

Joy is the Food we Share, Love is our Home

Last night the household gave Keli and Huldah a wedding anniversary. There was something else on Keli's mind this morning as well, another very significant event whose anniversary was today, not yesterday. Sharing it, he set the course of our gathering as we continued to discuss singing with all of our heart, which means with our spirit and our understanding and our will.

Havah – I am thankful for Keli and Huldah this morning, and for their marriage, how they've endured and served in the Body.

Huldah – I am thankful for everyone here. It was the nicest anniversary we have ever had. It was so beautiful.

Yoneq – How many years?

Huldah – Seventeen.

Keli – Bekor will be sixteen in November. Twenty-four years ago today twenty-five people were baptized in Island Pond.

That's amazing. How many were baptized in Barton? We baptized about the whole town, didn't we? (About twelve people were.)

I remember in the Chattanooga days it was amazing what happened, and we didn't know how to do anything. We went to Dalton, Trenton, Mentone and those other places building cafés – and we didn't have any money. We began with just one little deli. Then Malachi came down and introduced us to the northeast portion of the United States.

We can sing to Keli and Huldah. When you sing this song you have to use your will, emotions, and intellect. We're going to have a choir practice this morning. Sing a song that everyone knows so that no one will have an excuse.

Praise God for the Body

However, the song we sang then was not one that everyone knew. But it was a song that everyone in the Body once knew. We began a very special song that is our foundation:

*Guard your circle, brother, clasp your hand in hand,
Satan cannot break the bond wherein we stand.*

*Chorus: Joy is the food we share, love is our home,
Brothers, praise God for the Body, Shalom, shalom.*

*Praise God for the Body, praise God for the Son,
Praise God for the Spirit that makes our hearts as one.*

*Shed your extra clothing, keep your baggage light,
Rough will be the battle, touch will be the fight!*

*Suffer hardships, brothers, serve Him night or noon,
Live or die for Yahshua, the Kingdom is coming soon.*

It was amazing how they received us. It was just like they were a part of us.

Keli – I remember singing it that day, standing in a circle. I felt so secure.

They learned it so fast. I came one day and the preacher went out of town.

Keli – He was supposed to come to a Bible Study, but he never showed up.

ha-êmeq – When we went to Island Pond we wanted to teach them about the Body. That is why we taught them that song. The thing about it was that we sang it with all of our hearts and we meant what we said. We wanted them to know that, *Satan could not break the bond wherein we stand.*

There are words that we sing, and we meant them just like we were saying them in a conversation. People can detect sincerity and they can detect a religious spirit. They can see when your mouth is moving and you don't mean them.

“Guard your circle, brother, clasp your hand in hand.” We meant what we were saying. That's the difference between what we were doing and empty religion.

Huldah – A year before you came some Christian families, about thirty or forty of us, had gathered and prayed that we could start a community. We stood in a circle, held hands, and prayed. I was only about eight years old. Then, when the truth came, only a quarter of those people ended up receiving the word that came.

A year later, we had gone to Wildwood that weekend with you, holding hands and singing. I was only ten years old and when I stood in that circle, it was so different. It must have been the love.

My parents were always trying out something different, including this little Pentecostal church in Barton. That pastor got exposed. Another pastor had no home and ended up moving in with us. He ended up drink-

ing and taking advantage of my parents. They weren't satisfied until they found the truth.

Keli – Our Master wasn't able to entrust Himself to that whole circle, only to a quarter of them.

We sang the song, "Blessed be the God of Israel" with all of our hearts.

Jeremiah – I am really thankful this morning that we talked about how Yoneq and ha-êmeq went to Island Pond and met all these families. I am so thankful that our Father found these people that He did at the beginning. Now it's growing all over. I am thankful that He has found men with hearts to obey Him. As Huldah said, they were gathered together wanting to live in community and some of them were true and some of them weren't.

