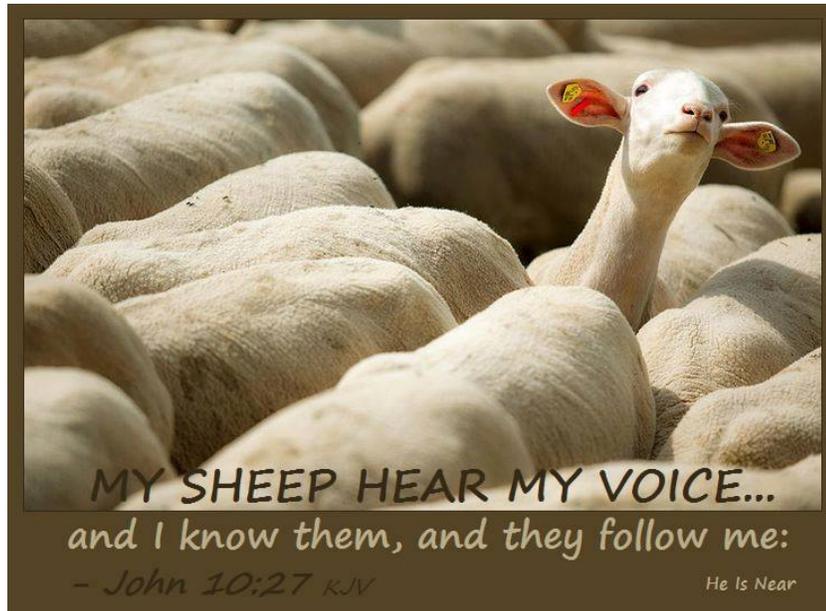


"LET THE DEAD BURY THE DEAD" AND "FOLLOW ME" (Matt. 8:21-22, Luke 9:57-62)



Let's have a close look at these two quotes in the following bible verses. I will break down the "Follow Me" and "Let the dead bury the dead" into two separate points.

Matt. 8:21-22 (written in red) *Another of the disciples said to Him, Rabbi, permit me first to go and bury my father.* **But Yeshua said to him, "Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."**

Luke 9:57-62 *As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." And Yeshua said to him, (written in red) "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air [have] nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Yahveh, permit me first to go and bury my father." (60) But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of Yah." Another also said, "I will follow You, Yahveh; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." But Yeshua said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of Yah."*

1) "FOLLOW ME" ("Yoke and Come")

Yeshua makes it very clear here when He says "Follow Me". Yeshua always chose His disciples. He never once asked for, or accepted volunteers as His disciples. True disciples are "chosen" by Yah. There are many who will follow, but only Yah chooses and knows who are His true leaders (disciples). There is a big difference between one who follows and one who leads. Many "seek", few "strive" (Luke 13:24). To fully understand what Yeshua was referring to at the sod level, we must look closely at the way the Hebrew idiom "Yoke and Come" reveal to us as seen in the Matt. 14:25-29 and John 6:19-20, Mark 6:45-50 teaching.

2) "LET THE DEAD BURY THE DEAD"

The second notable phrase here is "allow the dead to bury the dead". This is a Hebrew idiom explained better as per Matt. 8:21-22. "Let the dead bury the dead," means make a clear and total break with the spiritually dead. "Dead" is a noun. (Luke 9:59-62 Matt. 8:18-20)

We see in Luke 9:57-62 Yeshua appears to be telling the someone to go against the commandment where it says "honor your father and your mother". Yeshua would not tell anyone to go against the fifth Commandment: "honor your father and your mother".

Yeshua's remarks were aimed at a Jewish burial tradition that violated the Scripture. The Jewish tradition required that the body of the deceased be buried the same day. This idea stems from

taking Deut. 21:22-23, and Acts 5:6-10 too literal. This same day burial was called the "first burial". After this occurred the family was to observe a seven day period of mourning called "shivah". It was tradition that during this seven day period they didn't even leave the house. Then the body was uncovered and placed in a burial chamber where it was left to decompose. After the flesh completely decomposed from the bones, the bones were dug up again and placed in a "ossuary". The ossuary was a small limestone or clay box with a lid on it.

This was called the "second burial". Then, typically, (if it was for example the father who died), the oldest son would take the bones of his father to the holy city or wherever the family ancestors bones had been laid to rest. Although this was not scriptural, it was commonly practiced among Jews. Yeshua didn't approve of this tradition because it was man-made. The traditional belief was that during the decomposing of the bones between the first and second burial, atonement was made for the individual. Yeshua was upset with the idea that anyone other than the Father or the Son could make atonement (deliver a person from sin). It was all about atonement. Yahveh and Yeshua were the only ones that could make atonement for the sins of the people and yet their tradition seemed to point otherwise. It is even possible that this tradition may have stemmed the Catholic belief of Purgatory.

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