

## Being our Brother's Keeper

*After the Breaking of Bread was over (all three households from Sus were there, plus the farm), Ephraim said that we wanted to talk about something. He started to talk and then Yoneq interrupted him and made it more clear.*

**Ephraim:** In the meeting this week we spoke about some things and saw that people saw [a certain imma] taking the baby down, etc., and never said anything. We realized the other day that we need to talk about this situation, that there was really a lack in all of us, many of us, to take initiative to do what was in our heart. So we wanted to talk about this while we are all together here tonight, so that whoever was living at Tabitha's Place back then can express ... and we can learn from that.

We are *all* fallen, we have all been affected by the world — having grown up in it, and some people are not as instinctively motherly as others. So that's why we have to make up for each other's lacks. So if we see a wife or a mother or a father or anyone doing something that we think might be a little bit, uh, strange, *help them*, go to them and say, “Hey, I don't know whether your baby should be down here playing out in the road.” Don't be afraid to say, “I don't think you should let your baby crawl out in the road.”

So when you see a baby crawling out in the road and the mother is letting him crawl out in the road, we ought to say, “I don't think you should let your baby do that.” Or with anything — just go to them and help them see that they need to dress their baby a little bit warm when they take it out in cold weather or in drafts, like in the lodge with drafts coming in, or to not expose it to drafts when it suffers with a fever.

And she, the mother, maybe, was not as wise as she could have been. She bathed the baby with cold water. She didn't have any warm water. We are talking about things of this nature, things that we saw and didn't say anything about.

So it's a sin upon us as a whole body. We have to give an offering. Back in Israel when the community was in sin they had to go make a sacrifice or the community was cut off. We have an inadvertence here. If we have an inadvertent mother, we are just as inadvertent for not

going to her. We're disobedient. So let's not have this anymore. When the race begins we won't have this. We have to be ready to help one another making up for their lack.

So let's go to the parents and tell them we are sorry. Tell them, "I am sorry I didn't tell you what I really felt in my heart." The baby got sick and almost died. So we could have saved the baby from all of this trouble, going to the hospital, all the money that it cost and everything else if we had just been more responsible. The elders, the people — we're all guilty. Lev 5:1 — It's the sin of the elders and the sin of the people; if the elders don't repent, they are cut off; if the people didn't give a sacrifice, *they're* cut off — the whole *community* is cut off.

So let's always remember to be our brother's keeper. Don't be intimidated. And if you are afraid to go to them, go to an elder or an older brother or an older sister and say, "Hey, I'm really afraid to go to her and tell her that she shouldn't have her baby out in the draft." And then they'll go to her. That's love, that's what love is. If you don't do that you're not loving — you are guilty. That's what Ephraim was trying to say.

So go to those parents and apologize to them if you saw something and didn't tell them. I'm not trying to bring them down; I'm saying it's our fault, *our* fault. *We're* at fault, not you; it's us. Just like if you see someone without grace and you don't go give them grace, *you're* guilty — just as guilty as they are because you didn't go to them.

**Haggai:** A lot of times when you tell someone about something that happened they might say, "Yeah I knew, I saw it. I knew because I saw them do this and that." We saw that we don't want to do this, but if we love, like it was our own child, then we would go. But you think, well it's not my child so... but we have to love like it's our own children. But it's not only about children but about everything — like he said about grace, really make sure that everybody has grace.