

9 March 1993, Morning Sacrifice Brazil

Community Life is Demanding

Salvation is a process. It gets down to trusting our Father, keeping our mind on the spirit, not allowing another spirit to come and accuse our brother or our God, but believing the best.

Community life/*community* — Our Savior Himself said, (the very words that came out of His mouth from His heart), that He would have a *community*, and that is what He called the *church*. The word *church* is *edah* in Hebrew. Good translations bring that out in Jer 30:20. The actual word from Hebrew means *community*. So that is what He said: "I will build my community." Nothing else is a witness like community is — a people living together — like a 'swarm' [5713 Hebrew — Strongs]. [Explain nature of a swarm.] It is the best of circumstances in every way if we are living by the spirit and, if we are not living by the spirit, it brings us back to living by the spirit because in community we can see so quickly where we are deviating. When we are getting out of that straight path, we are brought back in by our brothers and sisters. Our conscience quickens very quickly when our brothers and sisters help us see that we are getting off that path of the Holy Spirit and the word.

Community life is demanding. There is nothing more demanding than community life. It's the perfect environment for the salvation of our souls and all aspects of our personalities. Many will try to enter into the kingdom through community (Lk 13:24), but they will not be able to enter through that door. That door is not just like a door you enter a room by, but it is that narrow passage into the kingdom which requires all of our trust, all of our time, all of our energy, everything we have in us. (Eph 4:1,2,3) Sometimes we are up late and then we have to get up early to make breakfast or whatever. This narrow passage calls for faithfulness in that train of followers who remain true to our Master YAHSHUA in Rev 14 — those who are called, chosen, and who remain faithful.

Community life is demanding. Very few can enter in through that door of self-denial. Our Master said (Luke 13:24) that many will try but will not be able to enter. They will not be able. They will not draw from the grace and faith that is necessary to push you through that straight and narrow door contracted by pressure. The word 'straight', describing that passage in Mt 13 and 14, means 'pressure'; contracted by pressure; constricted. That pressure is so necessary for the salvation of our souls for each and every one of us. Luke 13:24 — "...many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to." and (v.23), very few will be saved. Acts 2:47 We are being saved if we endure. (Matt 24:13; 2 Tim 2:12) Try to enter, do your best, try, strive to enter through that gate. This is not talking about being baptized. It's talking about after you are baptized into the Body (1 Cor 12:13), and you've come into community life, the pressure that is put on you every day — in the bakery, at the woodpile, in the wood shop. It is pressure on your flesh. So if you have to crucify your flesh, do it, for you have to be in the spirit to endure.

There are many things that defile us. When you have complaint, bitterness, accusations, ill will toward your brother, things like this defile us. And when we have sin, we sense this and we are left unable to worship and praise our Master. We have to really judge ourselves right about all these things that defile us that come out when the right pressure is put on us. We have to consider this as a purifying process in order that we can be made pure, whole, in all aspects (1 Thes 5:23; Eph 4:15). That's why we have to forebear with one another, loving one another. When you see these things coming out of people, it's purifying them. Don't judge them or accuse them because of the things you see, but pray for them, forebear with them; if need be, speak to them — help them through this time. They may be self-condemned, so bring them back to the right path. (Gal 6:1-3)

You cannot find a more demanding life than community life. It is made to be demanding, designed in heaven to invent a way for God's people to be tested and tried and made worthy and compatible to our King, in order to enter into the life of the next age when our Master returns. So it demands all of our time and energy, and that we have pure thoughts. When our thoughts become impure, that defiling process starts. We know that our thoughts defile us. We have to judge our thoughts, check our thoughts, that they will not turn into accusations against our brothers — judging our brother. Mark 7:20 says that these things that come out of us are what defiles us: thoughts -- evil thoughts. (2 Cor 10:5)

We have embarked on this life and we are being tested now a little bit. We are all tested. We have pressure on us — a little bit. There's a daily pressure of everything that is going on. We have to pray and ask our Father's wisdom, what He wants us to do. Somebody asked me if I made my decision yet of what I am going to do, whether I'll go or stay. I don't make decisions for myself. A thousand thoughts come to us, (2 Cor 4:17), but we have to consult with our brothers and our Father in heaven to see what He wants us to do. I don't belong to myself. I don't make decisions for myself. I have to consult my Father and my brothers and trust them to lead me and guide me. I have to obey Him. We are all under this pressure. We don't belong to ourselves and make our own decisions but our decision is to obey Him — whatever He is saying to us, and pray that He would speak to us about the right way that we must go.

Our Master has spoken words in John 8:31 and 51 that keep us on the path of life. Like in John 8:52, our Master must have spoken more words than what was recorded in John 8:51. They say that if everything they spoke and did was recorded, it would fill up all the books in the world. That's what it says in John. So therefore everything is condensed in the gospel. He said that we will not even taste death if we obey His word. Therefore His word is a path of life for us. It is so important for us to know that. We will not taste death if we obey His word within His body, His community on earth where we live and put into practice all of His words — to love one another and think the best of one another. That's what Satan cannot manage to do: think the best. And you cannot think the best if you are in tune with Satan because he cannot think the best because he is an accuser by nature. That's where the word 'devil' comes from. He's an accuser; he's a slanderer; he thinks the worst; he prejudices. So if we allow him to have his thoughts in us, we will be prejudging our brothers — accusing them — we will be having his thoughts instead of our Father's pure thoughts. We have on one hand our flesh, and on the other hand, our spirit. YHWH Himself is the one who speaks to our spirit. And it is Satan who speaks to our flesh. So that's why we have to put our mind on the spirit and not on the flesh. If we put our mind on the spirit, it is the path of life. It is required of us to do that. That's the narrow way (Rom 8:5,6). But (v.7), if we keep our mind on the flesh, there is no way we can do it.

