

July 12, 2003

PROGRAM TOPIC  
**FORGIVE MYSELF**

FORMAT

OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCE GUEST

LOVE AND LIGHT, I'M REV. PHIL AND I'M YOUR HOST FOR "WORDS OF THE PROPHETS." THIS SHOW'S FORMAT CONSISTS OF A DISCUSSION REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUR LIVES. NORMALLY, YOU, THE LISTENING AUDIENCE, ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS DISCUSSION. HOWEVER, THAT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TODAY SINCE THIS SHOW HAS BEEN PRERECORDED. MY GUEST IS RABBI MALKA DRUCKER. THIS MORNING'S TOPIC IS "FORGIVE MYSELF". THIS PHRASE COMES FROM C. P. SNOW. IT READS AS FOLLOWS; "TAKE THE TROUBLE TO KNOW MYSELF, BE APPALLED BY WHAT I SEE AND THEN FORGIVE MYSELF."

BEFORE WE GET STARTED WITH OUR DISCUSSION LET ME REMIND YOU THAT THIS SHOW HAS BEEN PRERECORDED, THEREFORE, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE YOUR PHONE CALLS THIS MORNING.

1. BEHAVING IN GOD

- WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE? WHAT DOES GOD WANT OF ME? HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT THING IS? WHEN DO WE REBUKE AND WHEN DO WE EMBRACE?
- MAYBE IT'S LESS ABOUT BELIEVING IN GOD THAN BEHAVING IN GOD.

- **JUDGE YOURSELF AND FORGIVE OTHERS.**
- **UNCONDITIONAL FORGIVENESS. ONLY WHEN ONE ASKS FOR IT DO WE OFFER IT. WHAT WE MAY NOT DO IS, WHEN WE ARE ASKED TO FORGIVE, TO THINK, HE'LL JUST DO IT AGAIN.**
- **WE ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE DIMINISHED TO THE POINT OF PARALYSIS BY SELF-EXAMINATION. RATHER, IT SHOULD MAKE US FEEL GREAT THAT WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO DO BETTER. WE HAVE MORE POWER THAN WE KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH!**
- **TO BEHAVE IN GOD IS TO FORGIVE.**
- **YOU SHALL GO IN GOD'S WAYS, MEANS THAT IF GOD IS COMPASSIONATE, SO SHOULD WE BE.**
- **"GOD, OF COMPASSION AND GRACE, SLOW TO ANGER, GENEROUS IN LOVE AND TRUTH, SHOWING LOVE TO THOUSANDS, FORGIVING SIN, WRONG AND FAILURE; WHO PARDONS." IN THIS PASSAGE FROM EXODUS ARE THIRTEEN QUALITIES OF GOD, AND THEY ALL HAVE TO DO WITH MERCY.**
- **OVER AND OVER WE STUMBLE AND FALL, AND ALWAYS GOD WAITS PATIENTLY. WE ARE HARDWIRED FOR FLAW, FOR SIN, IF YOU WILL. IT'S HOW WE LEARN. THAT WE SIN IS OUR SALVATION, BECAUSE ONLY THROUGH REPENTANCE CAN WE GAIN A NEW HEART AND BECOME BETTER PEOPLE.**
- **IF YOU ARE MAGNANIMOUS AND FORGIVE, ALL YOUR OWN SINS ARE FORGIVEN.**
- **GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON US, ALWAYS WAITING FOR US TO RETURN.**

- IF OUR PARTNER, OUR PARENTS, OUR CHILDREN ARE NOT PERFECT, WE'RE ANGRY, BECAUSE WE SO NEED TO BE PERFECT WE NEED THEM TO BE PERFECT.
- MY DISAPPOINTMENT IN MY CHILDREN NOT ONLY DIMINISHES THEM, IT DOESN'T TEACH THEM HOW TO LIVE WITH OTHERS.
- MERCY, IS ENDLESS PATIENCE AND TOLERANCE, AND REMAINING FULL OF HOPE.
- A SIMPLE BELIEF: PEOPLE CAN CHANGE, GOODNESS WILL WIN. AS LONG AS WE NEVER FORGET TO PRACTICE FORGIVENESS WITH EACH OTHER, ALWAYS KEEPING THE JOB OF LOVING AS OUR SOVEREIGN PRINCIPLE, WE CAN RESTORE GOD TO THE WORLD BY REMEMBERING OUR CREATOR OF LOVE. WHEN WE ARE KIND TO EACH OTHER, ALWAYS GIVING THE BENEFIT OF DOUBT, NEVER TAKING GOD'S JOB OF JUDGMENT, THEN WE DRAW NEAR TO GOD. WHEN WE CHOOSE TO FEEL LOVING PATIENCE RATHER THAN RIGHTEOUSNESS, THEN WE WILL KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE IN GOD.

