

2 January 1993, Evening Sacrifice Londrina, Brazil

Win Your Brother Back

Yesterday we talked about being married to one another in the body of Messiah. [See notes 1 January Morning re: Friends.] Mark 10:5-8 talks about being married. In order to be joined to a wife you have to leave behind somebody — father and mother — so the two can become one. (Gen 2:24). And that is what happened when we were baptized into the Body. Baptism was leaving behind everything — we left behind our philosophies, attitudes, religions, flesh. It is all gone, and we start out as brand new babies, starting from scratch. We have to leave everything behind. If we brought in anything foreign, it will cause dissension in the Body.

Look at Mat 18:15. It says here that if your brother wrongs you, go show him his fault (between he and you privately). He may not have a fault. But if he does, go show it to him privately so he can agree that he has a fault. If he listens to you, (if he receives what you say, agrees with what you say, he repents, he says "I'm sorry. That is how it was, forgive me."), then you have won your brother back. There was a severance between you and your brother and you have won him back. He was the one who was severed from you, and now you have won him back. He was not only severed from you, but from the Body — he was cut off from the sacrifice, but you won him back to the Body. If he doesn't listen to you (v.17), take another witness. This is the law. If you are in this situation, you go to the law to see what you should do. The law is our friend; it is our helper, we must be able to use it rightly. It says that if he pays no attention, take another witness with you. Attention means you wholeheartedly agree, wholeheartedly repent — wholeheartedly. And it is no light thing if he refuses to listen (v.17). If he does not listen and obey, then you tell it to the cahal. If he refuses to listen to the cahal (the meeting of elders or the Body), let him be to you as a pagan or tax collector. That is how the Body continues to progress and grow, thus the dead wood, the dead branches are cut out so you don't have the continual dragging undercurrent because dissension and gossiping is cut off, the rift is cut off. This is how the Body progresses. Without doing this, the Body is not going to progress, we would just go under. (Prov 28:13) If we fail to do this, all kinds of things go on, people don't go to people — they brush things under the rug, and roots of bitterness start coming in defiling the whole community. This happened in the first church. If you want to stay in salvation — in the Body, you have to keep it healthy. All the dead wood has to continue to be pruned off. Can we do this? We need to do it.

What is the cause of strife and division between brothers? There are a lot of people who can stand up and talk and talk and talk but when it comes to relating to one another — to receiving one another, they don't know what to do. You can tell that a person has the Spirit, not by what they say, but by how they relate to one another. We know we have passed out of death and that we have the same Spirit, because we love the brethren. We are all going to make mistakes, but if someone comes to you and shows you your fault you will receive that correction and you will

repent and you will be restored. Make sure that when you go to him, your brother receives you to your own satisfaction, and does not justify and excuse himself.

So what is the cause of strife and division? It has to be the flesh — mother, father, sister, brother, possessions — the flesh. That is what causes problems — the very things that we are to cut off at baptism — that is what keeps us from being united in true oneness and unity. It is just like when you get married, if you don't leave the authority and influence of your father's house, you are not going to be one (because your mother-in-law still has control and so there are all kinds of problems). For this reason, each person has to leave everything behind when they marry someone else. If you bring anything else into that relationship it is going to cause strife and all kinds of trouble. That is what causes divorce. It is always the mother-in-law or the father-in-law. So what is the cause of this brother in Mt 18:17 not listening to you? Why will he not be won back? Mt 18:15 is probably something like James 5:19,20 "bringing a person back from the error of his way, saving his soul from death." But if he does not listen to you, (v.17) then he cannot be brought back from death. What keeps him (v.17) from paying attention wholeheartedly? If he refuses to listen, not paying attention in the judgment meeting (v.18), then you are to treat him as an outsider. It says if your brother wrongs you, if he did a wrong, go show him his fault between he and you privately. If that brother is a real disciple, and has the real Holy Spirit, knows the real YAHSHUA, is in the real Body, he will repent. (Eph 5:21) If he is not and he doesn't listen, you are to get one or two others and go to him again and if he doesn't listen to you then, bring him before the Body and if he doesn't receive, cut him off. There is no use having long-winded talks because since that brother has the help of the Holy Spirit, he would have repented when you showed him his faults in private.

