

## “As They Observe Them”

*“Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.” 1 Pet 2:12*

How can our Father give us 100 houses if we don't take care of the one we have?

### **Filth**

Accumulated filth smells bad. The only way community can be *kept* clean is if every last person does his chore before he does anything else. Even if someone came and dumped a pile of stuff in your area, you have to take the responsibility of cleaning it up — its *your* territory. Even though someone should never have just dumped things there, you have to take responsibility. Everyone in the Body has to do his part. If one person doesn't suffer, others have to suffer more to make up for his lack. Every person has works that our Father and the Son pre-arranged for him to do. We will be judged according to the deeds we did and didn't do. So therefore if we left works undone that we were supposed to do, then it's left for someone else to do in order for our Father's will to be done on the earth.

1 Cor 12:12 — Every part must function in coordination; everyone must be receiving grace to do it. We are the household of God; we are the place where He lives; He lives in us. If we are truly His residence it seems like He would be able to get the chores done through those whom He lives in. If someone doesn't do his chore, then of course someone else has to do it for him. All of the hundreds of communities of the 60s and 70s fell apart because no one would take the garbage out. No one wanted to do more than his share, because that's how they were in the world and then they brought everything they were in the world into their communities. But *we* bring a new life into the community, a new existence — old things have passed away and all things have become new.

We cannot come here and hold up holy hands if we know we haven't been doing our part. It's actually destroying the edah to be slack in this. Let's do our chore before we do anything

else. Unless we do our own chore, we might as well not do our industry job because unless our house is orderly and taken care of, it's all going to fall apart anyway. Let's do our part in keeping this house a place where we can welcome our guests into, and when they come in, they will have nothing against us. You don't have to go past the front yard to tell whether there is filth in a house.

Also, I heard that in this tribe, you all don't eat one meal together. But we want to take our meals together, not on the run because we want to make the payments. We want to take our meals *together*. 1 Pet 2:12 — Let your behavior, your lifestyle, your whole way of doing things, be excellent among the Gentiles so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds glorify God in the day of visitation." Especially since we live among the Gentiles we must do this so they can observe us. But they can't hear our words if they can smell our house.

We cannot have paint chipping and crud building up. Everything has to be kept clean.

### **Sextons**

If we *are* ever worthy of starting the race, there will be a sexton in every house, taking care of the house, inside and outside. Bigger houses will have more than one sexton. The sexton will be keeping things painted, and floors polished, etc., because in community you wear out the house faster, so it has to be kept up.

If we can't keep our house clean, we have to shut the doors. We cannot pretend to be a community if we are not keeping our houses clean and cared for, regardless of having to make a living. That is one of the things that can weigh you down — the cares of making a living — when you neglect everything else to make a living.

We don't want to see this negatively, but positively. We don't want to have rules, we don't want to have Bible verses hung up all over the place — we don't need that because we have the Spirit.

Crud smells — you have to do something about it. Sometimes people's breath smells because of crud in their teeth or on their tongue, and you have to get it out. Or it's in their stomach and then you take vinegar and it helps the stomach. You have to *do something about it*.

People will do the chores they have because they *want* to be a light. And if they don't do it, go to them and talk to them about it. It says that if someone has a fault, just go to him. Then if he doesn't receive you, take someone else with you...

Let's either do what 1 Pet 2:12 says or else let's not pretend to be the people of God, because if we are not doing it, we are maligning His name. It brings shame and disgrace to Him if they come in here and see this place dirty.

If God lived somewhere, what kind of place would it be? What kind of environment would it be? There would be a sexton there, keeping order. *Every* house has a sexton. It's more important than industry. If we do not have a sexton in every house, we might as well pack up our bags and leave because our Father is not with us, because He wants us to keep our house clean for the sake of the Gentiles. Because we put out freepapers and invite people to come to our house and then they come and see our dirty house and it creates a conflict in their minds.

**Grace:** When we first came here people really noticed how we were fixing up the house and taking care of it.

**Ha-emeq:** I was thinking about people and their houses and how much satisfaction they get out of taking care of it and keeping it clean. But now we don't do it for that satisfaction. Now we do it totally for another principle — for YAHSHUA, for His glory, for His name. And so now there is opposition to it because there is opposition to His glory shining out in the world. So we have to fight against that force.

**Nehemiah:** We have to see that we are the stewards of this house, we are the stewards of the Holy Spirit and we are the stewards of all He's given us.

**Darda:** We used to pick up garbage for two years and at the neighborhood meeting we used to go to they said, "Those people pick up garbage in their neighborhood. They are the best people." And now, I don't know *what* they think of us because they haven't seen us in a long time.

It really communicates love and care and peace to your brothers when you do your chore well.

*From another gathering, regarding the town meeting and picking up trash:*

We need to continue to pick up trash and go to the town meetings. There always has to be someone to make sure it continues on. Someone has to oversee these things, making sure that we don't just stop because something happens. We said we are going to pick up trash till the end of the age. We don't do it in Boston, and here we don't do it anymore. Here “John” [a Gentile] and some others do it. They're the salt and light to the edah; we're not salt and light — we're like Gentiles; we just work.

If we would go to the town meeting, we could quiet down accusations against us. Some nice couple should go to the town meeting but there has to be someone who would make sure we do it and maintain it. That's what you call good government. We cannot forget these things. We need to send people, especially the local people. The local people should be the ones who go to these meetings. *They* are the open door to the area.

I know you were really stretched, people left, people had babies, etc, and you stopped going to the town meetings and picking up trash, but we didn't stop eating, did we?

If you go to the town meeting, it's exciting if you have a paper in your hand and you think about getting that paper into the hands of some chosen one.

Everywhere we are, we always keep our neighborhood clean, always pick up the trash, because we can't live in a dirty neighborhood.

### **About Evangelism**

You remember when our Master was on the road, He saw those two men and acted like He was going to go on and they prevailed upon Him to make Him come in. It is a normal part of hospitality to prevail upon someone, begging them until they accept your invitation, urging them strongly. Lydia did it, too, in Acts. Messengers invited people with their own mouths. We invite people with our own mouths.

*Invitation* — It's an appeal, compelling them to come. They don't come by themselves; they come as a result of an *invitation*.

When we talk to people who come, let's not talk about community or the twelve tribes, but let's talk about the *cross*. We see the power of the good news when we speak it without compromise. It has to come from pure vessels. Let's have wisdom when we speak to people. Don't start out with the twelve tribes and the 144,000 — things they are not possibly able to understand right off. Let the persecution come because of the cross, not because of lack of wisdom on our part.

We need to talk from time to time about the guests who come so that we can know where they are and what they need to hear, so we can know the progress that is going on.