

#43 Masei Numbers 33:1-36:13

By Moshe Schwab

While Praying:

- * Seek the Lord; make an effort to seek Him.
- * Stay in a place of peace; don't test God.
- * God can bring down the barriers to His peace and rest.
- * Whatever is before you, God can overcome. God is infinite in His capacity.

Masei (Mas-ay') means, "journeys". It is the last Torah portion in Numbers. This Torah portion begins by talking about the journeys of Israel. Moshe was to tell Israel that when they crossed over the Jordan that they were to take over the land, get rid of the people and their idols, and divide the land to the tribes by lot.

They were warned if they didn't get rid of the idolatrous people in the promised land that the people there would harass Israel – they would be thorns and stings. The boundaries of Israel were given and leaders for the tribes to divide the land by lot. Israel was to give the Levites 48 towns and 6 were to be cities where someone who killed a person by accident could seek refuge. Murderers were to be put to death, but there had to be more than one witness to a crime. Women who inherited land were to marry inside their own tribe.

The concept of dividing by lot is used by professional teams to obtain players; they try to use a fair method to allow teams to pick players. In this portion it talks about unbelievers being a problem for believers. Their values can influence believers to sin and because unbelievers are different, they can not only cause problems, but they can even be antagonistic toward those who do what is right.

The unbelievers would be a problem for Israel if they allowed them to stay there. That's because they have earthly values that supersede good values. We live in a crooked world Shaul says. We need to seek the Lord and make an effort to seek Him so we are lights to others.

Philippians 2:12-16 NKJV

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain."

We each have our own responsibility to work out our spiritual lives. It says to do it with fear and trembling. Some people read right over this, but it means we need to take our spiritual lives seriously. Seek the Lord, seek to know what is right, and do it. It says we are to be a people of light, but if we are not doing what God says, how can we expect to be that. We are supposed to shine as lights and hold fast to God's words. We need to pay attention to keeping what God tells us to do.

While Israel was in the desert, they kept complaining about their situation. It just caused more problems for them. People that are filled with wrong values and full of unrest often cause problems. Don't be like one of them, but stay in a place of peace; don't test God like the Israelites did in the desert. How often do some of us lack trust in God and get in a negative mind rut; our thoughts turn negative. We are the ones responsible for keeping them there. We could decide **not** to give place to those thoughts.

Trust in God and pray; seek Him and stay at peace. God can bring down the barriers to His peace and rest. When we trust in Him instead of allowing our peace to be stolen, God will go to work on our behalf.

Proverbs 3:5-8 NKJV says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones."

It says with all your heart; that means with everything in you.

Colossians 3:16-17 CJB says, "Let the Word of the Messiah, in all its richness, live in you, as you teach and counsel each other in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude to God in your hearts. That is, everything you do or say, do in the name of the Lord Yeshua, giving thanks through him to God the Father."

When we are committed to do things God's way and have a life of thankfulness; our thinking and what we experience is different than someone who has a negative mindset. It amazes me how clear things become when we are set on doing what is right. Years ago, my mind became a whole lot more at peace. I became a new person. It truly is a rich and blessed way to think.

Whatever is before you, God can overcome. God is infinite in His capacity. Shaul said to teach others with wisdom. Sing spiritual songs and have gratitude. Just doing that will overcome a lot in your life. The mind is important. Matthew 6:19-21 NKJV says, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Dr. Bishop Pillai from India says this a common way to understand thinking in the culture of the middle east. He said that we could read Matthew 6:19-21 as, 'Don't have earthly thoughts where fears and worries come to mind and steal your thoughts. Instead, set your mind on spiritual things where fears and worries will not steal your thoughts. For where your thoughts are, that is who you will be.' A lot in life depends on how we manage our thoughts. So, keep your thoughts and trust in God.

Imagine if Israel had been able to trust God in the wilderness like they were supposed to. Imagine if we could trust God the ways we are supposed to. That's what we are supposed to do. Yochanan said, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world;" 1 John 4:4 NKJV. Our life journey will be so much better trusting in God and being an overcomer.

Make an effort to seek God and spiritual things. We have the responsibility to work out our lives and stay at peace. Don't test God with negative thinking. While Israel was in the desert their negative thinking tested God. We are supposed to shine as lights so we need to bring down the barriers in life to our peace. Trust in God; God is all wise and we are not. Have a thankful attitude and don't let your thoughts overcome you. Instead, trust God the way we are supposed to.