It is amazing how many people were gathered in that other circle at Wildwood and how many people have been saved since then. I want to see our Father's name continue to be made great. I am so thankful I can live for our Master. No one can do it out in the world. I am thankful I can be part of it and that I was raised here. I want to be a special agent for our Father and continue to be used by Him.

Soreph Gamaliel – I was so encouraged to think of the words we just sang. I have been considering the last few days how we are a people ruled by the word. People think about us and they don't understand it. I love the Word, both the word in the Bible and the word that comes from you, my brothers and sisters. If I don't receive you, then I am a hypocrite, because I just said that I love the word. Our Father is looking for people who will be ruled by His Word.

At the Homeschooling conference we went to a seminar where a man was talking about "self-governors." He said those are people who have in internal governor that draws lines that they do not cross. We would call that our conscience. Sometimes we do that, cross the lines our conscience sets, but our Father wants us to live by an even higher standard, that of His word. He wants us to be the Holy.

I don't think you can live in the world if you belong to Him. The loneliness eats you away. I was thankful for what Jeremiah said. It made me think, "Are there groups of people like that out here?" There will be many such groups in each tribal area.

Last night a man came and talked to me as everyone was leaving. He thought we were a very nice group of young men, a youth group, he said. He was a Christian and I was telling him who we were, the Twelve Tribes Paul spoke of in Acts 26, and that we live in community because

that is how the church was always meant to be. While I had been swimming just before I was thinking of Shores's confidence in Jn 10, where it says, "My sheep hear my voice."

If we speak His word then His sheep can hear His voice. Then we will find the people like those in Barton and Island Pond.

Chets Barur – I am thankful that we serve a God who is able to do what He promises. Our Father said the things He did in the Bible with all of His heart. He didn't say the things in here half-heartedly. Everything in here is deep in his heart and has to do with what He made man for. He needs us to do what we said we would do at baptism and not allow things to creep in that could keep us from living a surrendered life. You can tell the things that take away from this: living for recognition, getting our identity from what we do.

The brothers who work in a surrendered way have peace. The ones who live by their inner workings don't have peace. They bring the temperature of the Body down and introduce strife. So, they view one another as potential rivals. We have the power to overcome today if we cry out for His grace. We have so much peace if we live a surrendered life and don't let anything get in the way of that.

Havah – I have really been affected the last few days with Brook that people really need a place to belong. You can tell that in her soul and her countenance. She has made a way to survive, but she is deeply affected. She believes that God is love and when she was 18 she read the Bible and the Koran through and felt they said about the same thing. She believes that God is love, but she defines love as a feeling. I told her that was the lie of the world.

She can hardly believe that she is welcomed here. Whenever I would talk to her from the word, she would believe it. She is comfortable being here, even with all the parameters we put on her about her dog. You can see that dog is her best friend and that she has so much care for him. There is nobody else she can trust because that little dog loves her. It is so sad.

It speaks to me of the consequences of sin. They are so sad (weeping as she spoke). The world is so devastated. We are so hardly able to see these things because we are defensive. These ways cause us to covet sin as though it is going to do us some good. It just makes me despise the evil one and see him for what he does, what a robber he is. It makes me not want to be deceived by him and not be dull to his ways in my life or in your life. I don't want to roll over to him as if it doesn't matter.

Hakam – When we sang that song this morning I found myself in my soul, feelings, will, and mind going to a place of desperation in a good way. My memory of singing that song is of us clasping our hands together, and singing those words, “*Guard your circle, brother, clasp your hand in hand,*” with a deep understanding of what we had then.

I loved the life we had. I remember in my heart thinking that if we ever didn’t do that, we would lose what we had. I saw that if we didn’t do our part, it would die, end, and we wouldn’t have it anymore. It is not like this life is going to go on regardless of what we do or say. The more we grow the more it is required of us to keep that standard. He blesses us with a lot of things that seemingly could continue on. But it is just not the truth that this life can continue on regardless of how we are.

We have to live in a way that guards the unity and the love we have. The things we allow in our minds and what comes out of our speech is going to determine whether or not our Master Yahshua’s life is going to continue. Now it is more like if we aren’t that way, maybe the community would go on as Yoneq taught us the first church did and we wouldn’t even notice that things were wrong, just like they didn’t.

The beginning of Christianity was that individual people didn’t guard their circle, although the things they did outwardly continued on. I was thankful we sang that song this morning. I don’t ever want to forget that deep sense of our first love. We would die to preserve it, die to preserve our unity. If we don’t have that, we don’t have anything. I am thankful we have a history and we have a God that is able to teach us through everything that we go through.

I just want to acknowledge Havah. She is out front in our communities and she is never ashamed of the gospel, never ashamed of her address. She has no intimidation and is out front about everything in her life. She has a lot of struggles she goes through, but our Father is going to bring her through to a land of peace.

Yedidiah ben Soreph Gamaliel – It really takes vision to live this life. You look back to where it started in Chattanooga or Island Pond and I doubt if you ever imagined what we would have today. It is so easy to think about the mundane circumstances of our life and not be excited about it. You can forget the big picture. There is so much to be excited about and thankful for. I don’t want to have tunnel vision.

What is tunnel vision?

Yedidiah – When you can't see the other end of the tunnel?

When you only see your own circumstances.

Solomon ben Yeled Qatan – I was thankful yesterday we talked about singing. It has been a burden of my abba's heart for a long time. I was talking to him one time telling him that our songs often don't grab my emotions and he said, "They don't often grab mine, so I have to use my will to push the songs out."

This morning I did that and I saw that our Master will meet us there, where we worship Him with our whole heart and willing mind. I am thankful for what we talked about yesterday.

We have a wonderful opportunity to serve our Master today, by the strength that He supplies. He wouldn't want us to work by our own strength. You can see that the place is coming together here. It is about like us. We are like this house. At first we were like the inside of the house, it was about the most horrible thing I had seen in my life. I had never seen a more dirty, horrible, filthy house in my life.

Huldah – It was depressing.

Keli – When Nun came here he said, "I think we should tear it down."

When our Father saw us he said we could be restored and that we didn't have to be torn down.

Keli – When we first came here we were attracted to this house. At each visit after, we had to face discouragement as we saw more and more of its problems. We had to fight the feeling that we had made a mistake. But now we are seeing the glory of it.

ha-êmeq – The circles we gathered in then, we could sense that we were all together and then we would start singing. Then a guest would come and sometimes they would stay or go. Then our children came along and they went through all kinds of things, insecurities, etc. With our children, we tried to believe they were with us through all they went through.

In football games, they huddle together and look at each other and gain confidence as they look at each other. They say those words and then they go and do it. That is how we are, we huddle and then we do the works prepared for us.

Chets Barur – When the other team huddles, it makes you a little bit afraid, because you wonder what they are going to do. When they don't have any plan, you are not as worried.

ha-êmeq – When they huddle, you know their minds are one.

When you say, "Right 35" everyone knows what they are going to do. You push them out and go towards the goal.

Hakam – And you know what number you are going to start on. There is no confusion. When you don't all start together...

Soreph Gamaliel – There is a penalty.

Double Agents

Rebecca – I was thinking how devastating it would be if you had a plan and when you started you discovered that one of your team members was on the other side. I just want to keep that in mind today and every day and know that we need to be on our Father's side.

There have been double agents recruited by gamblers that would bet on the game. They would say, "I am going to bet \$100,000 on the game and I will give you \$20,000 if you mess up." Or you give one of the players drugs, or you don't do a tackle, miss a pass, do something not to make your team win. I am really thankful that we are back to back, allied in the same purpose and cause. It was wonderful what you said, Rebecca.

Our Father just wants to bring out everything in us, the potential that is inside of us. He is going to bring out what is there in each and every one of us. Let's pray.