

Lawlessness

Lawlessness is the last thing dealt with by the Lord, because it is effective in the life of a man even when he is doing everything that he knows is right and pleasing to the Lord. In fact, lawlessness at its origin (the hidden root of lawlessness) can only be rooted out when a man is already doing everything in his power to be righteous. He is then in a position for the Lord to expose the only thing left that could cause him to stumble - lawlessness. When a man has a good conscience (fulfilling all of the commandments) he still is subject to the lawlessness within unless his heart has already been sensitized (circumcised) by experiencing many types of stumbling caused by lawlessness, he will not be able to avoid drifting into a lawless deed - entirely unintentionally.

This man has no desire whatsoever to be lawless. He has done everything possible to keep his conscience clear, and is "confident" that the Lord is with him. Then, at some point, the situation that he has walked by faith into, (by faith because his conscience was just a little unclear, but he didn't know if it was just opposition, or a legal conscience, or what begins to crumble around him. The man begins to recognize that he has walked into the land of destruction! But how did he get there? As the dust clears from all of the fallen rubble of good reasons, and right principles, (which had been the dominant scenery along this path) the signposts that warned of lawlessness emerge along the trail behind him. They were there all of the time - the lack of peace in a sister when he mentioned his plans at a table - the hint of unsureness in a trustworthy brother, as he explained the vision behind his project - the offering of an alternate (but less appealing to himself) course of action by a brother who said that he would never do it that way, but that didn't mean you weren't free to go ahead.

What will this fallen man do? He blew it completely. He had expressed such "faith" at the tables concerning his plan. Now look at what a disaster everything turned out to be! The man is at a point of crisis. All of his spirituality has seemed to accomplish nothing - indeed, worse than nothing. He is a total spiritual clutz! He needs salvation in the worst way.

If this man is of the seed of Abraham, he cries out to the God whom he has always cried out to. (The very God who has seemingly allowed him to fall into such a humbling circumstance). He begs for mercy, and cries out for the grace to confess his sin to his brothers and sisters as he turns, and begins trudging back to the narrow path that they are on. In his severely weakened state, he continues to follow his conscience (even though it did not keep him from falling in such an awful way). And he does confess his great sin to his brothers and sisters. They breathe sighs of relief in their spirits, as a burden is lifted from the body of Messiah, and they joyfully receive their brother back into fellowship.

No mention has been made in this account, of the other possible course of action that this man could have taken. He has already headed down the broad road. At the point of crisis (when he began to realize his mistake), a host of deceiving spirits were at his side offering every manner of false comfort. If this man's heart had not been set on Zion (from which he had strayed), he would have lifted his ashamed head just enough to listen to one of these false comforters that were telling him that his sin was not as bad as it looked. ""For he was indeed justified by both reason, and principle in this, that, and this other area. But this man knew

better. He knew that his only justification was in the blood of Yeshua, which was available in abundance (and only) in the narrow way of Yeshua which lay behind him. He knew that his only realistic choice was to return to that path.

This man was restored to fellowship. He again rejoiced in the salvation of his God. The next time that this man felt uneasy in his conscience, he stopped, and examined himself, and his motives most critically. He considered the thoughts, and hearts of his brothers, as more valid than his own. He did not fall in this same way as before. Yet he will fall. For the mystery of lawlessness is great. And it will rear its head in every conceivable way, until that righteous man (who gets up every time that he falls - no matter how horribly or repeatedly) is completely sensitized to the ways of lawlessness within him.

Lawlessness is the last thing dealt with by the Lord because it is effective in the life of a man even when he is doing everything that he "knows" is right and pleasing to the Lord. Lawlessness can only be dealt with in a man when he does everything in his power to be righteous, but is still exposed to be wrong because of the lawlessness still in him. This exposure, and intense suffering is what sensitizes a man's heart to lawlessness. It is what makes his heart sensitive circumcised. Taking the lawless path, and being spanked - his heart begins to recognize the paths of lawlessness a little bit.

When a king sets his seal upon a letter, it is a sign to all, that the letter contains word from the king, and nothing else (for the seal would have to be broken in order for anything else to be substituted, or added). A man who has been raised up in the body of Messiah, and does rightly according to everything he has learned, still cannot be sealed until lawlessness is completely dealt with in his life. For until he can judge himself completely, he is not worthy of the king's seal. For the seal would be made to be meaningless if the man sealed were to do one lawless deed - one thing not expressly from the king.

Paul said that we are living epistles. We cannot be sealed with the king's seal until our lawless ways are dealt with. We do not yet carry the authority that we shall carry as sealed servants of the Most High - doing nothing on our own initiative, but rather, following the Lamb wherever He goes. Having only the personality, and motivation of Yeshua.

Certainly the kingdom will never be brought in unless there is a people sealed as a witness to all the earth of the pure gospel of Yeshua. ("gospel of Yeshua" = "good news of Salvation") all flesh must have received a personal (living) letter from its Creator - with no doubt as to the letter's authority - before righteous judgment can be made of the earth. The seal that the Lord will place upon a servant is the sign to all that this man is completely covered. This servant does nothing from his own, or another spirit's initiative. His forehead is sealed because his head belongs to the King of Kings. (That is why we have nothing to fear from being beheaded (for the sake of the gospel) - for no one can take from the king that which is the king's.

Servants of the Most High God will be beheaded for the very reason that they "do nothing from their own initiative." Religious and governmental men alike shall say of us, "Look, these men have no original thought. They only speak what they've heard. Their heads are not their own, so let us cut them off! For, to the spirit of this age, a man's head is of no earthly

good unless it thinks for itself (as Satan did when he accused his Creator of not being his Creator, and of having no authority over him).

The fall of Adam occurred as Adam began to think for himself. This naturally placed him under the headship of the king of think-for-yourself. This is part of the mystery of lawlessness - when a man "thinks for himself" HE IS ACTUALLY EXHIBITING THE HEADSHIP OF SATAN. He thinks that he is being independent - and so he is! He is independent from everything except the one who spreads independence. That man is under the anointing of "the independent one" and cannot escape unless he repents and becomes dependent on the Messiah - on the Messiah whose Spirit lives in His church. What a man has come to call, "thinking for himself," is actually "thinking against himself," - if his thinking is not in line with the thoughts of Messiah.

The father of lies has brought it about in the hearts of men, to equate independence with freedom. Nothing could be further from the truth. To be independent is to be the slave of the one who is independent (Satan). To be free, is to be the slave of the one who is free (Yeshua), and who liberates you to be His friend (as you have proved your faithfulness to Him as a slave just as Joseph did to Potiphar, and Pharaoh).

Rinsing with cold water after our showers, allows us to experience the "night of weeping" that comes before the "joy in the morning." After the cold water is removed, we experience the warmth of being normal, and we put on our clean clothes as wedding garments - clean and spotless as our conscience is after being obedient to the apostles teaching (to rinse in cold water). That teaching has allowed us to experience this suffering and joy, as a preparation for the final suffering and joy that is to come - the Tribulation after which comes (if we endure the Tribulation) our Savior, and King, Yeshua!