



# Walking in the Steps of the Master:

A Twelve Step Guide to Discipleship

COME TO ZION MINISTRIES

Isaiah 49:6...I will give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.

Located in the Western Galilee, Israel

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## Step Two: Learning the Ways of GOD

Now that we have discussed the need to be obedient to the will of the Father, by making choices that are honoring to Him, it is necessary to provide a means for the disciple to learn the ways of GOD. Studying the writings of the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) are an excellent way to learn about the Father. We have the various dealings with mankind through the time of the Patriarchs to learn the ways that GOD desires to relate with mankind.

The greatest examples of the ways of GOD are found in the Torah instructions that were given to the Israelites. GOD gave 613 individual instructions regarding the behavior of mankind to GOD and to each other. All of these individual instructions can be incorporated within the two great commandments that Yeshua spoke of in Mark 12:29-31 NLT:

*Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."*

We fulfill the first commandment by searching our lives for any possession, person, activity or other thing that we might value greater than our relationship to GOD. We identify these things by observing our choices: do we choose things or people over spending time doing what our Father has asked us to do? We all have those areas of our life that we hold more dear than our relationship to GOD. Sometimes we can see it and sometimes we need to go to GOD to have Him point them out to us. Then we need to ask for His strength to correct the situation.

The second part will take more study from the disciple in order to find the instruction that would apply to a given situation and then to apply the instruction. For example, suppose you borrow something from your neighbor and it gets damaged while in your possession, what do you do? There is a specific instruction that tells us that if we borrow anything from our neighbor (in this case an animal) and it gets damaged or dies, then we are responsible to replace it, Exodus 22:14. There are many very practical instructions such as these that will help to guide our actions to the people around us in a righteous manner (doing the right thing).

Other instructions are more oriented to help with social issues such as justice, helping the poor, and moral government. Some instructions regarding the poor are as follows:

- ✧ Being generous to the poor when meeting their needs, Deuteronomy, 15:8.
- ✧ Do not charge interest when loaning to the poor so as to over burden them, Leviticus 25:35, 26.
- ✧ Allow poor people to eat from your food stock to meet their needs, Deuteronomy 24:19-21.
- ✧ Do not withhold wages from the workmen so as to not deprive them of their sustenance, Deuteronomy 24:15.

Other instructions will reveal the caring heart of the Father to those that have special needs. There was a provision to make a railing around the edges of the flat roof so that people would not fall off, Deuteronomy 22:8. It was customary, in that dryer climate, for people to spend time on their roofs and this was GOD concern that no one would be injured . by falling off it. There is also the instruction prohibiting people from abusing the disabled, particularly the deaf and blind people, Leviticus 19:14.

I believe that you see from examples that the instructions of GOD are related to being a caring and loving person to others. It is the duty of the disciple to study these instructions on a daily basis, to see how they may be applied to their life. While there may be some situations in life that may need special counsel with a teacher or mentor, many situations can be directly found and applied from the Scriptures. Psalms 119 described in many references the joys of studying these instructions, as in verses 47, 48 NLT:

*How I delight in Your commands! How I love them! I honor and love Your commands. I meditate on Your decrees.*