

10 July 1993, Breaking of Bread      Manasseh

The Gift; Judging Ourselves

*(With a story about the Cross)*

The gift of the Holy Spirit is irrevocable — it will never be taken away. We had three people receive the gift of the Holy Spirit today [a young unmarried couple who came to us through a Grateful Dead paper (Tom and Mary Jo, and Phineas)]. This week, Mary Jo was a gift to us, wanting to give Tom up for a sacrificial offering for YAHSHUA — the dearest thing to her, more dear than anything else — it was Tom. Tom was everything to her but she saw YAHSHUA was so marvelous, so great. If she had loved Tom more than our Master, she would not have been worthy of YAHSHUA. But she gave Tom up — actually gave him up in her heart. She is such a precious gift.

There is nothing more wonderful than the gift of the Holy Spirit. And also, she is a gift to us. A gift is a present. When we give our bodies as a living sacrifice, we give our Master a present — we present ourselves to Him. It is a present, a gift to our Master. We give Him a present of ourselves every morning and every evening — of our bodies so He can use us — we give our spirit, soul, and body as a present. She is a present to us, but her new life is a present to our Father and our Master YAHSHUA because of His gift to us.

*Gift* means to make a gift or present it. It is a sacrificial offering — a gift to YHWH. Now she is going to be giving her new life to YHWH every day. It is no mistake that Paul said in Rom 12:1,2 to present your bodies as a living sacrifice. The Hebrew word for this is Maw-taw-nah with the accent on the nah. Mattanah — a gift, a present — she is a sacrificial offering to our Master YAHSHUA. [Ha mattanah ha ruach ha kodesh — the gift of the Holy Spirit; ha mattanah ha emunah — the gift of faith]

When people express their hearts to be saved, if we are led to believe that they are sincerely giving their lives to our Master, and they actually are not, it will become obvious in time. It will become obvious because the works of the flesh are obvious. So therefore we receive people at their word and trust that they have faith. And if our Father did not entrust Himself to them, it shows up in time. If as far as we know and as far as our Father allows us to understand, they have faith, we cannot hold them back.

Our Master came to fulfill the law. The year of Jubilee never happened. Faith establishes the law. Only by faith can we fulfill the law.

**ha-emeq:** By faith we can see things that aren't seen — spirits that come to us. Mattannah changed this week because she started to receive faith. One day she looked different — she saw something unseen. And us, when we go into darkness, it's like you have your hand over your face and then, somehow faith comes to you and you can see what's unseen, what's working, and you can repent and be restored. If you could put flesh and blood on those spirits you would hate them and want to get them away from you and you could make them go away from you in the name of YAHSHUA. But you cannot see them. But when faith came to you, you could see it and then you want to renounce them.

**Shimonah:** If we'll cross that line (it's a thing of the heart), then He'll help us and provide a way of escape always.

**Hakam:** Last night when Ben Nabiy expressed his heart about Amatz and then something in Amatz broke and he started to cry and run away and Yoneq stopped him and Amatz said, "I don't know what you're going to do with me." And Yoneq said, "We're going to forgive you." I realized that that's all our Father is waiting for, is for us to break so He can forgive us. That's His heart towards us. And our heart to one another.

### Judging Ourselves

We are like a channel — we can express His character, His Spirit.

We only can progress if we are judging ourselves properly, taking the time to carry out a thorough investigation. There are no excuses, we are to be in perfect unity. It is a serious thing to walk into the room. You can only enter if you have thanks in your heart. In the same way, no prayer can be heard without thanks. No sacrifice can be accepted without incense. Are the Father and Son in perfect unity? Yes. Has the blood been provided? Yes. Has grace been provided? Yes. There are no excuses — we *must* judge ourselves. In the old covenant, only the priests shared the joy of the peace offering. But now we are all in the priesthood; we all partake of the peace meal. It is a thanksgiving meal, but there is no thanksgiving without a good conscience. If there is guilt, there is no thanksgiving. That is what this is all about.

### A Story — The Cross

Our Master was raised up in a little village. You had to go down a road to get there. When you wanted to go somewhere from that village, you had to go down that road. You could go up on a hill there in Nazareth and look out and you could see other villages not too far away. Sometimes our Master would go there and take walks and talk to his Abba. He was already starting to think. Even when he was Hannan's age (4), he was different, he thought about things, things bothered him. Sometimes he heard about a cousin he had who lived farther away — Yohannan. His imma would say, "Yohannan is really special too like you are. We need to watch Yohannan and see what he does, because Yohannan is special."

Sometimes the family would have a big gathering and YAHSHUA would see Yohannan there. They were about the same age. They knew something was different. Then one day when YAHSHUA was eight years old, there came a day when his abba said to him, "We need to go over to the next village to get some things over there. But it's not a really good day to travel because there's trouble in the land."

