

AUTHORITY AND LEADERSHIP IN THE MESSIANIC COMMUNITY

I was reading an article the other day about women in leadership. As I read the same tired arguments both for and against, I could not help feeling that this was another classic example of what Messiah called, “straining at a gnat while swallowing a camel”. The surface issues can never be resolved until the foundational truths concerning authority and leadership are addressed.

Yahshua had much to say about authority and leadership in the Messianic Community. The Kingdom of GOD is a reality whose fundamentals were announced in plain language. Here are some examples:

Matt. 23:8-11 – “But you are not to let yourselves be called Rabbi; because you have one Rabbi, and you are all each other’s brothers. And do not call anyone on earth Father because you have one Father, and He is in Heaven. Nor are you to let yourselves be called leaders because you have one leader, and he is the Messiah! The greatest among you must be your servant, for whoever promotes himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be promoted.”

Matt. 25:25-27 – “ But Yahshua called them and said ‘You know that among the Goyim, those who are supposed to rule them become tyrants, and their superiors become dictators. Among you, it must not be like that. On the contrary, whoever among you wants to be leader must become your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave.’”

Matt. 28:18-20 – “Yahshua came and talked to them. He said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make people from all nations into talmidim, immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruach HaKodesh, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember I will be with you always, yes, even to the end of the age.’”

These verses are so straightforward that it is amazing they have been so ignored by the Messianic Community. The Messiah warns about calling men by titles and placing them in positions of authority. In the Kingdom of GOD there is a King with all authority! In the Kingdom there are functions and actions not delegated offices. We are not to be like all the nations in our governmental structure. In the Messianic Community Messiah rules and we serve. The Kingdom is not a constitutional monarchy where the king is given a place of honor, but the rule is through a congress or council of men. All authority resides in the “Head over all things”, and flows from the Head to the members of the body. It manifests as needed, moment by moment, through whom GOD chooses. Authority is like electricity; If it can’t get home it won’t leave.