

“Then the Offering of Judah will be Pleasant”

Eben: It affected me when Jesse was talking about “getting” a new heart of flesh. I thought about it all night. I was thinking about how much I can’t love in my own strength. I need a new heart. If I receive it then I’ll be sensitive to my brothers. Without it I can’t be sensitive. I want a new heart.

Havah: I’ve heard that the heart is the seat of our passion. It’s what creation longs for — that heart poured out on the earth, a heart full of passion for the things our Father loves.

Amaz (ben Hakam): I thought about what Yoneq said, that “Our Father never expects more than He provides the grace for us to do.” I’m thankful we have a place to go and say, “I need help,” and He gives it to us.

Chets Barur: We’ve said we “can’t have David’s harp until we have David’s heart.” David was always after our Father’s heart. There was something *soft* in him. He was a humble man. And we have to be like that. We have to listen to what people feel. That’s how a nation will come about. It’s the only way we can be His people. If our heart is different when we’re with the leaders than it is with the new disciples, then we’re man-pleasers. Then what was in David’s heart will not come about. It can only come about with our Father’s heart.

I want to have that heart that David had. I want to let my heart be cleansed of my own mind. I want to hear what the Spirit says.

Hakam: I’m thankful for the heart our Father desires to give us. He wants a people who want to please Him and walk in His ways. His Word was never created to be written on a tablet. But He wants to implant His law in the hearts of people. Years ago I remember Yoneq saying that we were compatible for our God. We are suitable for His life to fill us. A lot of times we don’t cry out to Him or we think we’re somehow not compatible with Him and we’re not worthy of Him and we can’t receive His life and His way. But that’s a *lie!* We were created for that way. (Recently, I told my son, Hananiah, that he has a far greater capacity in his heart to want to obey than he has in his mind to reason.) It’s *not right* that we’d use our minds to reason more than our hearts to obey Him. Our Father wants to put His Word and His life in us to lead us. All He wants is for us to do His will and execute it in our own life and with each other.

In the Community I live in (through some circumstances that have taken place) people are seeing how easy it is to cut off the mind of God

and reason. We have to open up our hearts to the anointing because if not we become destroyers in the Body with reasoning instead of hearing in our hearts.

I'm thankful our hearts can be opened up to Him to receive what He has for us. We can be humble because that's the way He made us to be.

Keli: Eze 18 says He will give us a new heart and a new Spirit. To get a new heart we have to have a new Spirit. Our Master was trained in His Spirit as He grew up. So when he came face to face with an evil spirit, his spirit was able to be controlled. He lived a spiritual life. He didn't let his reasoning in his mind take Him away from our Father's mind. He had fellowship with our Father. If we do we'll walk in His Spirit. I'm thankful for the gatherings where we can come and get a new spirit according to how we receive the things we hear and apply it to ourselves because we know it applies to us. If we do this then we get a new heart and a new spirit. We have to apply the things we hear to our own lives and not walk away and forget what we hear or we'll be twice as bad as Christians.

I'm thankful we can "get" a new heart.

Hobab: What Hakam and Keli said really speaks to me. When they were speaking I saw how before we can "get" a new heart we have to rid ourselves of every attitude that comes to us. It's so easy for me to judge people by how they are on the outside and miss their heart. Sometimes I judge what a brother or sister does and it's oppressive to my spirit. But I want to judge my *own* heart and go past the way others are. If we judge our own hearts then we'll be set free to look past the way our brothers and sisters are to see their heart because we'll know that person doesn't want to be that way.

I can see by the things that Jesse has been sharing lately that he is a person who wants a new heart. He has been putting away the ways in him that cause him to stumble. I want that new heart. I want to rid myself from every attitude that gets in the way of me seeing my brothers and sisters hearts.

When we're defiled we can't offer our sacrifice. Ps 51:18-19 says, "*Then...*" "Do good in Your good pleasure in Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. *Then* You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; *then* they shall offer bulls on Your altar." Mal 3:3-4 says, "*Then...*" "*Then* the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the Lord, as in the days of old, as in

former years.” So many places in the Scriptures it says, “*Then.*” *Then* has one of the shortest definitions. It means a certain time – not before “*Then.*”

Our Master said that many things defile a man; they come out when we are not judging ourselves and being contrary to the Word. Our plumbline is that if we are abiding we'll respect our brothers and be submissive. If not we will act as it says in Mk 7:22 – “*thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.*”

Instruction about being Resourceful

(Last night some of the men were working on the store in Boston and one of them used two of our chairs for a sawhorse.)

Being resourceful is good, but we can't be reckless (foolish). If we are we'll be defiled and then we don't judge ourselves and come to the breaking of bread that way. We have to come to judge ourselves rightly. There are many things that our Master mentioned that defile us, according to the way we live in the Community. For example, if we throw things into our basements, it might look like good things at first, but after awhile there's no order and it looks like a junkyard. Then we'll be like every other community – reckless. Then our Father will say, “I don't know you. You weren't for Me.”

Our thoughts are what defile us — not judging ourselves. We need a brother to come and help us and when he helps us judge what we can't see, we say, “You're right. I'm that way.” Then we'll change. That's what the Body is for. We're not supposed to be perfect, are we? A baby needs his diapers changed. We are growing up and seeing these things in our lives and coming more into self-judgment. If we can't judge ourselves we'll be judged. If our brothers don't help us then our Father will have to judge us. Then the whole Community will be judged because they didn't go to that brother and help him. When we see something we need to go to our brothers in gentleness and help them and not be a coward. Gentleness is strength under control. We're learning what it is to be a disciple.