

Lazy Laity

By Rabbi Yehudah ben Shomeyr

One of the main thrusts of Jewish Law is to have at least a couple witnesses and to investigate a matter thoroughly. Sadly, this is not always upheld not only in Judaism but in Christianity as well.

In Judaism many Jews rely on what the Rabbi's and Sages say without thoroughly seeking out a matter on their own. The most obvious issue this seems to be true is that of Yeshua being the Messiah. Most Jews are fearful of researching un-bias the information on their own and accept pad answers given by anti-missionaries or the view given by their Rabbi or sect Rebbe. I'm not saying blindly accept the Christians "facts" that proclaim Yeshua as Messiah, but take all views and opinions into account and weight it all out. Look at religion, customs, history, apologetics, all the pro's and con's and prayerfully consider the information before you. Don't just take someone's word for it that just happens to support your current view on the matter.

"Don't make the same mistake as the writers of Talmud, by judging someone you don't even know (Yeshua) for you are bearing false witness and are liable to the Courts of Heaven." – Anon.

As far as Christians, I often hear certain groups bash a particular political candidate, world leader, a world religion, a Hollywood star, or another Christian, whether it be an artist or minister and blindly believe and follow a negative thing said about a particular person from a favorite or trusted Christian they look up to.

For instance, I have heard that Nelson Mandela is an anti-Semite. To be honest with you, at this point I don't know, I have not, nor felt the need at this time to investigate this man and weigh whether he is an anti-Semite or not. But because I heard this from a Christian or Jew whom I admire doesn't give me the right to go around repeating this in conversation to everyone as if it were a cold hard fact. The only fact is I "heard" Nelson Mandela was an anti-Semite; I do not "know" for a fact that he is or isn't.

As a Torah Observant Jewish believer in Messiah I have either been the target of, or had fellow Rabbi's or Netzari believers who have been the target of well meaning "Christian Interventions" which is actually a soft form of Anti-Semitism akin to the Inquisition. Without truly knowing or understanding Messianic Judaism in the name of "love" and "Christ" some treat a Jewish Believer as a street druggie

or some brainwashed victim of a cult. This by no means reflects the “love of Christ.” They spout off as evidence things they think they know about Jews, Judaism and our beliefs and practices, and the Talmud in an attempt to “prove” Judaism and the Torah obsolete at best and evil at worst. In most every instance I and my fellow Jews have been able to shoot down everything that is said and make them question things about their faith, customs and or traditions. We have been able to correct the so-called “facts” they have in regards to what they think they know about me and my faith, customs and or traditions. Is there any wonder that many Jews are leery of Christians when they go off halfcocked like this in an attempt to convert someone of another faith!?

I hear many Christians say things such as; “This political candidate or party, this social cause group is bad because, fill in the blank of a respected Christian leader, said so.” And yet they have no evidence to back these things up for themselves, they only have hearsay to go by. Would this hold up in any court!? Absolutely not! One may even find themselves being charged with slander. So how much more so should we all, representing whatever Abrahamic faith, know that facts about any social or religious issue before we speak!?

I have also witnessed Christians judging and land blasting their own on a large scale not realizing how this comes across in the eyes of non-Christians. It’s as pathetic as an army fighting with itself. They tend to be the verbal judge, jury and executioner of their own, just because they do not agree with a particular life decision they have made, or a certain doctrinal stance they have taken. Let me name a few people and you might know what I mean: Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, John Hagee, Mike Warnke, Jim Bakker. I can already hear the; “Yeah, but’s” right now. No, that doesn’t matter. Do you know anything that has been said about them as a fact, or is it just hearsay and bad journalism? I’m not saying that the people I just named are good or bad, or right or wrong, all I know is I have heard pretty condemning things about them with little to no facts to back up the condemnation.

To be fair this happens I think in all circles of faiths. We just need to recognize our human tendency to believe the worst in someone, and that our animal soul loves a juicy bit of controversy and we must awaken to the fact that what we say feel and thing about others not only affects us and them, but those who look up to us and value our opinion. We need to think, research, think some more, and pray for guidance before we speak and form a solid opinion about someone or something. In Judaism, slander and gossip is likened and is as a serious offence as unto murder, because you can kill a soul or reputation with your words. Also, if what

you say makes the one you are talking about blush with needless embarrassment or shame, it is likened unto the shedding of blood, because you have caused blood to rush to the surface of the skin, which causes blushing. We cannot afford to be intellectually lazy and take someone's word about things. This unfortunately has caused many innocent and premature deaths, torn families apart and has caused many to be incarcerated and suffer unjustly, and that blood will be on our heads for the ones who participated in these things.