

January 21, 1992

Foolishness and Disrespect

Greetings from Sameach of the Tribe of Judah:

I send you this letter in our Master's name, in hopes that other children could benefit from something discovered in my household.

A few years ago, Luke Wiseman and Amaz were exposed for intentionally passing gas in the face of another person. This was dealt with on the household level and we could assume at the time we would never see this done again.

The other morning, one of the adult men of my house was resting on the couch when Amaz purposely walked over to where this adult was resting and passed gas in this man's face. Amaz went on to laugh about this, thinking he had done something funny. The adult was not totally aware of his actions and thought that he had passed gas accidentally. One of the other young men told Amaz that he was wrong, and Amaz made a small apology for what he had done. The brother was made aware of what had happened and so he came to speak with me about Amaz.

I put Amaz in custody and at our supper table the household, along with all our children, went over what Amaz had done. We had children whose ages were from 3 to 5 years old at the meeting . We asked them why we would have to judge someone and they said because someone is disobedient or foolish or disrespectful. We spoke with the children about how we were going to hear some things that happened, and based upon what we heard we would have to determine if something was wrong with what Amaz had done. Our children were asked what do you do when you have gas, and it was in all of them to say, "Excuse me."

I had shared that if you brought home the most worthless person from off the streets of Boston and allowed them to eat at our home, that they would not have done such a rude, disrespectful thing as what Amaz had done.

My concern over the whole issue is heightened by the fact that Amaz displayed such disrespect, but also I want to get to the root of this in him, a root that was obviously not dealt with years ago when this first episode occurred. You can see what Yoneq has spoken to us about reaching the hearts of our children and helping them be cleansed of their sin. I spoke with Hakam and he was distressed about the reflection Amaz had upon his life and he spoke with much pain about how he would pray that I would get to the bottom of the whole thing with Amaz.

I am sending this letter, not to shame Amaz, but to support the teachings that have come to us over the years. I am left thinking that our children, if not dealt with, will continue on with foolishness, and when the time is right the acts of rebellion will again surface.

The other night we had a young man come with about seven gunshot wounds. Despite the best care given to him, he later died in surgery. I went to bed late and was awakened to the news of what Amaz had done. I was thinking that somehow the person who killed that man had probably never learned the value of another person. He didn't know that man was created in the very image of God and that a precious life had ben given in order to ransom man from the fall. In his youth his foolishness had never been dealt with and he grew up to be a murderer.

I hope no other children would do such a foolish and disrespectful thing as passing gas in someone else's face, and that if they have been influenced by Amaz or anyone else that they would repent of this.

It's been several days and Amaz is still in custody. During this time another child came to me and said Amaz did this to him three days before, also. I told this child that he should have come forth sooner with what Amaz had done, and that our children should help one another and not be a source of stumbling, but rather a source of strength.

Your servant,

Sameach