

172 – The Shorter the Leash, the Greater the Life

Not long ago, I told someone, *“I’ve never been on as short a leash as I am today.”* I was referring to the parameters the Lord has set out for my life each day. I don’t go where I will, but where He wills. I don’t participate in activities apart from His leading and clear permission. My rising and sleeping is dictated by His agenda, not mine, and it has been so for going on five years.

I would have once thought of this kind of life as being very confined and restrained in a negative way, as if I weren’t mature enough to be trusted to run my life on my own. I would have missed that being directed by the Father, just as Yeshua was directed in every aspect of His life, is precisely the point. Indeed, I have come to the persuasion that the shorter the leash, the greater the life. This way of living flies in the face of self-willed, self-important, and self-obsessed old humanity, but that kind of living is not true life, but death, at least spiritually. Remember Yeshua’s words to a young man whom He had called to follow Him, who wanted first to bury his father:

Matthew 9:60 – *“Let the dead entomb their own dead.”*

We have visited this verse many times before, and called our attention to the fact that Yeshua considered the people who were doing the burying to be as spiritually dead as physically dead people are. Praise Him for the Spirit of Holiness living inside us today, and for the evidence of it in our spiritual language!

Sunday or Monday, Bible Gateway’s verse of the day, was **Psalms 119:93** (ESV) – *“I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.”*

Here’s the same verse from the CLV:

*For the eon I shall not forget Your precepts,
For IN them have You REVIVED me.*

This verse reminded me of the life I find, and highly recommend, on the Father’s shortest leash. Maybe the analogy of a short leash isn’t the best description, but let me tell you how I arrived at it, and you’ll see why it’s the visual I choose when describing my experience since coming into agreement with the Father’s purpose instead of seeking to fulfill my own:

When the Lord directed me to leave private practice, to sit down and write what I had learned up to them from the scriptures. First I wrote the book, ***You Think YOU Have it Tough?***, and then I wrote ***Go God!*** When those were done, and Barbara’s book, ***GOD is GOD***, had been edited and expanded, and later redesigned, He

directed me to put scriptural principles together with those I'd learned in science, and applied throughout my career as a wellness doc, and that became the books, **CLEAN HOUSE** and **Miracles with Minerals**.

As I went through the process of withdrawing my life from my practice, and eventually left it entirely, I was at the same time investing my life in what the Father's agenda was for me on a daily basis. I remember looking at Barbara one day and saying, "I believe that I am not to return to the office after January 31 – I think that was the day. She agreed and made all the arrangements to bring other practitioners in for patients to meet and become part of their practices. I had no idea how we would support ourselves – I had less idea about how God intended to meet our needs. I also knew that I was not to concern myself with any of that, but rather, simply to do what he had given me. It was truly an exercise in living according to Yeshua's words in **Matthew 6:24-34**:

24 "Now no one can be slaving for two lords, for either he will be hating the one and loving the other, or will be upholding one and despising the other. You can not be slaving for God and mammon.

25 "Therefore I am saying to you, Do not worry about your soul, what you may be eating, or what you may be drinking, nor yet about your body, what you should be putting on. Is not the soul more than nourishment, and the body than apparel?

26 "Look at the flying creatures of heaven, that they are not sowing, neither are they reaping, nor are they gathering into barns, and your heavenly Father is nourishing them. Are not you of more consequence than they?

27 "Now who of you by worrying is able to add on to his stature one cubit?

28 And why are you worrying about apparel? Study the anemones of the field, how they are growing. Not toiling are they, nor yet are they spinning.

29 Yet I am saying to you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed as one of these.

30 Now if the grass of the field, which is today, and tomorrow is cast into the stove, God thus is garbing; not much rather you, scant of faith?

31 "You, then, should not be worrying, saying, 'What may we be eating?' or 'What may we be drinking?' or 'With what may we be clothed?'

32 For for all these the nations are seeking. For aware is your heavenly Father that you need all of these.

33 Yet seek first the kingdom and its righteousness, and these all shall be added to you.

34 You should not, then, be worrying about the morrow, for the morrow will be worrying of itself. Sufficient for the day is its own evil.

Yeshua was teaching a precept in this passage of Matthew 6. Now come back to Psalm 119 with me:

For the eon I shall not forget **Your precepts,**
For IN them have You REVIVED me.

