

CLEMENT TO THE CORINTHIANS Lesson Four (1 Clement 13-19)

Clement had seen the blessed apostles and conversed with them, their teaching was still ringing in his ears. (Irenaeus)

1 Clement 13: Oral Tradition of Yeshua

Let not the wise man boast. Jeremiah 9:23-24; cf. 1 Cor. 1:31; 2 Cor 10:17

Show Mercy that you may receive mercy. Clement quotes agraphical oral tradition of the Master's teachings, similar to statements in the gospels but independent. Compare 1 Clement 13:1-3 with the following:

- "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36)
- "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. (Matthew 5:7)
- For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, (Mat 6:14)
- "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (Mat 7:12)
- "For in the way you judge, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Matt 7:1)

The sayings follow the *miidah-kenegged-middah* (measure for measure) form and reflect that principle of divine justice.

As you show kindness, so kindness shall be shown to you. This saying of the Master does not appear in the gospels.

Upon whom shall I look. Isaiah 66:2.

1 Clement 14: Do Not Follow the Schism

Those who in arrogance and unruliness ... abominable jealousy. Clement characterizes the new leadership in Corinth as motivated by baseless hatred and zealotry.

The kind shall inhabit the land. Proverbs 2:21-22. Cf. Psalm 37:9, 38.

I saw the ungodly lifted up on high. Psalm 37:35-37.

1 Clement 15: Hypocritical Piety

This people honors me. Isaiah 29:13

They blessed with their mouth. Psalm 62:4.

They loved him with their mouth. Psalm 78:36-37.

Let the deceitful lips. Psalm 31:18.

May the LORD utterly destroy. Psalm 12:4-6.

1 Clement 16: Humility of the Master

Christ is with those who are humble. Cf. Isaiah 57:15; "The one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant" (Luke 22:26).

The Majestic Scepter of God. Clement applies this title (*ράβδος*, *rhabdos*) for the Messiah on the basis of ubiquitous messianic prophecies about the scepter/staff/rod of Messiah: Eg. Psalm 45:6; Psalm 110:2; Micah 7:14. cf. Jeremiah 48:17; Hebrews 1:8ff.

Lord, who believed our report? Isaiah 53:1-12.

I am a worm. Psalm 22:6-8.

1 Clement 17: Humility of Prophets and Tzadikim

Goatskins and sheepskins. I.e., the prophets. Cf. Hebrews 11:37.

Preaching the coming of Christ. "God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets that his Christ would suffer ... all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days" (Acts 3:18,24). "All the prophets prophesied only for the Messianic Era" (b.*Sanhedrin*).

Friend of God. Cf. 2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23.

Dust and ashes. Genesis 18:27.

Moreover, concerning Job. Job 1:1; 14:4-5.

Moses was called faithful. Numbers 12:7; Hebrews 3:2.

I am only steam from a pot. Unknown. Cf. Exodus 3:11; 4:10.

1 Clement 18: Humility of David

Man after my own heart. Psalm 89:20.

Have mercy upon me, O God. Psalm 51:1-17.

1 Clement 19: Those who have received

A share in many great and glorious deeds. Clement considers believers to be the heirs of the biblical faith tradition and calls upon his readers to live in a manner consistent with the attitude of the biblical heroes.

Hasten on to the goal of peace. The Messianic Era.

Handed down to us from the beginning. Transmission of the gospel through the apostles. Cf. Hebrews 2:3: "After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard."