

Gird Thy Loins

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At this time, many are making preparations to survive and to make do with minimum of resources. This exercise will focus our attention not only on the survival of the flesh, and the prevention of the first death, but also on serving the Creator who gave us life, and prevention of the final death.

**Survival vs.
Obedience**

by

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1Pe 1: 13-16

Therefore, having girded up the loins of your mind, being sober, set your expectation perfectly upon the favour that is to be brought to you at the revelation of יהושע Messiah, as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts in your ignorance, instead, as the One who called you is set-apart, so you also should become set-apart in all behaviour, Because it is written, “Be set-apart (kadosh), for I am set-apart (kadosh).”

In the time of the Messiah, men wore full-length robes. When a man girded his loins, it meant that he tucked up the robe so that his calves were exposed, which gave him the ability to run, work or fight.

We are getting ready for what will come in the future. None of us is certain exactly what the future holds. In any case, we prepare for our physical needs as we continue to develop our spiritual relationship with our Creator. Scripture and the Ruach HaKodesh teach us that the best way to prepare is to draw closer to Yahweh/Yahuah.

We bring up our children in the admonition of the Torah. From time to time we challenge them with questions, so that they will be prepared and know how they will respond when various types of temptations come. “What will you do when a friend offers you illegal drugs? If a classmate offers you the answers to a test, will you take them?” and that sort of thing. We hope and pray that they will respond to daily challenges in a way that will bring honor to both Elohim and their family.

What will the wilderness be like? None of us knows that either, but in any case if we have become set-apart into a Torah observant community, then we need to be prepared to answer both everyday and emergency-type challenges in a Torah observant manner.

All of the following challenges are possible. Again, some of these are everyday and some are emergency-type situations. All of them are important, in that some responses align with Torah and some do not.

Here is the test: Tell what you would do and exactly how you would carry it out. Back up your decisions with scripture where and when it is relevant.

- 1. Following the breakdown of infrastructure, a group of Torah-observant individuals band together so that they can help each other while worshipping the Yahweh/Yahuah and Yahshua/Yahusha. Food is in short supply. The cooks have reduced serving sizes, and some of the children are complaining because they believe they are not being given adequate portions at meal time.**

John-Boy and Billy-Bob, ages 12 and 10, respectively, are overjoyed when they discover a way to trap rabbits. They bring two of them into the camp and want their mothers to prepare a meal for them.

Choose one of the multiple choice responses, or come up with one of your own.

- A. Marinate the rabbits in a little olive oil and garlic, and roast those bad boys over a fire. Let the people who are hungry choose whether or not to eat the rabbit meat.
 - B. Mix the rabbit meat in with some roast beef and serve it up together. People have got to eat, and what they don't know won't hurt 'em.
 - C. Plan to supervise the boys more closely. The boys' fathers guide them in an expedition to gather blackberries growing in a nearby field.
 - D. Throw the rabbits away, and ask the boys' parents to review Leviticus 11 with them.
 - E. Other. (Review and discuss or decide what is correct and/or appropriate)
2. There is a nearby group of nonbelievers. A member of your group, Conner, age 17, has fallen head over heels in love with a 20-year-old woman from the unbelievers. Conner is willing to marry the woman, but at this point she only seems to be interested in having fun with this temporary relationship. You discover that Conner has brought his girlfriend into the camp and that they are sleeping together. Conner's parents refuse to do anything about the situation.

Choose one of the multiple choice responses, or come up with one of your own.

- A. Leave 'em alone. After all, it's a heterosexual monogamous relationship.
- B. Shotgun wedding. Force the two to get married.
- C. Tell Conner that he has two choices that will allow him to stay in the camp – become celibate and stay, or marry her and they can both stay. If he is going to continue to sleep with this woman, who is not his wife, then he is going to have to leave and go live somewhere else. And furthermore, if he departs to live this way, he can't come back.
- D. Stone 'em.
- E. Other. (Review and discuss or decide what is correct and/or appropriate)

3. Food is in short supply. One of the men, by the name of Levi, periodically brings in a 50-pound bag of flour, which the cooks use to make bread for quite a few days. Members of the camp assumed that Levi was working or trading for the flour, but one day you discover that Levi is sneaking into a nearby warehouse and stealing it.

Choose one of the multiple choice responses, or come up with one of your own.

- A. Give thanks to Yahweh, who has helped Levi locate this flour and return home safely. Times are hard, and people gotta do what they gotta do.
- B. Tell Levi not to get any more flour from the warehouse.
- C. Tell Levi to sneak back into the warehouse and leave materials which would reimburse the owners for the value of the flour.
- D. Punish Levi for breaking one of the Big Ten.
- E. Other. (Review and discuss or decide what is correct and/or appropriate)

4. After spending several weeks in a camp with no iPod, Apps, video games or television, the set-apart people are becoming bored. Reports are coming in of women who are squabbling over supplies, married couples who are fighting with each other, and children who are flat out going fisticuffs on the ground.

Choose one of the multiple choice responses, or come up with one of your own.

- A. Congregational leader plans to teach about Fruits of the Spirit during the very next opportunity.
- B. Beit din guys go at it with prayer and fasting.
- C. Camp leadership assigns more chores. After all, idle hands are the devil's workshop.
- D. Watchmen and family leaders are instructed to admonish those who bring strife into the camp on a case-by-case basis, immediately.
- E. Other. (Review and discuss or decide what is correct and/or appropriate)

5. Watchmen observe a nearby house that appears abandoned. Over a period of weeks they observe that no one comes or goes. One of the watchmen decides to enter the house one day, to discover that it is not only abandoned, but contains a large stash of

food and supplies. Unsure of how to handle the situation, the watchman returns to camp to seek wise counsel.

Choose one of the multiple choice responses, or come up with one of your own.

- A. Beit din decides to observe the house for a few more weeks, praying for wisdom and guidance.
- B. Go to a nearby occupied home, and ask the residents about the identity and status of the previous owners.
- C. Leave the house alone. It would be stealing to remove anything.
- D. Organize an operation to remove anything that would be of use to the camp.
- E. Other. (Review and discuss or decide what is correct and/or appropriate)

6. The watchmen signal to the camp leader when they spot a young woman pulling two children in a wagon down the road. In compliance with camp policy, they:

Choose one of the multiple choice responses, or come up with one of your own.

- A. Send someone out to greet the woman, tell her we have a big colony here with a safe place to sleep and lots of food, and see if she needs anything.
- B. Offer her a permanent home with us.
- C. Send someone out to give the woman a care package containing food, water and supplies.
- D. Let the woman continue to travel down the road.
- E. Other. (Review and discuss or decide what is correct and/or appropriate)

7. The camp leader learns that four children, belonging to two different families, have begun to behave in a belligerent manner towards their parents. They speak angrily to their mothers and do not obey their fathers. After going missing for an entire day, they turn up and it is discovered that they spent the entire day exploring beyond the camp boundaries.

Choose one of the multiple choice responses, or come up with one of your own.

- A. Everyone in the camp is instructed to watch over the children. After all, it takes a village.
 - B. The children are sent to bed with no supper, and assigned drudgery work. They are told, if you want to eat, you will listen to your parents and you will do chores.
 - C. The parents of the children are instructed to control their children or leave the camp.
 - D. Stone 'em.
 - E. Other. (Review and discuss or decide what is correct and/or appropriate)
8. A man and woman approach one of the watchmen who is guarding the boundaries of the camp. The woman wears burkha. The man holds an AK-47, but puts it down on the ground before he begins speaking to the watchman. He says that they are traveling and haven't eaten in days. He has no ammo for the weapon, but he is willing to trade it in exchange for some food and water.

Choose one of the multiple choice responses, or come up with one of your own.

- A. Not only no, but hell no. Tell them to keep on truckin'.
 - B. The watchman hands the couple his own daily ration of food, which he has with him, plus the water in his canteen.
 - C. The watchman tells him that he is part of a large camp of Torah-observant people, and invites them in for a meal.
 - D. Stone 'em.
 - E. Other. (Review and discuss or decide what is correct and/or appropriate)
9. Camp leader receives a signal from the north watchman that he sees a group of four men approaching the camp.

“Targets approaching, targets approaching,” says the southern watchman. “I can see three of them. They have camouflage-type paint on their faces, but I don't think they're here for trick-or-treat.”

At the same time, the eastern watchman radios in, “Hey I see three guys over here, and

they're not walking towards me, but instead they are just kind of sneaking up one at a time. They have at least two high-caliber weapons apiece, and they're wearing bandoliers."

Choose one of the multiple choice responses, or come up with one of your own.

- A. Ask one of the watchmen to approach the men to determine their intentions.
 - B. Use a loudspeaker to tell them that if they will leave the camp alone, we will give them food and supplies.
 - C. Do nothing. Pray that the strangers are just out doing practice maneuvers and allow them to keep advancing inside the camp borders.
 - D. Signal for all non-essential camp members to go to the safe place and entreat the Creator in prayer. Watchmen stay in their concealed position. All trained men go to join the watchmen and prepare to give the intruders a bad case of lead poisoning.
 - E. Other. (Review and discuss or decide what is correct and/or appropriate)
10. A nearby group, who are nonbelievers, send one person carrying a message to your camp. The message reads, "We are out of food. Our children are hungry. We have some gold and jewelry for trade. We would appreciate any help you can give us."

The messenger hands one of the watchmen three of those little souvenir gold ingots that you can buy which are not solid gold but gold plated.

Choose one of the multiple choice responses, or come up with one of your own.

- A. Tell the messenger that when they can come up with some real gold that they can get some real food.
- B. Invite the messenger inside the camp for a meal. Get volunteers to help him carry food and supplies back to his group. Send a generous amount of food to them. Tell him to come back if they need more.
- C. Inform the messenger that the group is in dire need of food as well. Tell him that there are blackberries growing in a field about three miles down the road.
- D. Take the gold ingots and in exchange give him enough food to fill up his backpack.
- E. Other. (Review and discuss or decide what is correct and/or appropriate)

Deu 8:2, 5-6

“And you shall remember that יהוה your Elohim led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, prove you, to know what is in your heart, whether you guard His commands or not.

“Thus you shall know in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so יהוה your Elohim disciplines you, therefore you shall guard the commands of יהוה your Elohim, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

Pro 3:5-6

**Trust in יהוה with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
Know Him in all your ways, And He makes all your paths straight.**

These are only a few of the questions that we might possibly face in the days and years to come but it is vital that we continually ask ourselves not what we should do or say but to always seek the guidance through the Torah and other Divinely Inspired Scriptures and by allowing Ruach HaKodesh to reveal the truth so that we are able to walk as Set-apart Ones before Yahweh/Yahuah.

Sometimes the decisions are difficult and seem harsh and uncaring but remember the Scripture that states:

Pro 14:12

There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Pro 16:25

There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Joh 16:13

“But when He comes, the Spirit of the Truth, He shall guide you into all the truth. For He shall not speak from Himself, but whatever He hears He shall speak, and He shall announce to you what is to come.

Remember we are never alone!!!

1Sa 12:22

“For יהוה would not cast away His people, for His great Name’s sake, seeing it has pleased יהוה to make you His people.

Heb 13:5-6

Let your way of life be without the love of money, and be satisfied with what you have. For He Himself has said, “I shall never leave you nor forsake you,” so that we boldly say, “יהוה is my helper, I shall not fear what man shall do to me.”