

A Prolonged Life

(We sang, "Since we have a high Priest")

Keli: There's no way we could worship Him in Spirit and deed if we didn't believe in Him in our hearts. But because we do, it causes us to do something. If we just believed in our minds, we couldn't come here every morning and evening and pay Him our dues. I'm thankful we have a place we can come to and worship Him.

Racham: There's no way we could not gain courage if we sang that song with our whole heart because it says everything: "...through His will He sought us..." and through our will we have to seek Him.

1 Chr 28:9 — That's how we'll find life — relief from the things that beset us. He won't give us grace until we seek Him. He's given us a heart to seek Him. I'm thankful it's that way. People in the world are like parrots (they only have knowledge), but we have been given faith that causes us to obey Him and lead Godly lives. And when we don't we can repent.

I'm thankful for how the God of heaven feeds us. I asked to be fed this morning and I didn't have any doubt that He would feed me because He hears us when we cry out to Him. I came here *expecting* to be fed by Him.

Huldah: It's true what Racham said, that singing that song should give us courage. I'm so thankful that I can come here and there's nothing that hinders me from going to my Father. And if I go to Him I'll have grace for every situation today and I'll increase. I'm thankful for our Master, that He saved me.

Bynah: This morning something happened to me where I had an opportunity to be irritated with someone, but I wasn't. Instead I really had to cry out and I read Pr 18:23. It made me thankful that I'm poor. I want to be poor in spirit all day. I'm thankful He blesses those who are poor in spirit.

We live in a generation where there's a promise that we wouldn't die. Mt 24:34 — This generation (the generation that sees these things) won't pass away until all these things (that are happening on the earth) are fulfilled. That generation (the offspring) that sees these things will not pass away or perish until all these things are fulfilled. Isa 53:10 — That seed will have a prolonged life. There are so many places in the Scriptures that talk about a prolonged life. Look up the Word *prolonged* in the concordance. Pr 28:16 speaks of a *prolonged* or *extended* life. A person who has a good conscience will have a prolonged life. There won't be any sickness or

diseases brought about by a bad conscience. Those who have nothing destroying their consciences will live a prolonged life.

We talked about a *potentate* yesterday, an oppressive leader who gets you to do things by oppression. We have to be careful we aren't like this ourselves (at the cafe, the woodshop, as a crew head, in the kitchen). An oppressive leader lacks understanding because a leader leads with diligence by respect. You don't have to rule by oppression if you have glory — people will see and respect you. Our Master didn't have to rule by oppression; He had glory. Glory is inner worth that demands the respect of others. A leader doesn't have to lead with oppression (coming down on everyone), especially in the minchah. We get those things worked out before we come.

You pay double honor to those leaders who lead in a way that's not oppressive. Then if there's no ill-gotten gain or covetousness in us, we'll live a long life. If there's ill-gotten gain, it's gain gotten by hurting others (serving yourself and getting what you want at another's expense, not thinking of others). Pr 1:19 says that ill-gotten gain causes problems in one who possesses it. It takes the life away from the one it was gotten from and the one who gets it. When you covet something you always find a way to get it and it hurts you and the person you get it from.

Our Father wants us to get things in peace, not by rulers who are oppressive coming to the minchah and condescending on everyone — leaders and elders who have to work out something at every minchah with the people. Who wants to come to the minchah and work out some details (like always having a body meeting) that should already have been worked out? We never come to the minchah with sin, without working things out. Sometimes it's inevitable, but that's why we have an hour before we come, to work things out, so we can come here pure and clean. It's oppressive to have to work things out here. It's a time for hearing from our Master.

We want to live a long life and be a generation who's obedient to his word and live in peace. I don't want our life to be taken away from us through the things we do that hurt others and hurt ourselves. *Covetousness* simply means “more” — ill-gotten gain. You want more, better, always more — being greedy for gain, getting our security in what we have, like Ananias

and Saphira. They weren't content to be like everyone else who were sharing everything they had. They weren't receiving peace; they weren't trusting that their needs would be met. So our Father killed them. It's a proverbial lesson for us. If we do the same things they did then we're dead while we're still alive. Maybe our Father won't strike us dead for our covetousness, but He'll take away our life. Ananias and Saphira couldn't come back to life and we can't get our spiritual life back if we go on in our deceit, if it's a premeditated thing. Our life will be taken away if we're greedy and we don't share what we have with others (1 Jn 3:17). The love of God wasn't found in Ananias and Saphira's heart and neither is it in us if we're greedy because that spirit kills us.

Appointing Elders

An elder is someone older and wiser who's recognized as such and appointed by one who has the authority to appoint (like a parent who names his child). Moses appointed 70 elders in Israel. He knew them. There were millions of people. In each tribe they were appointed by the one recognized as having the spiritual ability.

An elder is hospitable and able to teach and speak. They have control over their children and rule over them. They're not out of control. They rule over their families with diligence. They're not intimidated. They overcome and speak with a loud voice. They are coordinators. They see all things from a high place. They have grace and faith and you can trust them. They don't think too highly of themselves, but only in accordance with the grace and faith they've received. Elders have a greater portion of faith than others. Who do you look to in the household? Some people have certain graces in certain areas. When we appoint elders we lay hands on them and entrust our lives to them. Heb 13:17 — We obey our leaders because they have watch over our souls. It's a great trust we give them.

1 Ths 5:12-13; 1 Tim 5:17 — We give double honor to certain elders and leaders who work hard preaching and teaching — they labor at it. They are doing what it speaks about in Acts 5, being devoted to the Word of God and to prayer, bringing peace. So we are to honor

those among us, giving them double honor. 1 Tim 5:17 — So we don't get the idea that leaders won't be working hard preaching and teaching, but we defend and not accuse them; we *support* them.

In 1 Tim 3 and in Titus you can see some of the qualifications of an elder. Who do you look to as an elder or leader? It doesn't mean that an elder won't or can't work somewhere, but we usually don't have an elder scheduled to work out of the Community somewhere all the time (like on a plumbing job) where you can't have access to him. We have to be placed properly in the Body so our gifts can benefit the Body (Eph 4:12).

Headship is looking to others for grace as needy people, not thinking too highly of ourselves. It's better to think twice before you speak, before you accuse your brother. You think he's thinking something about you, but he's not at all. We have to be really careful not to receive accusations against a brother. Assume you don't have perfect discernment (judgment) and you can't read people's minds.

Racham: The rain in our lives exposes the leaks where the prince of the air has access to our lives.

Our Father, when He was leading the children of Israel out of Egypt, gave them hardships to expose their leaks (so they could know what was in them). He already knew that what was in them would defile the land if they were to enter it. And it's the same with us. We go through little troubles here and there during our day so the leaks can be exposed and fixed. Who needs a good roof on a sunny day?

Racham: So you never fix the roof because when it rains you can't get up there and when it's a sunny day you don't need to fix it and you don't want to.

It rains so you can see the roof has a leak in it — so you can fix it.