

Politics & Mysticism in the Weekly Torah Portion

Parshat (Portion) Mishpatim

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Shalom & welcome all. This week's Torah portion is called Mishpatim (Exodus 21:1-24:18).

This Week...

- ***J'ACCUSE! - When the law should not be the law, when the law must not be the law, and when man must stand up against unjust law, even if such is deemed illegal by unjust government.***

“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou bear witness in a cause to turn aside after a multitude to pervert justice.” (Exodus 23:2)

The law is the law, or so I am told! Laws are everywhere! They regulate every part of our daily lives. Whenever someone conceives of a need, it is said, “there ought to be a law.” Then along comes some “civic-minded” politician who goes through the procedure to make that which once was right, now into something that is wrong. One day a person is doing completely fine legal activity, then tomorrow, because he does exactly what he did yesterday, he is now a criminal and is subject to arrest, fine or imprisonment.

Now, granted, there are laws and there are laws! Laws are simply curtailments on human behavior. Right or wrong they tell us what we may and may not do. Yet, can we ever make a law that can tell us what we may or may not feel, or what we may or may not think? Granted, we are commanded to love God, and to love our neighbor, but such commandments are moral directives, not legal obligations, punishable under law. There are no legal penalties under Biblical law for one who does not love God and his neighbor, properly according to the law.

How about laws that limit individual freedoms, but have absolutely relationship to the welfare of the general public at large? Are all laws equally valid? In the eyes of the law, yes, they are, indeed! But, how about in the eyes of the morals and heart of man, and what about in the Eyes of God? Every man of conscience knows that good laws come from good people, and bad laws come from bad people. Just ask anyone who has ever lived in a repressive country that all too often imprisons, tortures and even kills its citizenry, all in the name of the law.

Even in our most modern and progressive western secular societies, the law has been transformed from being a measure to protect the public into a stick to whip entire segments of the population unwilling to surrender their morals, inalienable human rights and religious views. Right and decent people are being told that what they have always believed is now wrong, it is either racists, sexists, or something else bad that ends with an “i-s-t.”

Good people are being turned into bad people, all with the stroke of a pen on paper, with a document that declares new values and new rights, all at the direct expense of old values and old rights. None of this is actually for any public good, rather it is good for that minority that has political power, and uses that power without regard or concern for the rights and freedoms of those different from them.

Corruption is one thing, outright abuse of power is another. Doing what is wrong is one thing. At least with corrupt government, it is still acknowledged as wrong, and if discovered, can be subject to punishment under the law (maybe). Yet, abuse of power transforms the very definition of abuse, and transforms it from corruption into permissible, acceptable governmental behavior. This is not only wrong, this is evil. Nevertheless, however evil it may be, it still is the law, and everyone knows that you've got to obey the law, right?

It was this very same argument that the German people used to justify their involvement in the Holocaust. The German people were fully complicit in the murder of over 12 million fellow human beings (only half of which were Jews), simply because they said they had no choice, and that they were merely obeying the law, and following orders. Yes, law abiding citizens can be made to be complicit in the worst forms of human depravity, all under the name of "the law."

There are laws and then there are laws. There are laws that are universal in nature and are meant to safeguard and protect the inalienable rights that every human beings is endowed with from our Creator. Then there are laws, arbitrary laws, made for some relative, if not nebulous "communal need." These essentially can and do violate an individual's inalienable human rights to such things as freedom of choice, and freedom of practice. As long as one's personal freedoms do not unfairly prohibit another from practicing their inalienable rights and freedoms, it is only right and just that one should be left alone to live as one sees fit. Yet, big governments never seems to concern themselves anymore with what is right and just. They just hide behind the mask of what is either legal or illegal.

We must emancipate the concept that just because a government passes a law making something either legal or illegal does not make said thing to be either moral or immoral, or for that matter, either right and wrong. Man-made laws can and do make legal that which is immoral and wrong all the time. Equally, man-made laws make illegal that which is fundamentally right, moral and Divinely endowed by our Creator. Yes, God has ordained freedom for man, and man has come to limit, if not outright rob, freedom from other men, all in the name of the law!

We must emancipate the concept of law from the hands of those who use laws to suppress and oppress others! Laws were designed to protect the rights of all, not to take away said rights from some, to give more to others. Law in general was ordained by God to protect man's freedoms and liberties. Law was not ordained to be abused by government as a way to swindle monies out of the citizenry under the guise of taxes, fines and fees. Hiding behind the "cop-out" attitude that the law is the law is no validation for allowing government to do wrong, or for segments of the citizenry to support governmental wrong-doing, whether or not that segment of the community benefits from said governmental wrong-doing.

