

April 27, 1994, Morning Sacrifice Boston

Bitterness

Mark 11:25 — Our Father says that when we stand praying we are to forgive anyone who has wronged us so our Father will forgive us. Don't try to get revenge, but forgive even if your brother or sister doesn't come and repent to you — don't force it. It is an evil spirit working in us when we want to try to get even, to take it to court. It's a dead issue. Anyone who holds something in their heart towards another person will be rejected by our Father, Mt 6:11,12,14,15. Let's let Him take care of situations, and not lawlessly try to work things out. If we do this our sins are piling up as high as heaven and we come to a screeching halt in the Community by not forgiving. A root of bitterness will spring up in us defiling the whole Community. To not have forgiveness in our heart towards anyone is bitterness. Heb12:15-16 — The spirit of bitterness has to be excommunicated from our midst or else the person has to leave. The person who is bitter becomes counter-productive ( hindering rather than serving one's purpose). The word teaches us to be productive. If not we're not a disciple.

John 15:8 — Because a disciple is attached to the vine, he will produce much fruit (a grape vine produces much fruit). If we are a disciple we will produce much fruit, and it will be obvious to our brothers and sisters. If a person's actions leave you guessing about him, then there's a chance he is not connected to the vine (especially if he's been in the Edah for several years). Much fruit is expected of us if we are abiding in the vine.

1 John 3:6 Sin causes us to be counter-productive. If we are holding grudges, we are cut off and then everything is a struggle and we are not producing the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace . . . We are without excuse, because the heart knows its own bitterness, Pr 14:10. If we are not bearing the fruit of the Spirit, we are bearing the fruit of the flesh, Gal 5:19-21. The fruit of the Spirit is obvious, and the fruit of the flesh is too. Obvious — vivid, apparent, easily understood or perceived.

A person who has a root of bitterness working in them will be full of malice and cause factions to arise through what he communicates to his brothers and sisters. He will actually be a counter-agent in the Edah, not working for our Master, but against His purpose.

If we don't forgive others, our Father will not forgive us. What happens if we don't obey His word? We will die. We need to forgive and let ourselves be wronged — when our Master was reviled He didn't revile back. We need to have patience, uncompromising in every way (with our husbands, wives, children, the sheep). We need to respond to our children with gentleness, not grinding our teeth in anger when disciplining them. Our children will respect us if we gently bring correction to them. We use the rod and reproof, but if we use the rod more, we will lose them. And if we reprove more than we use the rod, they can't take it. We need to encourage them more than we discipline them.

Let's give our bodies as a living sacrifice without any bitterness or malice in our hearts. When we have malice towards anyone we are living in hypocrisy, holding a grudge inside. A little leaven leavens the whole loaf. If it is in you or me we'll destroy the Edah and we will be destroyed. 1 Cor 15:17 — If we are still in our sins we are counter-productive and we are not for our Master, but against Him. If we don't gather we scatter. We can't drink out of two cups. Everything we do will be defiled and polluted. We are just operating in the flesh and no one will get saved because our life doesn't reveal the glory of our Master, but our own glory. We have to be abiding in the vine to receive His grace.

Our Father wants us to improve (to grow) but our flavor never changes (even after being here for awhile) if we have these things in us.

Sameach — There is no life in death. Bitterness chokes out our life and the life others have in them. If we take it in we want to affect others, and this causes us to have a ministry of hurting our brothers and sisters in the Edah. It is a message of death that results in us losing our flavor, our fragrance. Our Master hates those who love death. Death is horrible, we should produce life with our words. We cry out for grace to resist bitterness. I have been mistreated in the past, but I cried out for the grace to give it up because I wanted to forsake and renounce it. And our Father is faithful to remind me that I gave it up if the enemy tries to recall it to my mind. I received grace to give it up and I am thankful for this. Our Father loves those who hate death.

Yonah — When we are unforgiving, our mind gets into gear and we justify the reason we feel the way we do. There is no life in having ill-will towards someone. I want to walk in the light (everything will be brought to the light eventually). I want His light to shine in my heart now. When I know I need to forgive a person I get caught up in my own reasoning. To forgive requires the help of the Holy Spirit. I can't do it on my own. If I don't forgive now, in years to come what will I do when people do evil things against me? I don't want to be a hard taskmaster when I am wronged. I want to be like our Master. I need His grace to be this way.

Our Master wants to save us from the torturers — some of us will be handed over to them, but He wants to save us. Mt 18:34. If we don't forgive from the heart we will be handed over to the torturers until the last cent is paid. The Holy Spirit communicates forgiveness from the heart (the innermost being). If we belong to Him there will be a remedy, but maybe not in this age. That's where Derush is — handed over to the torturers, outside the boundaries of His love.

We can take hope in what we've heard. His gospel means good news.