

20 January 1993, Morning Sacrifice Brazil
Manners; Submit to God

Isa 49:6 — It is going to have to be a big light to light up South America, not a 5-watt bulb like we use in the corridors to save energy. We have to produce the fruit of the kingdom in advance of its coming. We have to be able to see that that tree is a kingdom tree. How would you know? It produces the fruit of the kingdom. That's Mt 21:43. The end of the age (Mt 24:14) will come about through the test of Mt 21:43. That nation, that people has to be a witness, an attestation of the kingdom. (Isa 49:6; Mt 21:43; Mt 24:14).

I'm going to read a few things from Ecclesiasticus:

Ecc'cus 31:12 — "If you are sitting down at a lavish table, don't display, exhibit, your greed." If you do, it exposes your heart since greed comes forth from the heart. Don't display it. You need to judge it and guard yourself from that. "Don't say, "Man, look at all this food!" Remember it is bad to have greedy eyes. Is there any creature more wicked than the eye? Don't reach out for anything your host has his eye on, or elbow him at the dish or vie for advantage at the serving place. Eat what is offered you like a well brought up person — not an uneducated one. Don't wolf your food down." Don't be voracious — eager to consume great amounts of food with insatiable appetite, like a ravenous animal or taking it by force like raping. "For politeness sake, be the first to stop. Don't act the glutton or you'll give offense." A glutton is one who eats or consumes immoderately with an inordinate desire, exceeding reasonable limits — more than you need, unrestrained, disorderly. "When you are invited someplace, if you are sitting at a table, don't help yourself before the others do." Because you are supposedly a disciple of Messiah and you hang Him up to public shame if you do. We have to learn these things here, at home. It has to be in our heart and then when we are invited out, we will take our heart out there. Otherwise you will hang Him up to public shame — you will become an enemy of the cross that crucifies the flesh. But you are an enemy of the cross that crucifies the flesh if you do these things — you are an enemy of God and His cross. "A little is enough for a well-bred person. Be moderate in all your activities and illness will not overtake you." (Ecc'cus 31:12-22)

Ecclesiasticus 32:1 talks about when you are the host. "Don't let it go to your head. Be like everyone else, see that everybody is happy and then sit down yourself. See to it that everyone has a good time. Don't harass.

Ecclesiasticus 32:7 — "Speak, you who are younger in the Body, when you must, but twice at the most — and then only when questioned." This is when you go out somewhere but we are supposed to practice here. "Keep to the point, say much in few words. Do not behave as if you were others equal, do not make frivolous remarks when someone else is speaking."

You can see what maturity level we are at. Whatever maturity level you are at, maintain it, and continue to progress.

Now, turn to Phil 3:10-19. Paul was concerned about certain people in the Body who were enemies of the cross, whose God was their stomach — their appetite. He was weeping over it because they didn't control their appetite. The main point is verse 10, of course, is that they will be unable to attain to the first resurrection. This is because the way their soul is now is how it will be then, and He cannot have people in the kingdom who are enemies of the cross.

So vs.10-17 tell us how we may know Him to the extent that we may share His resurrection in the next age. But v.11 does not describe the gentiles, but one of us acting like the gentiles who do not know Him. In some things we have to pick up the cross and crucify our flesh and not act the glutton. We must not be an enemy of the cross. It is a very serious thing that we would take the

cross to our own sensations and sensual pleasures. Otherwise become ravenous — taking it by force — because of your own appetite you become an animal without any sensitivity. This is a word of instruction. We have to be a disciple to learn and progress. We don't want to be enemies of the cross. If we have been, let's repent.

It's better when we go to a banquet or celebration, especially outside, if you see a splendid table, that's wonderful, but don't say, "Wow, look at all that food!" Everyone will see the table, and compliments will go to the host. A stingy host is resented everywhere. But don't show your ignorance and ill-bred habits, but instead represent Messiah. Don't overeat. It's better to take a knife to your throat instead of overeat. It's better to just go ahead and kill yourself.

James said that we must live as if the enemy is already defeated. The enemy is always working against disciples. But we know from Revelations that they overcome him by forgiveness — which they found in the blood of YAHSHUA, and by their testimony, and by not loving their own life. But before the enemy will flee, we must submit to God (James 4:7). However, though, he doesn't flee for long (You can see how the enemy left our Master only until a more opportune time.), but in order for him to leave we have to submit ourselves to our Father and our Master. That's what we have to do. Otherwise, it is only the flesh fighting against the flesh — it profits nothing. But in submitting yourself to God, it is submitting your will to the will of another — surrendering your will. The only way we can have true joy in the Holy Spirit is by surrendering. Like in a war, the war is not called off until the enemy has totally surrendered, unconditionally. That's what we have to do — surrender ourselves unconditionally to our Father and that's what it means when we give ourselves as a living sacrifice. Then we can live our lives producing the fruit that comes from our spirit being in communion with the Holy Spirit. We would be producing the fruit of the vine without any hindrances, sin, self-will. Not judging ourselves properly is a hindrance to us producing the fruit of the Spirit of God. He has come to live and abide and have communion with our spirit and then our own spirit, when it is in communion with our Master's Spirit, produces that wonderful fruit of joy, peace, patience, etc. Fruit cannot be produced from our own human overcoming, from our own flesh. Christians teach to overcome but it's not by the Holy Spirit (because they don't know Him), it's by principle. There is no way they can obey completely every word He speaks; they can obey some, but not all. Yet only if we obey all of His words will we live. "Whoever obeys My word will not see death." (Jn 8:51). It's just like food — we live by every word that proceeds out of His mouth. The promise is that if we submit ourselves — our wills (you can't submit yourself until you submit your will — that's the key to everything.), we will receive grace. You cannot receive grace until you submit to Him. Our lack of submitting to Him comes from our flesh — our mind — our brain — but what comes from our spirit? We will be judged by the good and bad we have done: the good came from our heart and the bad, even though it looks good, came from our flesh. And so we have to be in connection with Him or we live a facade life, fake. We have seen people live in community for 15 years but they had no appreciation for the word.

We are to love as He commanded us to love, with a consistent love. Nothing can be done unless first of all we submit ourselves to Him. Then the enemy will flee and we will be able to work today. Then we come back in the evening and do the same thing and then again in the morning, and this is how we live our lives. The kingdom cannot come unless Satan is bound. Any house that is divided will fall. We are to live a consistent life, proving to the world that it is possible to live in love, joy, peace... all those fruits that come as a result of being connected to our Master YAHSHUA and His Spirit.

We must understand when someone is going through a hard time and not become indignant, but be compassionate and merciful and reconnect him to the vine. If you are not connected to the vine you can only have a superficial joy. In the world you get joy from certain things, and love — we only loved who loved us and then only half the time, and peace — we had no peace because we weren't connected to the Prince of Peace. Let's not fool ourselves: unless we connect ourselves we won't have true peace or joy or love from the Holy Spirit. If we are disconnected, lets connect ourselves. Do you want to connect yourself and give our body as a living sacrifice? Living.

The fruit of the Spirit comes in one fruit. God is one and His Spirit produces one fruit. The fruit of the flesh is factions and divisions, etc. You cannot have one fruit of the spirit and not the other. You either are connected or not connected. It is only the whole thing. If you are producing the fruit of the flesh in one thing — like if you wolf down your food (it's against your brothers), or if we don't brush our teeth, or chew our food. If we chew it well, our food has everything in it to keep us healthy. Just like the word of God has everything in it to keep us well nourished.