַ is gracious.*" So, Moses beseeched or made supplication or implored or entreated *Adonai* to change His mind, but the answer remained a steadfast No! If Moses's could not succeed in changing *Adonai*'s mind, could we?

We live in a society that hates binary absolutes. You see *Adonai* is 100% good and the evil one is 100% evil. There is no possibility or situation where Satan is good and similarly there is no instance where *Adonai* is evil. We tend to vacillate in our dealings with each other and try to impute on the Spiritual World fickleness. You can't get blood out of a turnip and similarly *Adonai* is 100% good, all the time because you cannot get any evil out of perfect goodness or darkness out of light. In fact, even the smallest light eliminates darkness. Let that sink in, everything about our Messiah and His Father is 100% good.

Anger caused Moses lost his ability to outlive the grumbling and complaining generation of *Numbers 14* and indeed just as *Adonai* said only Joshua and Caleb entered the promised land from that generation. The meekest man in the *Torah* died with the *grumblers* because of anger. What a sobering reality! Do you think there could be a greater consequence to anger and does this not motivate us to get rid of all anger?

The apostle Paul gave us the following sobering warning: "⁹*Or don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Don't be deceived! The sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, those who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰thieves, the greedy, drunkards, slanderers, swindlers—none of these will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹That is what some of you were—but you were washed, you were made holy, you were set right in the name of the Lord Yeshua the Messiah and by the Ruach of our God" (1 Cor. 6:9-11). The KJV states the list as: "Be not deceived: Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor the effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners." It should be noted that **Drunkards** are **substance abusers** and **Slanderers** are **verbal abusers**. Verbal abuse is, more often than not, a consequence of anger or being angry. No wonder Paul also stated: "²⁵*So lay aside lying and 'each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another. ²⁶'Be angry, yet do not sin.' Do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷nor give the devil a foothold (or jurisdiction in your soul) (Eph. 4:25-27)" We MUST put away all anger: "³¹*Get rid of all bitterness and rage and anger and quarreling (all forms of anger) and slander, along with all malice. ³²Instead, be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other just as God in Messiah also forgave you (Eph. 4:31-32)" ♪ Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted forgiving one another; even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you. Pu, pu; pu, pu, pi, du; Ephesians 4:32 ♪ Paul said also to avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes because they are unprofitable and useless (see Titus 3:9). Sounds like good medicine to me. *Shabbat Shalom!****