

וישב

## Vayyeishev

(and lived)

### B'reshit [Genesis] 37:1-40:23

#### Who Is Your Master?

##### *B'reshit (Genesis) 39:1-2*

***1 And Yoseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hand of the Yishmaeli, that had brought him down there.***

***2 And YHWH was with Yoseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.***

Yoseph's brothers sold him into slavery. When they sold him, they put other men over him as his master. And as a slave should, he submitted to that authority over him. This is as one should do according to Torah. However, if one also has the opportunity, one should gain his freedom so that he may serve YHWH without being encumbered by having to serve a man. In the case of Yoseph, he still belonged to YHWH; however, now he also had an earthly master that he had to submit to as well. Yoseph submitted to this earthly master fully and completely as long as this submission did not harm or hinder his service to YHWH. As we know from what is recorded, later his master's wife asked something from him that he could not give her and this ended up with Yoseph being thrown into the dungeon.

This brings us to the question for us today: who is our master, and whom do we serve?

##### ***Matithyah (Matthew) 6:24***

***"No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve Elohim and mammon."***

Yeshua taught us that no one can serve two masters. Each person can only serve one master. So the question that we need to determine is: who are we serving right now, today? We had best be very honest with ourselves on this question because the wrong answer could take one into an eternal destiny that is anything but a blessing.

In the western mindset of our society that most of us live in, there is a plethora of gods from which to choose which one might serve. And of course, there is always the option of creating a god according to one's own

likeness to serve, which happens to be a very popular option these days. The god of self is perhaps the most common god of all time. But perhaps a very close example is when one serves money. For example, look how many people decide to serve mammon, or more properly in our own language, money. It is one of the greatest pursuits in our society today, to gain wealth and all the trappings and baubles that come along with gaining such power and notoriety. Woven right in this fabric is the pursuit of a job, position and title in which one gains fame, notoriety and wealth all in one package. What a deal that is, huh? Except the eternal consequences are way more than anyone in his right mind would pay!

Another popular god of today is sports. This is a real biggie! There are the standard sports to either just watch as a spectator or be involved in as a player or some other lesser part. People get all dressed up as their favorite team's mascot or perhaps they will take off some of their clothes and paint their bodies and faces with their team's colors. Furthermore, there is a sport for every season of the year so that one does not have to be down in the dumps waiting for their sport's season to come around in the year. And now days there is the mounting popularity of extreme sports where people push the limits of everything including safety just to get a thrill. It is the pursuit of getting that next adrenalin rush.

There is also the old stand-by of making one or more members of one's family their god and whom they serve. A popular god set up today is (popular in the sense that it is a common occurrence) when the husband serves the wife's every whim. Rather than the husband being the head of the house, the wife takes the lead. In this service, the whole household is upside down and is not ordered according to the Torah of YHWH. Now I know that there will be those that get upset with this particular paragraph; however, before you write to me to chew me out, perhaps you should take a good honest look at just exactly why it is that you are upset with this, since it is YHWH who said that this is the correct order of things. And if we do not do things according to how He commanded us, then, in short, it is idolatry. Then there are always the families in which one or both parents allow the children to rule in the home. This is very devastating to all concerned.

Then of course, there are always the gods of old like Ba'al or Molech or Bel or whatever, as the list is nearly endless as each people group and society had their own pantheon of gods which they served. They had a different god for every occasion. Nothing was left to chance. When Shaul was in Athens he noticed that there was an altar that was erected to an unknown god. Now here is one of the craziest things I know about in our world today. When my wife and I traveled to Israel recently, we happened to go by one of the newest "monuments" in Jerusalem. Monuments are really just idols in disguise. This idol was erected to the "unknown god". Yep, you read that correctly. I nearly fell over when I saw this abomination in Jerusalem. And it is as ugly a thing as you ever did see. None of the residents like it. So why do they put up with this idolatry? Why do we put up with it in our own lives? The answer to both questions is most likely nearly the same answer.

***Yehoshua (Joshua) 24:15***

***"And if it seem evil to you to serve YHWH, choose you this day whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve YHWH."***

This is exactly where each and every one of us needs to get to: to make the decision to serve YHWH our Elohim with all our being regardless of what anyone else decides to do. So what if our neighbor chooses not to serve YHWH; is that choice by them enough to keep you from choosing to serve YHWH?

Or, what if your spouse or some other family member like your dad or mom chooses not to serve YHWH but to go and serve other gods; is that going to keep you from making the wise choice to serve YHWH? Regardless of what anyone else does or does not do, each one of us needs to get to the place where we have already made the choice to serve YHWH regardless of what the cost will be and regardless of where it may lead us.

The truth is, that there are blessings both in this life and in the life to come.

***Marqos (Mark) 10:29-30***

***29 Yeshua said, "Amein I say to you, there is no man that has left house, or brothers, or sisters, or mother, or father, or children, or lands, for My sake, and for the sake of the good news,  
30 but he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brothers, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."***

When we make Yeshua our absolute Master, then He will bless us with many and great blessings. But we need to understand that along with these blessings will also come persecutions. When we understand that these are part of the deal in serving YHWH, then it will help us to be strong. YHWH does not want people who only give Him lip service. He wants people who are dead serious in serving Him. This is one of the many reasons why He allows persecution to come to His people: to weed out those who are not sincere in their service to Him!

***Romans 6:16-22***

***16 Do you not know, that to whom you present yourselves as servants to obedience, his servants you are whom you obey; whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?  
17 But thanks be to Elohim, that, whereas you were servants of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed;  
18 and being made free from sin, you became servants of righteousness.  
19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh; for as you presented your members as servants to impurity and to lawlessness resulting in more lawlessness, even so now present your members as servants to righteousness unto sanctification.  
20 For when you were servants of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.  
21 What fruit then did you have at that time in the things whereof you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.  
22 But now being made free from sin and become servants to Elohim, you have your fruit to sanctification, and the end eternal life.***

Shaul clearly teaches us that whomever we obey, that is who one's master is. So, who do you obey? That is your master. Is your master someone or something other than YHWH? Or, hopefully, is your master YHWH?

***Ya'akov (James) 4:4***

***You adulteresses, do you not know that the friendship of the world is enmity with Elohim? Whosoever therefore would be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of Elohim.***

Not only can we not serve two masters, but if our master is something or someone other than YHWH Tzava'ot, then such a person is the enemy of YHWH our Elohim. Being on good terms with this world is not the route to go to gain eternal life.

Do you think that it was a popular thing when Pinchas killed those people? Or, how about when Eliyah killed the 400 prophets of Ba'al; do you think that he was very popular then? There are many such examples in Scripture that we could list here, but consider this. While all the prophets of old cared not for the things of this world, while they were in this world, they spoke for YHWH and the world hated them and killed them for speaking His words. Who do you speak for - yourself or YHWH?

Whom do you serve – YHWH?

Who is your master?

ABBA YHWH, we are pleased to kneel before you this day and proclaim to all who will hear, that You and You alone are our Master; and we fully submit to You as a servant does to his master. Speak and we will do; send and we will go; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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