

Love the Lord with all of your heart is the most important attitude in our spiritual life

Matthew 22, 37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

The Lord is also called Elkanah, that means a jealous God. We see this name as the husband of Hanna and Penina in the book of Samuel. His name was El Kana.

Is jealousy something positive, or something negative? I think both. If you are married and someone is flirting with your wife, it would be understandable and normal and right to be jealous for you partner. It is actually a sign of love to your partner if he understands that you don't like it and he or she has to stop this kind of relationship. Jesus is bringing us these very challenging words as it comes to the right priorities in our life.

Matthew 10, 37 “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”

In Numbers 5,15 there is written a lot about the jealousy offering rightfully or not from a husband to his wife.

God is jealous if anything or anybody gets more attention in our life as Him. Jesus is looking for this kind of love, because he gave everything for us.

Exodus 20, 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord, your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.

Joshua 24.19 And Joshua said unto the people, you cannot serve the Lord: for he is a holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.

I was wondering what caused Jesus to reveal Himself first to Mary of Magdala after his resurrection? I think it was her deep love and longing for Yeshua. She said to the gardener, but it was Yeshua, where did you put him that I can take him? It does not matter if he is alive or dead, I want him, I need him. But Jesus

revealed himself to her as the living one and she recognized him as he called her by her name Mary.

There is a historical jealousy between the Jews and Gentiles. A lot of the persecution towards the Jews is coming out of this root. The Jews are the chosen people of God. If they are chosen, who am I? The open question is of the root of insecurity and a lack of identity.

The apostle Paul was very mature in his identity as a Jew and that gave him the freedom to give his life for the salvation of the gentiles.

It touched my heart so deeply when I understood that the Lord Yeshua died for the unity between Jew and Gentile, but we have to recognize first the historical gap.

Isaiah 11,13 “Ephraim’s jealousy will vanish, and Judah’s enemies will be destroyed; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim.”

Ephraim is always a picture for the gentiles because his mother Joseph’s wife was from Egypt. In Ezekiel 37 verse 15 to 22 we see that the two sticks are joined together in the hand of the Lord.

“The word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, ‘Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.’ Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, ‘Belonging to Joseph (that is, to Ephraim) and all the Israelites associated with him.’ Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand. “When your people ask you, ‘Won’t you tell us what you mean by this?’ say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim’s hand—and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah’s stick. I will make them into a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.’ Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on and say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms.”

Religious leaders were jealous towards the disciples as we read in **Acts 5, 17:**

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy.”

Here are these simple fisherman who never studied in a Torah school and they were full of authority and did many miracles in the name of the Lord.

We can be jealous for our leader like with Moses or even the disciples of Jesus.

Numbers 11, 29 ***“But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them.”***

The disciples made Jesus aware that here were people speaking in his name but they did not join their group. Jesus only answered, the one who is for us is not against us.

There is a godly jealousy in the Apostle Paul for the church of Yeshua. The Apostle Paul is jealous for the church in Corinth.

2 Corinthians 11, 2 ***“I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.”***

To help people to come in a deep relationship to the Lord was the only thing the Apostle Paul was aiming for. He did not want to bind the people to himself.

Now we come to the negative form of jealousy that sadly also exists.

James 3,14 and 15 “But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.”

In our selfish ambition demonic powers can enter and bring a lot of confusion in a congregation. Even if we want to become someone important in the congregation the enemy can use us for bringing confusion.

The real attack in the end time is about our real love to God and to others and this is why the Lord is warning us in Matthew 24,12:

“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.”

We have to prepare ourselves how to overcome the wickedness of this world and not being part of this world even so we are in this world. The world has entered the church and the congregations already, but we are not to come under it.