

## The Empty Chair

Tonight I am going to tell you a wonderful story so we won't be senseless and not know what is going on. Where did we find that song before the story, "M'nish ta na, ha lala hasay, machol hallelut"? Maybe it came from the Jews, because they have a big celebration at Passover and they have the youngest child ask the question, "What makes this night different than any other night?"

If you go to one of their houses on Passover, all over New York City, say, you will find this empty chair. If you asked, "What is it for?" They would answer, "It is for Eliyah." They would say, "Oh yes, our people always leave an empty chair in case he comes." They even made that pretty song we dance to sometimes, called, "Eliyahu," because they want him to come.

So at these special gatherings they have an empty seat. It is even set with food, and some Jews also have the tradition of leaving the front door open in case Eliyah wants to come in. It is like a sign to him, "You're welcome here. Please come in!" So, if you understand why, you can tell them why he never comes there and that chair always remains empty. You can tell them where he is and why you know he is there. That is what I want you to learn from this story tonight, so listen carefully and be wise.

During the days our Master was on the earth, He sent out His disciples. Kepha and all the rest of them went out talking to people about the Kingdom of God. They came back all excited from their walk like our brothers do. He told them, "come on, brothers, let's find a place to relax and you can tell me all about your walk."

So they went out and found a nice place on a hill, on some nice grass, where they could sit down and talk. Soon they heard the sound of voices, and it didn't surprise them. There were voices from this direction, and from that direction. You see, you could hear the voices quite well because normally it was quiet on the hills. One of the disciples asked Yahshua, "Should we leave, try to get away before they all get here?" And He said, "No, let's stay." He liked the people.

Then someone saw them and called out, "Yahshua! I've been looking for you." Soon others were calling, "Yahshua, I hear He's over here." Then more calls, from every direction, "Yahshua, Yahshua!" That name was echoing over the hills. And pretty soon they were surrounded, not just a few people, but by a multitude.

So He talked to them all that day, teaching them, and when it was getting late, one of the disciples said to Yahshua, "shouldn't we send them home? It is getting late, and they have quite a ways to go, and there is not enough food for them here by any means."

Yahshua didn't want to send them home hungry, and you know all about this story, how He had them sit down by fifties and feed them. It was all from that lunch that little boy shared. The disciples kept breaking the bread and kept feeding the people. It was so amazing to them; they couldn't figure out where all this bread was coming from in their baskets. After

they ate our Master taught us a very important lesson about waste. He hated to waste food, and so He sent his disciples out to collect the leftovers, and there were twelve baskets full! He knew what came from our Father was precious and shouldn't be wasted. He wanted us to know that.

Then He gathered the disciples together and asked them, "Who do people say that I am?" They gave different answers, Some say Yochanan the Baptizer, some say Eliyah, some say Jeremiah the prophet." Then He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Kepha spoke right up and said boldly, "Why, you are the Son of the Living God!"

Our Master told him his revelation came right from the Father Himself, then He said, "Don't tell anyone."

After that, He called Kepha and Yochanan and Yacob, the sons of thunder, and told them to come with Him. All the disciples there wished they could go with Him too, but He had only chosen three. It was hot going up that hill. Up and up they went until they came to the very top. There our Master began to seek our Father, like He often did. The disciples, especially these three, were really energetic men. They didn't tire easily, but sometimes when there was no action going on, they got drowsy. They did this time too, and then our Master was calling out with all His heart and they looked over they saw His face changing. It was starting to shine. Then His clothes became whiter than any launderer could make them, whiter than any bleach could possibly get them.

Then the disciples saw two other men with Yahshua, and it was very important who they saw. Who do you think it was, Shem? "Two angels." Well, they seemed like angels, but who were they, Shear Yashub? "Moses and Eliyah." That's right, Shear Yashub knew who they were! The disciples wanted to get closer to this amazing sight and find out what they were saying to Yahshua.

Now, what does Moshe stand for to our people? [*This was a hard one for the children*]. Moshe stands for the Law. He is the Law embodied. This is bar Mitzvah stuff here. If you could take the law and make it into a person, all the wisdom and compassion and justice of the Law, all the reasons our Father wants you to be sons and daughters of the commandments, you would find that in Moshe. That is what it means that he is the embodiment of the law. Asher, what do you know especially in the Law? "The Ten Commandments."

What does Eliyah stand for? The prophets! Together, Moshe and Eliyah stood for the Law and the Prophets! The Law was so wonderful, but no one could keep it. Then the prophets came along and prophesied that the day would come when the Law would no longer be on the outside of people's hearts, no longer on tablets of stone, but that one day it would be written on the hearts of God's people. So, Moshe and Eliyah were telling our Master that He would have to die in Jerusalem and be raised from the dead, then it would be possible for everything the prophets prophesied to come about. But it couldn't come about until then.

These three, they knew - they knew that Yahshua's death was the focal point, the center of the whole universe. They were there encouraging Him that His death was going to be the

fulfillment of everything, all that they and the other men of God in the Old Covenant had lived for. Just think of all that was on Moshe's heart! Just that one time alone when the serpents had come because of the people's disobedience and he had made the bronze serpent, and whoever looked at it when it was lifted up had lived. How he had prayed for the people, crying out that they wouldn't be destroyed.

And there was Eliyah, representing all that was on the hearts of the prophets, all their labor among a people who hardly ever seemed to understand. Sometimes it seemed to the prophets that they were men just beating the air, like their lives were in vain. How much they longed to understand all they prophesied, and how much they wanted what they did prophesy from their God's heart to come about! They were encouraging Him that all that had been on the hearts of all the prophets couldn't come about until the perfect Lamb of God was offered as a sacrifice. Then His people could be forgiven. They could be in that forgiven place where the Law could be written on their hearts, and they could do it, they could obey the heart of the Law.