Think about this with me: ***In YaHoVeH's precepts – in His statutes*** – David says, ***we are revived***. The word, ***revived***, in Hebrew, which the KJV translates as “quicken,” means, “*to be quickened, as from sickness, discouragement, faintness, [or] from death; refreshed, restored to life, caused to grow.*” This is *exactly* what the Father accomplished in me, and His methods included what I describe as putting me on a very short leash, and thereby training me to learn where my SAFE BOUNDARIES were, and are today. He did this in very precise ways. One day, I needed to get some ice melt, and I was released in my spirit to run that errand. When I tried to go beyond the 2-3 mile trip to the hardware store nearby, my spirit became palpably grieved the further from home I went. Fortunately I recognized the signs and turned around immediately. The closer I got to home – in fact, about the time I approached the hardware store on the return trip, my spirit eased. I never forgot that experience, because it taught me about how crucial it is that we LISTEN to the Spirit of YaHoVeH as He communicates to our spirits. More importantly than listening is what we’ve studied before, called “hearkening,” which is where we are accountable for our part, aka obedience. I don’t want to know what would have happened if I had kept going that day, and just “gutted out” the grieving in my spirit. Do we really need that exercise?

For the eon I shall not forget **Your precepts,**
For IN them have You REVIVED me.

As usual, I can’t read one verse and not look ahead of it to find what it is built on, and after it to see what is built on it. So, look with me from verse 88 through 97. I’ll read it through once, from the CLV, and then we’ll go back through it, because there are live-giving, life-affirming principles here that I see the world largely miss, including the religious world.

88 **Revive me according to Your benignity,
 And I will ^lkeep the testimony of Your mouth.**
 89 **For the eon, O Yahweh,
 Your word is stationed^l in the heavens.**
 90 **For generation ⁺after generation is Your faithfulness;
 You have established the earth, and it shall stand.**
 91 **They stand today ^ʔby Your ordinances,
 For ^ʔthey all are Your servants.**
 92 **Unless Your law had been my delectation,
 Then I would have perished in my humiliation.**
 93 **For the eon I shall not forget Your precepts,
 For ⁱby them have You revived me.**
 94 **I am Yours; save me,
 For I have sought after Your precepts.**
 95 **The wicked stretch out toward ^ʔme to destroy me,
 But I gain ^lunderstanding of Your testimonies.**
 96 **I have seen the end ^ʔof every aspiration,
 Yet Your instruction is very wide.**
 97 *wt* **How I love Your law!
 The entire day it is my meditation.**

Verse 88:

Revive me according to Your benignity,

There's the word, revive, again. "Quicken me," David says, "as if from sickness, discouragement, faintness, [or] from death; refresh me, restore me to life – because otherwise it's as if I'm dead; and cause me to grow, as opposed to be stunted. And do this in accord – or in agreement with – Your goodness, kindness, and mercy."

David then uses a very strange phrase: "And I will keep the testimony of Your mouth." What comes out of the Father's mouth, not our mouths. That's what we ought to be keeping. We can say what may count for nothing – it's what the Father says that matters; what He says is ALL that matters; and it's up to us to keep THAT testimony. Well, what is the testimony of His mouth? For David, he would only have had the original testimony, which was the Torah, the instructions or words to Israel through Moses. For us, however, we have Yeshua Himself, plus His words; and Let me refer us also to one offensive weapon in the Panoply of YaHoVeH in Ephesians 6:17 --

And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is a declaration of YaHoVeH [or, 'it is YaHoVeH's declaration'].

Verses 89-91 – note “**they all are Your servants.**” This is a wonderful statement of the sovereignty of YaHoVeH. Read it again.

Verse 92 – apart from the Father’s word – or whenever we fail to heed (that is, obey) His word, we are humiliated and we could die there!

Verse 93 we’ve already gone over.

Verse 94 – David had only YaHoVeH’s words through Moses. His only hope of salvation was in keeping the Torah. We have the Father’s **living** word: His son, Yeshua, in Whom is our salvation.

Verse 95 – Look at where David said that he gained understanding of YaHoVeH’s testimonies: WHILE the wicked attempted to destroy him. Look at where the wicked are attempting or have attempted to destroy your life: have we not learned more from our struggles than from our delights?

Verse 96 – the aspiration David is referring to here, I believe is the intent of the wicked in verse 95. I love the language though, because without saying it, David characterizes the intents and actions of the wicked as narrow or small in comparison to YaHoVeH’s testimonies.

Verse 97 – *“How I love your law; the entire day it is my meditation.”*