

REMOVE THE STONE

(John 11: 39-43)

Lord, by this time he stinks, said Martha. Take away the stone, was the command of Yahshua to the crowd. So they did. And Yahshua lifted up His eyes and said, Father, I thank You that you have heard Me (vs.39, 41).

Yahshua lifted up His eyes and prayed after the stone was removed. This is an important observation to be noted. Even though Yahshua could have removed the stone just by a command, He told the crowd to do it. For that, it required faith and belief in Him, because it had been four days since Lazarus had been dead. The words of Martha and of those from the crowd expressed doubt but Yahshua directed Martha the question, Did I not tell you and promise you that if you would believe and rely on Me, you would see the glory of God? That was a testimony of His power over death and a testimony of Who He was. Now Yahshua gave them the opportunity to show their faith in Him by removing the stone from Lazarus' tomb. That was important in the picture for Yahshua to perform this miracle.

A stone, useful in many ways, can become a hindrance in one's life at times, causing one to trip and sometimes to fall. The particular stone that was securing Lazarus in his tomb was useful for a few days but the time had come when it had to be taken out of the way for the miracle to happen.

Another stone had to be rolled away from a tomb two weeks later allowing the Son of Yahweh to come out with victory over death for all of us. "Because I live, you shall live also". For three days it held Yahshua's body in the tomb; only three days was the time span for Him to be behind that particular stone. At the third day, an angel of Yahweh came and rolled the stone back. This was the work of Yahweh and no man had part in it. So powerful it was that the earth split and the guards became like dead. With the stone rolled away, the dawn came with a song of victory, O death where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? But thanks be to Elohim, who gives us the victory through our Master Yahshua, the Messiah (1 Corinthians 15:55, 57). **IT WAS FINISHED, PRAISE YAHWEH!**

A stone we encounter on our way can easily be removed making us free to go, but there are stones in the spiritual life of a believer that keep him in bondage, making it impossible for him to have a free and fulfilled spiritual life. He suffers the consequences of it, but he cannot discern the cause; he is sick and has come to the end of his rope sort of speak, but continues with the stones hiding the stinking things- hidden sins of his private life blocking his spiritual blessings. At the command of Yahshua to remove the stone he chooses not to hear Him, for his ears are wrapped with the linen clothes- the burial cloth of his sins neither can he see Him because he is behind the darkness of the stone.

These are the world's junk; to remove it, it means to expose the darkness behind the stone. He will continue to suffer the consequences, without the mercy of Yahweh until he recognizes his sins and confesses his faults to Him by the removal of the stone, as David expressed in his Psalm

32: 1-5: Blessed is he who has forgiveness of his transgression continually exercised upon him, whose sin is covered; blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. **When I kept silence, my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my moisture (kidneys) was turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord then You forgave me the guilt and iniquity of my sin.**

Think for a moment how the kidneys small as they are not only function as the filter of the blood and rids the body of waste, but also they balance the levels of electrolyte, regulate the water fluid levels among other important functions too many to mention here. But when they become dehydrated, due to strenuous exercise, a lack of water intake, and a diet rich in oxalate foods, stones are formed and they lose the ability to perform their functions properly, especially the removal of waste through the urine, causing many people's blood to be filtered by a kidney machine. In the spiritual sphere when sin, the stone that blocks our relationship with our Father is not removed, the results are like that of the kidney's malfunction. Because the water (the Holy Spirit) is hindered for cleansing our soul, we remain spiritually dirty; and because we do not drink of the Living water we become dehydrated, emptied of His presence; although we continue with our busy life through church's activities, we are spiritually sick, suffering with spiritual dehydration. As there is no nutrition value in junk foods, there is also no spiritual nutrition value in the foods that the world offers, starting with the foods that TV programs present at the table it has prepared for us. They are like the "oxalated" foods that provoke kidney stones. The spiritual junkies of the world are one of many big reasons for the spiritual stones to exist in the life of a believer. We have no joy, no spiritual stamina for we lack the flow of His Spirit- oxygen, the spiritual life's sustainer. The wall created between us and our heavenly Father must be removed for His Spirit to wash us clean and sanctified. The Psalmist said, **I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide, I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord and You forgave me the guilt and iniquity of my sin.** Yahshua performed the miracle of life only when the stone that kept Lazarus in the tomb was removed. Then the door of the cave was opened and Lazarus came out at the voice of Yahshua calling his name and commanding him to come out. I suppose his name had to be mentioned, otherwise at the power of Yahshua's voice many saints would have come out of their tombs, which will happen at the sounding of the trumpet of Yahweh at the third stage.

There is a command for all believers in Yahshua to remove the stone that is hindering their fellowship with Yahweh; He wants to heal us from that sickness we have had for a long time; He wants to restore our mental abilities and free us from the bondage of the control of the spirit of fear. **Remove the stone!** Just do it! And you will be healed. Come and sit at the green pastures –His Word and be satisfied with the abundance from His table. Let Him refresh and restore your soul then follow the paths He leads you and you will be blessed with the goodness of His unfailing love and faithfulness.

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THINK ABOUT IT!