Then it seemed like they were finishing talking to our Master and it looked like Moshe and Eliyah were leaving. So the disciples went over and begged our Master to not let them leave. They said, "we'll get tents and we can all spend the night together." All of a sudden a great cloud started coming down, and I don't know what it was like but the disciples sensed something very important and serious about to happen. It was scary. Then a BIG voice said, "This is my beloved Son, Listen to Him!"

They fell on their faces - it was too much! Then our Master came over to them and touched them on the shoulder, and they looked up, and everything was really clear - the cloud was gone. It says, when they looked up, "All they saw was Yahshua." Someday, that will be all we will see - Yahshua.

As they were going down the mountain, they started to talk about the amazing things that had just happened. The disciples asked Him, "Why do the scribes say, 'Eliyah must come first'? Why are people looking for him?" Yahshua answered them and said, "Eliyah is coming and will restore all things." Then He said, "And he has come and they treated him really bad." Then they said to one another, "He is talking about Yochanan the Baptizer." And they thought about what He said, that he was coming and would restore all things.

So our Master died just like Moshe and Eliyah said. The people couldn't keep the law on their own. Something had to happen so they could be in a forgiven place and have new hearts. He was the perfect Lamb of God. When that happened, then the spirit of Eliyah could come. When he comes he is going to restore three things. They are:

- 1) To turn the hearts of the fathers to the hearts of the children;
- 2) To turn the attitude of the disobedient children (and fathers) to the attitude of the righteous;
- 3) To restore the 12 tribes.

The Jews are waiting for Eliyah to come so Messiah can come. They know Eliyah has to come first. So, we are waiting for Yahshua to come, Benjamin? Yes. But Eliyah has to come first, doesn't he? Has the spirit of Eliyah come? Hadashah, you tell us. [*She had drunk the Victory Cup because that week she had continued turning her heart to her parents, Hannah and Benaiah*]. Yes. Why? Because he is restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children.

Have we seen the attitude of the disobedient turn to the attitude of the righteous? Have we seen that, Asher? Yes. So, do we need an empty chair at our celebrations. No! He has come. Where is Eliyah? Can you tell those Jews in New York City where Eliyah is, Shear Yashub? Yes, he is in the community. Amazing! Yes, he is - he is where his people are. You have something that people want to hear. You can tell them about it because Eliyah has to come before our Master comes.

Shem, is the spirit of Eliyah here? Yes. Can you say that from your own experience? Is your abba's heart turning towards you? Yes. Is your heart turning towards your abba's? Yes.

What Kepha, Yochanan and Yacob saw was a vision. You see, our Master didn't come to destroy the Law, but to fulfill it. Kepha remembered that day and what he had heard for the rest of his life. He wrote about it later on. Listen: *For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Sovereign Yahshua ha-Mashiyach, but we were eyewitnesses of His glory. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory. "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased."* (2 Peter 1:16-17)

You children will see visions. You will see things that will make the revelation we are receiving really clear. And that's the story for tonight.

**Eben ben Chazaq** : I saw how much of a miracle it is for Eliyah to come here. People have waited for thousands of years for him. Our parents are turning their hearts toward us, and our hearts are turning towards our parents.

**Wayne** : Where I grew up I heard all about the spirit of Eliyah and what he was to do. But as I grew up I saw that in spite of the words, it wasn't happening. It was one of the reasons I left that denomination. When I came here, I saw that it was happening. I saw that the spirit of Eliyah was here.

**Naharah bat Andrew Lamb** : I want to turn my heart to my parents so I can love their God.

**Jeremiah ben Racham** : Even though Eliyah has come we have to turn our wills to our parents. We can't be passive about it. That's what I want to do.

**Yowceph** : I am thankful we know Eliyah is here because Malachi 4:6 is being fulfilled.

**Parats ben Andrew Lamb** : I saw how the spirit of Eliyah has come in our midst.

**Shem ben Racham** : I am thankful the spirit of Eliyah has come.

**Racham** : I am thankful for what my sons said and that I have been able to turn my heart to my children, stopping the cycle of sin that has destroyed my family for generations. I am thankful the next generation is going to be a lot healthier, but it had to start somewhere.

**Benaiah** : My vision has been strengthened about why our Master needed to go through death for.

**Aram ben Takif** : I want our Master to come back. He made it clear the spirit of Elijah has to come first. It's been an extremely hard struggle and I want to do my part and see the nation brought to birth.

**Tahorah Shelig bat Deborah** : I saw through the whole story how it's so simple! We can turn our hearts to our parents. People encouraged me to talk to my imma a while ago when our relationship wasn't so good. She told me, "Lydia, all I want you to do is to talk with me, be open with me." When I did it, I found it wasn't so hard. We can do it!

**Keziah bat Ahimelech** : Violent men take the kingdom by force. I want to be violent.

**Ma'aminah** : I saw why it is so important this happens. It is for the 144,000, so they can be wholehearted. Everyone knows about PK's and MK's, preacher's kids and missionary kids. People devote their whole lives to the mission field or church and their children fall away. The same thing was happening to us. But our Father is bringing us back. We can do it!

**Hadashah bat Benaiah** : I am thankful for what Lydia said.

**Asher ben Yoceph** : I am thankful for the whole story. We can tell people the truth about where Elijah is.

**Anna bat Khemdah** : We can't just sit back but we have to strive to turn our hearts to our parents. I want to strive to turn my heart to my imma.