You know the Romans were in control there. They were in control of the country. And there are some people in the country who were called Zealots who were causing trouble because they wanted to take over the country. His abba said to him, "They're Israelis like us, but they want to take over by force and they're getting all these plans together, they're having little meetings all over in different parts of the country saying, 'We've got to take over and rebel against the Romans by force'. They're called Zealots. They're really on fire. They're super-excited guys. They've got zeal in a violent way. And their headquarters are in the next town, and that's where we have to go over to get supplies. So we're going to go over there — because actually they're on our side — but if you're not really super zealous like they are, sometimes they might give you trouble."

And right about this time the man who was leading the Zealots got caught by the Romans, along with a big group of his men. So YAHSHUA and his abba had gone over to the next town to get the supplies. And the Romans caught these Zealots and they wanted to put a stop to them once and for all. So they had a big mass crucifixion. They made many, many crosses and they lined these Zealots up on each side of the road on crosses. This happened when YAHSHUA was about eight years old, very near his own village. And so when his abba and him came back from the other village, they had to go right down that road. Yoceph had to explain to YAHSHUA what was happening. YAHSHUA was just like you, he understood things.

"OK, YAHSHUA," Yoceph said, "it's not going to be nice what you see. There are crosses, that's what they crucify people on. That's what they torture people on. They nail people to it. It's going to be awful when you see it. It's the most awful, the most painful way to die. The Romans had to

think a long time to think up a cross. And they're going to make sure they crucify all these people all along the road so you and everybody else sees it so that you'll never think of being a Zealot after that because everyone is going to be scared."

So YAHSHUA walked with his abba down the road. He heard all those men screaming and crying — crying out in pain, cursing and swearing. YAHSHUA saw it, all of it. He had to walk through there. Then he walked back home. YAHSHUA saw the cross in its painful reality. It went deep into his heart.

But then he just went back to work in the carpenter shop and thought about things. And time passed and Yoceph died and he just kept working and he kept thinking and he'd go to the synagogue and he'd hear many words. Then one day he was about 30 years old and he heard, "Did you hear? Yohannan, your cousin, is down at the river. He's baptizing; he's calling Israel to repent. He's crying out." YAHSHUA said, "It's time." He closed the door to the carpenter shop for the last time. "It's time." He didn't have any other thought. It's time.

He walked down the road and he walked to the river. Yohannan saw him coming up.

YAHSHUA walked right up to Yohannan. He and Yohannan looked each other right in the eye. It's time.

"I want you to baptize me," YAHSHUA said. But Yohannan looked at YAHSHUA and said, "It's I who need to be baptized by you and you're coming to me?" But YAHSHUA said, "Just leave it like it is for the time. It's fitting that we should in this way do all the righteous commands." So Yohannan gave in and baptized him. That was the beginning.

He walked, talked to people, preached to them. And then one day not long after that, he was walking along and said something that shocked everybody and even maybe shocked himself when he said it, but he said to the people, "No one who loves father and mother more than me is worthy of me. Anyone who doesn't forsake sister and brother to follow me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take up his...cross.. anyone who doesn't take up his ...*cross*... and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me."

What is he saying here? Right away he knew. He remembered about the cross — pain and torture and screaming — death that criminals die, the worst death. What is he *saying*?

"Anyone who doesn't take up his *cross* and follow me is not worthy of me." Take up his cross? Not long after that, he got a message, "Your cousin Yohannan is put in prison." Oh no. And then not long after that, the message came that Yohannan was killed in the prison. And then YAHSHUA wanted to go away by himself and just think. It's coming — the cross. Nobody wants to follow YAHSHUA.

Then he was taken by the evil men. They questioned him, talked to him, beat him, hurt him.

Then they let him outside and there it was: a cross. "Pick up that cross, YAHSHUA, carry it." It was so heavy. He hurt so bad. He picked up his cross, put it on his shoulder, and started to walk. Nobody can follow YAHSHUA unless he picks up his cross. Nobody can follow YAHSHUA without picking up the cross. It wasn't religious words to him. One day you'll have to take up a cross. Can you do it, can you take up a cross? To die on it?

Others were there also, where he was nailed to the cross. They were screaming and yelling. But what was YAHSHUA doing? He prayed. What did he say? He said, "Forgive them." From the cross, YAHSHUA cried out, "Forgive them." And the blood that poured out from his side is now what washes them clean.

Now we have to take up the cross, die and then keep on taking it up every day after that — dying to everything that holds you back. That's the story of the cross. How YAHSHUA saw the cross

before and then when his time came, how he died on it for us. That's what we're remembering tonight, how YAHSHUA died on the cross for us.