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So, You Think You're forgiven?

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Think again if you believe that Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement will bring you forgiveness for all your sins!

This is simply not the case, and all your pious howlings will change nothing!

Here's the uncomfortable truth! The majority of “sins” that we commit on a daily basis are never forgiven by God. The vast majority of “sins” that we commit are not violations of this, or that religious ritual. Rather, the big “sins,” the ones that we commit daily, are the dishonesty, immorality, disrespect, and maltreatment that each of us shows one another.

The great rule of the Day of Atonement is that God forgives all sins that one may have committed against Heaven, but the “sins” that we commit against one another are not forgiven by God.

When we offend, and harm one another, Yom Kippur does not, never has, and never will atone for these vile behaviors! So, while we may invest much time in prayer, we are ignored by Heaven all the while that we still act mean, cruel, and with disregard towards our fellow human beings.

Throughout ancient Israel the Biblical prophets would cry out proclaiming the sins of the people. They didn't bother with rebuking compromises in religious ritual, rather they cried out with harsh, and sharp condemnation of the immoral, impertinent, and outright evil behaviors of everyday people.



It was human violence, indifference, and evil that so angered the vengeful God. God acted without mercy to a people who equally acted towards one another without mercy.

If there is one thing that both God, and the universe reject it is the hypocrite. The hypocrite is the one who boldly proclaims one thing, but then arrogantly does the opposite. Today, especially in religious circles (but unfortunately not limited to them), hypocrisy runs rampant, like an out of control contagious disease. The fundamental fact is this, one who proclaims love of God, but at the same time shows disregard for fellow human beings is a religious hypocrite.

Religion (all of them) is about loving your neighbor (all of them, and not just members of one's personal community). If this foundation is lost, then religion has no basis upon which to stand, and it falls into the abyss of hypocrisy. And it is in this pit that all types of arrogance, racism, supremacist attitudes, and prejudice are born. These then serve as the sources of the evils that we perpetrate upon one another.

God allowed His ancient Temple to be destroyed because it was transformed into an empty shell, in which all the rituals of religion were performed, but without any of the proper intent, devotion, and respect towards humanity.

Proper behavior, and good character serve as prerequisites for the Heavenly acceptance of any religious behavior, and lifestyle. God is never fooled. Superficial religious observances mean nothing to Heaven without true internal, sincere devotion.

Now get this! True, sincere, internal devotion to God is only real in Heaven's eyes, when the individual acts with equal truth, sincerity, and respect towards one's fellow human beings. For in God's eyes, how we treat one another, is tantamount to how we treat God.

Although one may consider oneself to be righteous before God, God looks to see if such a one is righteous towards one's fellow human beings. If one is not a properly decent human being, then maybe one should not bother with observing Yom Kippur.

Indeed, one may even do oneself more harm than good in asking God for mercy, all the while that one shows no mercy to others. Nothing brings negative attention to one's behavior more than asking for something for oneself that one is unwilling to give to another. God rejects the hypocrite.

If one truly wishes to properly observe the Day of Atonement, and the fast of Kippur, then one had better get busy transforming oneself into a decent, honest, moral, and good human being.

One can fast, and pray all one wants, but if one leaves the house of prayer being the same cruel, mean, and rotten person that one was before one prayed and fasted, then one can rest assured that all one's prayers, and fasting were in vain, and were a complete waste of time.

Hypocrisy kills! Therefore, kill it before it kills you!

Yom Kippur is a chance for us to make a real difference, but this difference begins within one's own heart. So who is going to truly repent of all one's superficial religiosity, and get busy with real personal, psychological transformation, and become an honest, decent, loving, and caring human being? The time is right, but how right are you?

The KosherTorah School



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