

What is Justice?

Wanting what is just is not wanting "our way" it is wanting to see HIS WAY & HIS TRUTH prevail in our lives, and in the lives of all around us regardless if it brings immediate benefits to ourselves or as will be more often; not. Often in our humanness we want what we want, our way, our favorite food to be served, our side to be sided with, our opinion to be validated, our treats or recognition, our not having to work, our playtime to continue, our desires to be met, our understanding to be praised.

Those who care about the KINGDOM of G-D know that there is a deeper truth, a more important value that must be upheld. The truth of every and any matter, completely outside of our personal preferences, must be our primary and fought for purpose; for if it is skewed, even a little, to benefit ourselves, our integrity is lost, our relationship with G-D, who is TRUTH, suffers and becomes estranged.

Justice *is not* "revenge"

When we are hurting it is human to think that hurting someone back is just. However revenge is not justice, justice means the whole truth is known, and the consequences for someone's actions are fair and meted out with a cool head and forgiving heart. If you cannot think clearly, speak calmly, or seek to genuinely forgive the person who wronged you; it is likely that you are not in a position to judge or serve justice in a righteous manner. Justice must always, in these cases, be judged by others. The best judge is G-D and remember well what it said in Romans chapter 12:17-19 ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil; give thought to what is good in the eyes of all people. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live in shalom with all people. ¹⁹Never take your own revenge, loved ones, but give room for God's wrath—for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay," says Adonai." So we do not need to seek revenge; G-D HIMSELF promises to bring wrath to those who do evil, and HE can spank harder than we ever could.

Justice *is not* taking away the natural consequences of bad behaviour

We must guard our hearts from the idea that justice is giving to those in need without considering the work G-D may need to do in their lives. We should be aware of the natural G-D ordained consequences that come with not following G-D's Torah. While it is good to be generous and good to be kind, it is not a kindness to give drink to a drunk (It allows him to get even sicker) In Ephesians 5:17-18 it says: ¹⁷For this reason do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk on wine, for that is recklessness. Instead, be filled with the Ruach," Nor is it giving food to the lazy (it rewards their bad behaviour) As we are instructed in 1st Thessalonians 5:10-11 ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you are behaving irresponsibly—not busy, but busybodies. Though it may make us feel good about ourselves for a moment, it ultimately harms the people we feel good about "helping". The same as withholding discipline from a child that is determined to play in the street, our seeming kindness could get them killed. Justice never removes the natural consequences that would perhaps cause a person to repent, lest in doing so it pave the way to their utter destruction.

Justice *is not* a respecter of persons

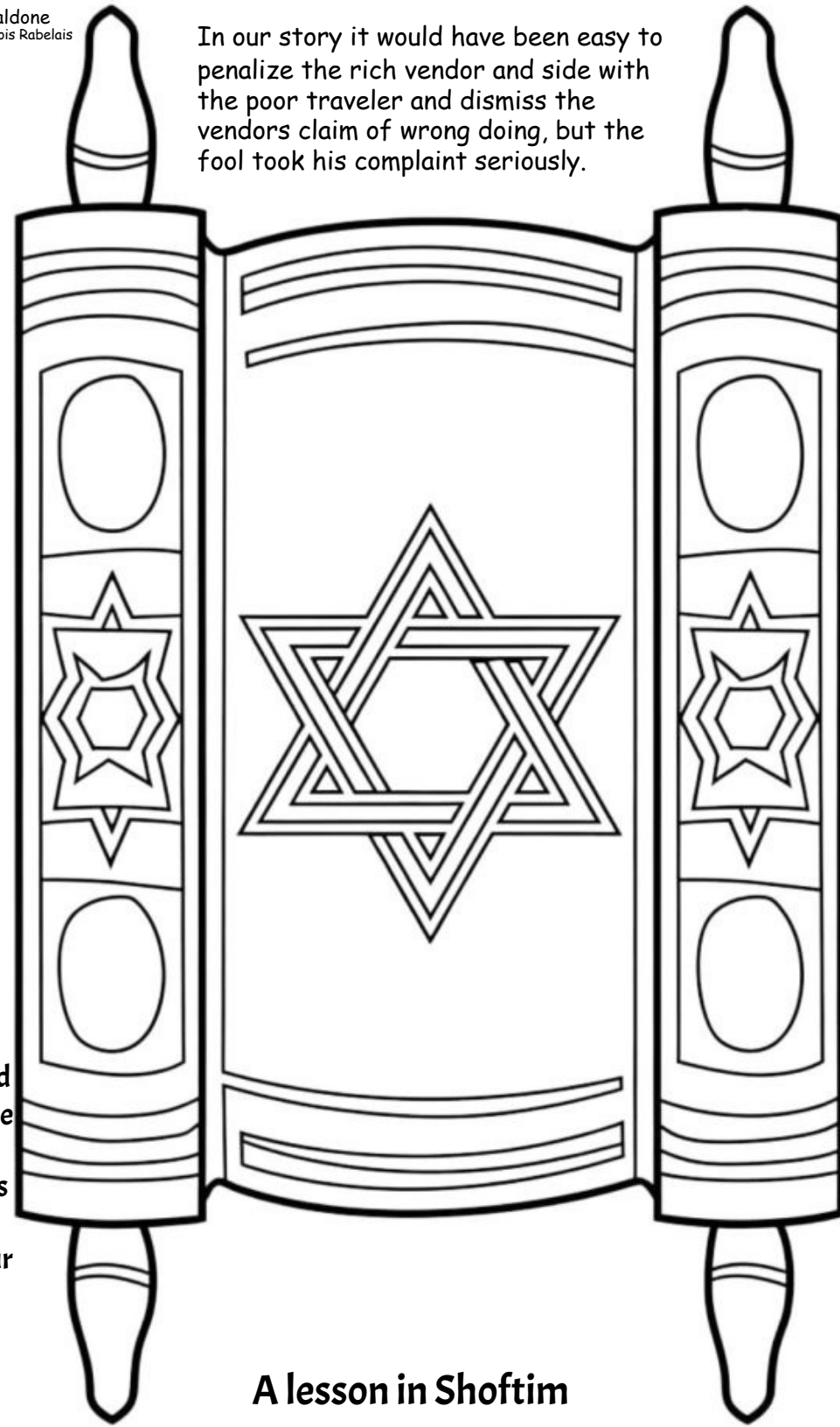
We are not to champion the cause of the poor, just because they are destitute, nor take up the cause of the rich because they are wealthy, but seek justice and truth for all persons regardless of their station. Justice is not to be bought with pity, nor riches, but sought as a treasure available and accessible to all who would seek it. We must not let emotions or prejudice affect our search for justice.



Read: The Wise Fool by: Paul Galdone
(Adaptor, Illustrator) based upon a tale by François Rabelais



In our story it would have been easy to penalize the rich vendor and side with the poor traveler and dismiss the vendors claim of wrong doing, but the fool took his complaint seriously.



What must we do?

Justice is a Spiritual Discipline and seeking justice must be understood and practiced as a spiritual discipline. Just like prayer and reading the Word, advocating for justice allows us to strengthen our faith and connection to G-D. When we think justly, act justly, and fight for HIS truth, it shapes our character and helps us understand G-D's perspective. Engaging in acts of justice transforms our heart, drawing us closer to Yeshua. It cultivates a identity of humility and a desire to reflect HIS goodness in our lives. As we develop discipline in seeking and practicing justice, we grow spiritually and become more closely aligned to G-D's will for our lives and His desire for our world. Seeking justice is an opportunity for growth and transformation in our own faith journey.

A lesson in Shoftim