And so, the pressure in community will naturally expel people from us who have come in over the wall. And then it seems that they naturally go to the federal police to give an evil false report on us or speak bad about us in some way — what Satan wants them to do. This will probably happen to us for the rest of our lives. (Maybe our Father is now working it out here [in Londrina] that when people go down to the federal police, the police won't believe it anymore.) I was telling Renzo (our real estate friend) that many are attracted and if they can't come in through the door, and somehow make it over the wall, they are naturally expelled, and they naturally get offended. Satan plants them over the wall because we are so trusting (Jn 10:1) and vulnerable — sheep are that way. So they come in and we start seeing how they cause discord and have accusations. It is obvious after a while how they don't fit into the well-ordered, oiled body. We have to have oil on us or else we are only going to have friction and cause problems.

That's Satan's nature — to cause discord. Pr 15:20 tells what is an abomination to God: to cause discord in the Body. To cause discord is the worst thing because it militates against the Holy Spirit, it militates against God and what He is trying to do on earth. A person who spreads discord and strife is like a warrior against God -- because all of God's people are peacemakers (Mt 5:8). That is how you know who a son of God is -- one who creates peace — a peacemaker, he makes peace. But on the other hand, the enemy comes in and causes discord and pits people against each other. If we don't have discernment, we will be taken over by people who will come in and destroy this delicate little beginning of a body and cause a miscarriage in this early stage of our conception (here in Naphtali). So we have to pray for discernment. Satan tries to destroy us from within, and when he is unable to, then he tries from without. We have enemies from without and from within. We have to do everything possible to keep the enemies out and let them only be from without and never from within.

Thus you can see the six things that God hates (Prov 6:16-19), but the seventh is actually an abomination to Him — that is spreading discord. The antithesis of being a peacemaker is one¹ who spreads discord. So you have to pray to our Father in YAHSHUA's name, asking Him to help you, telling Him how you don't want to cause discord, you don't want to accuse your brother; ask Him to help you to judge your flesh — that you don't want to let the enemy come in and use your flesh to cause discord. If you let him, he (the enemy) will use your flesh to cause discord. He can't use your spirit. Your spirit is pure and belongs to God; it is one with Him. So you have to discern if your thoughts are of the spirit or of the flesh. And it is not easily discerned without praying that we would be pure and not defiled by anything.

So let's remember Rom 5:5 — that we love with the love that He has poured out into our hearts. He is the lamp for our feet, the light for our path and we have to have His light to walk in that path. (Lk 1:79; Ps 25:4; Isa 26:7). Let's let Him light our way, our path. Don't be illuminated by another spirit. Let's all have the same judgment, the same mind (1 Cor 1:10; Phil 2:2,3). Then the enemy cannot destroy us. All the armies of the world can surround us with atomic bombs and they can't do one thing to us if we are united in love, and they cannot destroy us, because we have a covenant with our God. If we are in peace, one accord, in unity, in peace, no strife, then the enemy can't come in because there are walls around us. A walled city, and we are all watchmen on the walls.

Proverbs 25:4,5; 20:26,27; 16:12,13

Yaqaar — It is a difficult way to follow YAHSHUA. We are going to be tested on this way. If we are guided by the spirit, we are going to have life and peace.

What he spoke was Matt 7:13,14 — The narrow way is hard, and the broad way is (not seeking Him, not seeking His wisdom), the broad way is easy -- just floating downstream, speaking in the flesh. The two paths depicted in that verse do not represent the community and the world. But those ways are in the community: the broad way and the narrow way.

¹Notice the six things that God hates, but the seventh is the person, the one who spreads discord. "He", not what he does, as the other six things that a person does, but God not only hates or detests the thing that is last mentioned, but also the one who does it is detested himself. Why is the last worse than all six mentioned before? Actually both people are detestable to Him — the one who is a false witness and one who spreads discord — which are about equal, but the last one is more deliberate. (Num 15:30,31; Tit 3:11)

Dan 12:2,3,4,9,10 -- Only the wise will understand and unseal the book and obey. The wicked will hear but they will not be able to obey — go through that door, even though they try in their own human strength, very hard, they are wicked, they are not wise. They are not purified, made spotless, and refined. They will not understand. (Matt 5:8).

Nahaliel — The narrow way is when we are under that pressure and to keep our mind on the spirit is to go for help. The flesh brings accusation. In the flesh you cannot think the best, cannot stop complaining, you can't not have accusations. A test will come upon you and you are going to be there — in the spirit or in the flesh. It's a matter of position — if you are in the spirit or the flesh, it depends where you are. If you are in the flesh, it is going to fall on you. (Rom 8:7) But if you are in the spirit, it can't fall on you. In the flesh you have no protection. But if you are in the spirit, He is going to help you. But the flesh is hostile to God. You can feel it. You wake up in the morning and your flesh wants something else. But our spirit is connected to our Father, is one with our Father. That's where our mind has to be — with Him, not on the flesh.