## 2. A PERSONAL THEOLOGY

- BUT IN THE END, WHAT MATTERS IS WHO YOU HAVE BECOME FROM YOUR LESSONS. WHILE EVERYTHING I KNOW SOMEONE HAS TAUGHT ME, EACH OF US, THROUGH OUR SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE, CARRIES A UNIQUE VISION, A SLIVER OF THE DIVINE WHOLE. EACH OF US IS HERE TO SHINE A NEW LIGHT.
- EVERY NEW INTERPRETATION IMPLIES THE DYNAMISM OF THOUGHT, AND THROUGH STUDY

**I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM PART OF AN EVOLVING TRADITION WITH AN EVOLVING GOD. IF I AM IN THE IMAGE, THEN I, TOO, CAN LEARN AND CHANGE. IN MY EVOLUTION AND IN THE EVOLUTION OF MY PEOPLE, GOD IS REVEALED. AND, IF WE ARE IN THE DIVINE IMAGE, IT MEANS THAT THE WORLD'S EVOLUTION IS THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS COMPLETION, AND MY EVOLUTION IN THE PROCESS OF MISTAKES, WRONGDOINGS, AND OCCASIONAL INSIGHTS IS MY EVOLUTION TOWARDS COMPLETION, TOO.**

- GOD DWELLED NOT IN ME NOR IN TORAH, NOR IN MY RABBI, BUT BETWEEN US. GOD BECAME THE BRIDGE, THE CONNECTION THAT ALLOWED ME TO TRANSCEND MYSELF TO "SEE" THAT, AT A LIMINAL MOMENT, I AM PART OF YOU AND YOU ARE PART OF ME.**
- I SEE MY EXISTENCE AS A PATH TO DISCOVER MY ESSENCE, WHICH IS PART OF THE ONE.**
- I CANNOT JUDGE, BUT PERHAPS I CAN HELP HEAL BY NOT REJECTING AND DESPISING.**
- EACH OF US IS IN SCHOOL, THE WORLD BEING THE CLASSROOM. THE TEXT IS TORAH IN THE BROADEST SENSE AND THE LESSON IS HOW TO LOVE, HOW NOT TO SEE OURSELVES IN OPPOSITION BUT IN RELATIONSHIP AND CONNECTION.**
- THE REVELATION GOES ON EVERY DAY, IN DARKNESS AS WELL AS LIGHT.**
- JUST AS I CANNOT DESCRIBE MYSELF IMMUTABLY IN A SINGLE IMAGE, NEITHER CAN I DO THIS WITH GOD.**

- IF WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO TAKE THE LONG JOURNEY TO KNOW OURSELVES, INCLUDING THE DARKNESS, AND HEAR THE CALL TO ACT WITH COMPASSION WITH EACH OTHER, WE CAN DO MORE THAN MERELY CONSOLE OURSELVES IN OUR INABILITY TO "SEE" GOD. WITH OUR PRESENCE, WE MAKE GOD PRESENT FOR EACH OTHER. THROUGH US GOD IS NOT ONLY "SEEN," BUT ACTS.

### 3. NUMBERING MY DAYS

- I KNOW THAT I SHOULD MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT BY BEING CONSCIOUS THAT EVERY MOMENT OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW CLOSER TO THE HOLY.
- MAYBE THIS IS THE HIGHEST WISDOM, BEING PRESENT EVERY MOMENT.

### 4. ECO-KASHRUT

- ALL URBAN CIVILIZATIONS HAVE LOST THE ABILITY TO BE RADICALLY AMAZED BY THE MIRACLE OF AIR, LAND, SOIL, WATER, AND SPECIES. INSTEAD, WE HUMAN VIEW THE WORLD AS OURS TO DO WITH AS WE WISH FOR OUR OWN GAIN AND COMFORT WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT HOW WE DEplete THE WORLD. WE LIVE WITHOUT FEAR OF THE CONSEQUENCES, BECAUSE WE LIVE WITHOUT FEAR OF GOD.
- GOD CARRIED OUT DIVINE PURPOSE THROUGH EVERYTHING.
- FOUR LESSONS TO MORALLY SENSITIZE US TO THE EARTH. FIRST, DON'T WASTE. TWO, DON'T DESTROY UNNECESSARILY. BEFORE YOU REACH

**FOR A PAPER TOWEL INSTEAD OF A DISH CLOTH, IMAGINE A TOWERING CEDAR. THREE, DON'T WASTE FOOD, AND FOUR, BE RESPECTFUL AND REVERENT OF EVERYTHING-YOUR BODY, THE NATURAL WORLD, AND THE ANIMALS THAT INHABIT IT.**

- **THE POWER OF HUMAN BEINGS TO BECOME LOVING PARTNERS IN PERFECTING THE WORLD. HERE IS A SPIRITUAL PATH THAT INVITES US TO CHERISH AND PROTECT THE WORLD. IT IS INTENDED TO MAKE US DELIGHT IN THE WONDER OF WHAT SURROUNDS US, AND IN SO DOING WE DRAW CLOSER TO GOD.**