

30 June 1993, Wednesday morning Manasseh

The Outcome of Obedience

There is only one way of obeying the gospel which is the good news. You can look in the record in Acts to see the result of obeying the gospel. The natural outcome is what is recorded in Acts 2 and 4. That is the record, the witness, the only witness the world has today, the natural outcome of obedience. If you obey the gospel there is only one outcome. Having the Spirit of truth and faith and the gospel is why we can look at our life and see that it compares or at least heads in the same direction as Acts 4. It is through obedience — not through looking at Acts 4 and imitating it. As a matter of fact, I was blind to Acts 2 and 4 for the first year or so. But if you *obey* the gospel, there is no other result — if you have love, you are going to react in a certain way that people who have love do — by caring for each other, helping each other, paying attention to each other, living together. That is the record. It infuriates some people when they hear it. They try to justify it away. The Holy Spirit moved upon Luke to put it in there in Acts. Christians say it is an ideal that can never be realized. But now that we know this, we will be blessed if we do it.

We cannot come to a resting place. It calls for a witness, a real live demonstration. This witness of the kingdom has to be the light to the world. There is a tremendous hindrance to it — the flesh. The flesh could destroy it unless we live by the spirit, not under the law, and put to death the deeds of the flesh — if we walk by the spirit.

Hakam: Christians think that Mt 6 means quit drinking, but they don't see that He means stop sustaining yourselves as the Gentiles do.

True sheep are like I was. I hated the way the world was, I just knew I didn't fit it but I had no answers, I couldn't figure *anything* out. It excites me when our Father reveals something clear because I know that there are people in the world who are confused, who don't understand this life that we have. So we're going to be a light to the world to bring people out of darkness initially — they have to hear the light of the gospel before they can come into understanding and believing. I'm thankful we have the Spirit who can reveal the truth to us about these things.

Our Master was not necessarily condemning the nations when He said you should no longer live like the Gentiles but now you are to seek first for My kingdom and My righteousness and all the things the Gentiles seek for will be added as well. The Gentiles seek for those things. That is what they are supposed to do. It is good that they are working and making money, that they are not a ward of the state. They cannot live any other way. That is that state that they are in — seeking for their own food and clothing — at least making money by the sweat of their brow for themselves. And then, of course, if someone needs something because he is going through a rough time, even the Gentiles should help someone out. There have always been people in the nations who helped each other. Therefore they are not entirely selfish and not entirely depraved like the Calvinists say.

There is still a remnant of the image of God in the people who are abiding in the second covenant. But if they are outside of the second covenant then they are practicing abominations against their neighbor, hating their neighbor — selfish, greedy, making all the money for yourself and not caring about anybody — this is outside of that second covenant. So therefore when we meet the One who died for us (2 Cor 5:15), that is when you stop living for yourself. Then you start living for building up the body of Messiah, seeking first the kingdom of God. Everything you do everyday is for everybody else. You are not doing it for yourself anymore, you are doing it for others. If you are washing dishes or working in industry, you are doing it for others, making money for others, serving God night and day.

Hakam: You said that when our Master said in Mt 6 to not live like the Gentiles, He wasn't condemning the way the Gentiles live. But the evil of Christianity is that they think that our Master meant don't be immoral, quit drinking, quit smoking. They don't see that what He was saying was quit living the way they *live*, by the way they sustain themselves. Christians will not accept that that is what our Master meant in Mt 6.

David Ben B'rith: He was calling to those who were calling themselves Israel. He said quit being like the Gentiles because that's how you are, that's how you are behaving. He was

calling them to be the light. But they didn't receive it as light, they didn't receive the gospel as light so therefore they fell away, they were totally cut off.

That is why he said, "I will take the kingdom away from you and give it to a nation who will produce the fruit of it." So therefore the Edah is that servant nation that is raised up to bring about justice.

Willing to Do His Will

Another thing. This is about Daniel [a guest who left this morning after a long stay]. It shows how the word of God is so marvelous in Jn 7:17. Daniel left here and it boils down to this: Jn 7:17 — Daniel was not willing to do the will of God. If he was willing, he would have known it was the truth. When you receive the truth, you receive the truth — it is like lightning from one end of the sky to the other. When our Master comes back it is going to be like that. You do not have to worry if someone says, "Well, He's in the desert," or "He's in the inner rooms," or somewhere else and say, "Let's go and look." But He said that when He comes back it is going to be unmistakable. There is no way you can make a mistake because it is going to be like lightning from one end of the sky to the other. You cannot mistake that.

That is how it is when you see the truth — it is like lightning. So Daniel is not willing to do our Father's will. If he was, he would have seen it; our Father would have given him the needed illumination to understand and know. So that is what the gospel does, it gives us the needed illumination to see where we are at so we can get out of that place and come into the light.

If you take those two verses — Mt 6:31-33 and 2 Cor 5:15 — you will see that we are no longer living for ourselves but for Him who died for us. We are no longer living like the Gentiles but now we are seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness. That is all we do all day long — seek first His kingdom and His righteousness so that His righteousness can be a light to the whole world — a growing light, that righteous, just light. Justice — seeking first His justice, true justice. Real justice is not the justice of the nations. No matter how good the nations are, the Holy City is still their light. We are still going to be the light of the nations.