The law is used to justify anything that government wants. The law is used even to justify, and even institutionalize theft. The law is used to justify and even institutionalize

oppression. This is becoming ever more-so apparent in western secular democracies. The claim of superior morality of majority-rule has led the fictitious majority to justify hounding, harming and maybe even outright persecuting the perceived minority, all in the name of “fair” government.

Fundamental morality requires man to oppose repressive government, especially when such oppressive government hides behind the false facade of their own man-made, self-serving laws. Such laws are morally and fundamentally illegal and wrong, and it is not a crime to violate them, as long as no harm comes about thereby to any other.

Freedom fighters in any revolution start out as criminal violators of the law. This was true in modern-day Israel, as it was true of the founders of the United States. We even see this true in Biblical times. David ran for his life against a murderous King Saul. David had never been convicted of any crime. Yet, the order of the King is the law of the land. Not only the army was at Saul's disposal, but as clearly recorded in scripture, so too did the people support their king, with the intent to capture and execute an innocent David.

David won out against his enemies, so too did the founders of both these United States and Israel. Imagine what would have happened if the British succeeded in suppressing the American revolt, or if the British succeeded in preventing the establishment of the modern day state of Israel. One can look to Britain now, and clearly see how it is becoming more and more a police state, with almost every corner of London under constant camera surveillance. It sounds like the image portrayed in George Orwell's frightening novel, 1984. And this level of privacy removal, and stripping away of freedoms, is fast coming to American shores.

The Founding Fathers of both these United States and Israel knew how to deal with the attack on their inalienable God-given human rights. They fought back, sacrificed all, and won. Today, we have a new monster on the loose, and it's got our heads into a noose, and we just sit there watching.

Remember what every repressive regime has ever done to its peoples. One does not need to look to the Nazi Holocaust for an example. There have been all too many similar examples that have happened in countries all around the world since the end of WW2. Apparently, mankind has not learned the lesson of the Holocaust. We are performing the same crimes over and over again, only these times, they are not so obvious and overt.

Today, repression is so ever more-so subtle, and always under the guise of what is legal, and thus considered to be what is right! Yet, anyone left with common sense knows that just because government calls something right, does not make it any less wrong!

Religious literature has long taught us that the Israelite slavery in ancient Egypt served as a archetype and model for all types of government repressions to come. One can look back upon the Biblical story and see how that today we are in our own form of modern-day Egyptian style slavery. Just like the ancient Israelites were seduced into slavery, so too are modern people being seduced by the growing new world order.

Today, people are slaves to money and the system, instead of Pharaoh. Nevertheless, people serve their new masters with the same devotions as did willing slaves in the past.

Today, most people support government and want government to grow, because government promises to give them things, things purchased with the money wrongfully taken from other members of the society.

We see this happen. Maybe we mumble and complain. But nobody does anything! Like slaves, no one today does anything to fight to regain their freedoms. And we wonder why we keep falling deeper and deeper into societal slavery. And I warn you! The worst is yet to come!

I know my readers would like me to conclude on a positive note. But what positive note is there? What hope would you like me to offer? Would you like me to comfort you saying that the Messiah is on his way and he will save us? Tell that to the six million who were waiting for him in the Holocaust.

If bad times are coming and we do nothing to stop them or prevent them, then judging from thousands of years of history, we can rest assured that if we are still, so too will be God.

Heaven has blessed us with all we need to fight and defend our freedoms and liberties. We know what must be done to overthrow unjust and unrighteous government. But fear runs deep! No one wants to be the first. No one today wants to be a Menachem Begin or a George Washington. No one wants to be a modern-day Paul Revere crying, “the British are coming.” But the modern British way of socialist control is already on its way, and unlike America's Founding Fathers, we are doing nothing to stop the encroaching, growing new world order.

So, prepare to lose whatever rights we still have. Freedom requires repetitive, generational action in order to survive. If such actions falls to the wayside, the only other recourse to slavery is revolution. I see no revolutionaries today, therefore, I am convinced that our modern-day Pharaohs' will maintain their control, until such time when we say enough. Being that no one is talking, be prepared to be a slave for a very long time.

God gave us laws to live by. They are not easy, but they are all for our own good.

Long live the fighters for freedom! Long live those who have the courage to act, and do whatever little they can to dent an oppressive and immoral regime.

Any comments? Please send them to me at koshertorah1@yahoo.com