

Week #: 12 Text: _____ Title: Follow the Rabbi #1
Songs: Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Audio: Ray Vander Laan – Follow the Rabbi teaching
Can be found online at: <https://oneinjesus.info/2008/10/ray-vander-laans-follow-the-rabbi-lectures/>

Schema (Deuteronomy 6:5-9):

- (The Schema is the centerpiece of the daily morning and evening prayer services and is considered by some to be the most essential prayer in all of Judaism. An affirmation of God’s singularity and kingship, its daily recitation is regarded by traditionally observant Jews as a biblical commandment.)
- It is a commitment of who you are and summarizes to God, to others, to yourself who you are and what you believe in.

“She-ma Israel, Adonai eloheinu, Adonai echad.

“Hear o Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might, Amen.”

- This has to come out of your soul...it has to be everything about you that matters.

“I have placed you in this land that you may be my witnesses that the world may know that I am God.”

Rabbi Akiva

- A rabbi who grew up one generation after Jesus, but in the same town/area
- Who are you? What are you doing here?
 - That is the fundamental question in the Jewish mind.

Thinking Hebrew:

- How do you view the Bible and its role in those two questions.
 - Some things will be familiar, and some things will not be familiar.
- Olive Tree
 - Picture of God’s people
 - Deeply rooted
 - Never dies. When it gets old, the farmer cuts it off about head level (about every 400 years), but the next year all new sprouts start coming out. It perpetuates itself.
 - Jesus was a tree out of Jesse’s stump
 - Israel

- got cut down several times because of failure to walk in God’s ways. The last time was the Babylonian captivity, but God said He would bring it back. Out of Jesse’s stump God would send a Messiah.
 - Jews – grown out of Jesse’s stump
 - Non-Jews (goyim) - God picked you from a wild olive tree and grafted you into Jesse’s stump
 - As the grafted in branches, we cannot exist without our Jewish roots, because Jesus is not a tree – He is a shoot out of a tree, and that tree is Israel.
 - Our roots are Jewish – and the Christian world has not only forgotten, but has at times done everything it could to obscure.
 - This isn’t about correcting your theology, but we cannot look at things apart from our Jewish roots.
- What does it mean to read the Bible in a Jewish context?
- There are basically two ways of approaching truth:
 - Eastern approach: Oriental, African, Middle Eastern, Eastern European (somewhat), Native American, Central and South America
 - Western approach (or Greek): It is rooted in the civilization and the philosophies of the Greeks.
- Western culture’s view on reality:
 - Shaped by the culture we live in.
 - Your perspective shapes how you see the text.
 - Greeks think abstractly. We like information in definitions and proposition, organized in outlines and notes.
- ***stop to discuss*** Who or what is God? _____
 - Can you picture this?
 - Abstract information is true, but it cannot be pictured within you. It can be in your head, but not in your heart.
- Eastern culture thinks in pictures.
 - Always thinks concretely in the form of stories or pictures.
 - They personalize it easier – God is MY _____.
- Mark 4:24a
 - Greek (into English) says: “Consider carefully what you hear...”
 - Hebrew would translate it: “Look at carefully what you hear...”
- In Hebrew, words are pictures:
 - Bethlehem; “lehem” is bread, “beth” is house or place – so it translates house/or place of bread, or a bakery.
 - The bread of life – Jesus – was born in a bakery!

- The light of the world – Jesus – was probably conceived on the Feast of Lights
 - The living water – Jesus – was laid in a manger – a watering trough
- Information is head knowledge. Experience is heart knowledge. It personalizes the story.
- Jesus taught in pictures.
- Greek thinkers elevated the rational. They taught that the human being was God. One of the four qualities they elevated to the throne is the mind. Once you elevate the mind to the throne, information is prior to experience.
- Numbers:
 - To a Hebrew: they are first symbols
 - To a Greek: they are first quantity – information
 - In the writing of notes, don't be Western. The Westerner says, "I have the information." The Easterner says, "What are you experiencing at this moment." Is your soul being drawn into God, or has your mind become so engaged that you can't feel?
 - David and Goliath:
 - Goliath is 6 cubits tall; his armor weighed 60 shekels; his spear point weighed 6000 talents
 - The Jew says – Why did he pick those three items? Why not include the other pieces of armor? Because the numbers are 666 – it is satan.
 - This isn't about a little guy beating a big guy. It's about God beating satan!
 - David kills him with a rock to the head. The Jew remembers the promise in Genesis that God made to Eve that a follower of God would crush satan's head. They get excited that God's promise is still true.
- Deborah (Judges 4):
 - Dvora in Hebrew: means a honey bee
 - Deborah goes to war against Jabin.
 - The general of the army is Barak – which means lightning. He refuses to lead them, so Deborah leads the army and they win.
 - The commander of the pagan army is Sisera, and after the battle he tries to escape. He stops at the tent of a woman named Jael. (Jael is the feminine form of Joel). Jael means "YHWH is God"
 - Sisera asked to rest in Jael's tent, and while he is asleep Jael puts a nail through his head.
 - Sisera means "snake".
 - Another picture of God crushing satan's head.

- Land of 7 and 12
 - Land of the 12
 - Where Jesus lived
 - Very righteous and Godly community
 - They were called “Land of the 12” because they were like God’s people, from the 12 tribes – they associated with being religious/righteous.
 - Land of the 7
 - Where the pagans lived – pagan meaning Greek or Roman – Gentiles.
 - Home of the 7 pagan nations.
 - In the book of Mark, Jesus has two feeding miracles
 - First time mentioned he fed 5,000 plus women and children
 - Second time he fed 4,000 plus women and children
 - Then Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.”
 - When he fed the 5,000 there were _____ baskets of leftovers.
 - When he fed the 4,000 there were _____ baskets of leftovers.
 - Jesus was saying through the leftovers – “I am the bread of life for the 12 – or the Jew” and “I am the bread of life for the 7 – or the Gentile.”
- Matthew (God’s Gift) has a genealogy of Jesus.
 - Number of words is evenly divisible by 7.
 - Number of words that begin with a vowel is evenly divisible by 7.
 - Number of words beginning with a consonant is evenly divisible by 7.
 - Number of letters is evenly divisible by 7.
 - Number of vowels is evenly divisible by 7.
 - Number of consonants is evenly divisible by 7.
 - Number of words that occur more than once is evenly divisible by 7.
 - Number of words that occur only once is evenly divisible by 7.
 - Number of nouns is evenly divisible by 7.
 - Number of non-nouns is evenly divisible by 7.
 - Number of proper names is evenly divisible by 7.
 - Number of male names is evenly divisible by 7.
 - Number of female names is evenly divisible by 7.
 - Number of words beginning with each letter of the alphabet is evenly divisible by 7.
 - If you add up the value of all the letters, it is evenly divisible by 7.
- The Holy Spirit had to have given that to Matthew for all that to be true.

