

The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 128

Yeshua's Final Journey ~ Part 5

In our last post, we have been dealing with the final days of **Yeshua's** life and ministry. In this post, **Yeshua Visits Zacchaeus and Heals Blind Bartimaeus.**

Yeshua Visits Zacchaeus (Zakkai)

1 Yeshua entered Yericho and was passing through, 2 when a man named Zakkai (The name, ironically, means "innocent" in Hebrew.) ***appeared who was a chief tax collector and a wealthy man.*** ***3 He was trying to see who Yeshua was, but, being short, he couldn't because of the crowd.*** ***4 So he ran on ahead and climbed a fig tree in order to see him, for Yeshua was about to pass that way.*** ***5 When He came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zakkai! Hurry! Come down because I have to stay at your house today!"*** ***6 He climbed down as fast as he could and welcomed Yeshua joyfully.*** ***7 Everyone who saw it began muttering, "He has gone to be the house guest of a sinner."*** ***8 But Zakkai stood there and said to the Lord, "Here, Lord, I am giving half of all I own to the poor; and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay him back four times as much."***

Four times as much. When a person confessed to fraud and made voluntary restitution, the **Torah** required him to return the amount stolen plus twenty percent (Leviticus 5:20–24(6:1–5), Numbers 5:5–7). An apprehended thief had to pay the victim double (Exodus 22:3, 6(4, 7)). But a man stealing what is essential and showing no pity was required to pay back fourfold (Exodus 21:37(22:1), 2 Samuel 12:6). **Zakkai**, fully repentant, not only acknowledged the heartlessness and cruelty of his behavior but voluntarily imposed upon himself the whole restitution required by the **Torah** for such acts.

9 Yeshua said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, inasmuch as this man too is a son of Avraham. ***10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.***

Salvation, Hebrew *yeshu'ah*, is the feminine form of **Yeshua's** name. Thus, there is a wordplay: **Yeshua/salvation** has come to this house (compare 2:30, Mt 1:21). **To seek ... what was lost**, as in chapter 15, and echoing Ezekiel 34:16, where **God** seeks His lost sheep.

Yeshua Heals Blind Bartimaeus (Bar-Timai)

46 They came to Yericho, and as Yeshua was leaving Yericho with His talmidim and a great crowd, a blind beggar, Bar-Timai (son of Timai), was sitting by the side of the road. ***47 When he heard that it was Yeshua from Natzeret, he started shouting, "Yeshua! Son of David! Have pity on me!"***

Son of David, a Messianic title. Therefore, by his shout, **Bar-Timai** was identifying **Yeshua** as the Messiah.

48 Many people scolded him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the louder, "Son of David! Have pity on me!" ***49 Yeshua stopped and said, "Call him over!" They called to the blind man, "Courage! Get up! He's calling for you!"*** ***50 Throwing down his blanket, he jumped up and came over to Yeshua.*** ***51 "What do you want me to do for you?" asked Yeshua. The blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me be able to see again."*** ***52 Yeshua said to him, "Go! Your trust has healed you."*** Instantly he received his sight and followed Him on the road.

In our next, we will continue to explore **Yeshua's** Final Journey.

¹ Luke 19:1–10.

² Mark 10:46–52.