So if you go to him and he listens to you, you have won your brother back. He was cut off from fellowship with you and the Body because he was in sin. However, he could not go on in His sin because he is a member of Messiah. Just like (1 Tim 2:8) we cannot go on in dissension because we are members of Messiah. If he refuses to listen to you, then you know what to do. This is a command; it is how the Body will stay together and how we will continue to be cleansed of those who are not real or who have somehow cut themselves off from Messiah. So you are to treat them as someone who is cut off. That is how we will know who is with us and who is not, who is building and who is not. All of us who have received the Holy Spirit, if we love our brothers, will do this. (Mt 12:30) It is a serious thing, a very serious thing. Nothing could be worse, but nothing could be better. Nothing could be worse than a brother being cut off, but nothing could be better. Nothing could be worse and nothing could be better. Nothing could be better than him being cut off since if he continues to be in the Body, he is going to continue to be a source of strife, division, contention and everything else.

You can't let things build up between you, we have to go to one another — don't put it off. If there is something between you, for YAHSHUA's sake and for the Body's sake — GO, let it be healed.

The sins of the fathers are passed on to the third and fourth generation. That is the whole significance of the male child — the 144000 — it is all going to be cut off in them. Just think of your mother and father. Their sins are going to be in you unless you cut them off. [To a brother who was struggling:]

You have to reject that evil worthless spirit that wants to take over you. You need to reject that spirit in YAHSHUA's name. Tell that spirit that he doesn't belong here and that you don't belong to him. You have to cut your old fatherhood off. The spirit in your daddy passed on to you and you have to get rid of that spirit. Repent from that, overcome it. We cannot go on without you. We love you. We need you. No one can come after Him unless he takes up his cross and follows Him. It is only the violent who take the kingdom . They have to do it by FORCE. You have to get mad at that spirit that has been dominating you all your life. If you don't love Him more than anything, you'll be cut off. It will happen to anybody. We want to be sure you have the Holy Spirit. If not, cry out on the name of YAHSHUA and we'll take you to the lake and baptize you — whatever it takes.

Don't hang onto your own life. You have to take up your cross and follow Him. You have to be honest with your Father in heaven, so honest with Him, as honest as you know how. Not just telling Him, but carrying on a conversation with your Father in heaven in YAHSHUA's name, explaining to Him what you are going through, how you feel, then He will give you grace. You have to admit these things, confess them, and renounce them. Ask for the grace to do it. It is not the Holy Spirit that tells you to cut yourself off because you are not overcoming, it is another spirit. Don't be deceived — there is no neutral influence. You are either for Him or against Him. Don't grieve His Spirit whom you were sealed with. He is not going to do it for you. He works along with us to bring about repentance.

One brother had a problem with another brother and he wouldn't go to him — he refused to go to him, so hostility built up — hate. He felt like he couldn't go 'correct' this brother. But it is not being a corrector of others when you go to a brother — that is left to the spiritual brothers (Gal 6:1). We are talking about going to a brother personally. You need to go to them and talk to them personally and if he receives you, he will repent. If you are having a problem with a brother, go to him.

I'm thankful our Father is saving us — exposing things in us. In 1 Jn 3:15 we are really exposed if we hate a brother, it means we are a murderer at heart and there is no murderer who has eternal life. We can see what can enter into our heart if we are not judging ourselves rightly.

Each and every one of us (Heb 12:1) all have a sin that besets us. It so easily besets you, holds you back, causes you to stumble. We are all beset with certain sins. What does 'beset' mean — involves, surrounds us, it afflicts you. We have those. Everyone does. We are all beset. Not one of us is left out. We are true disciples. We have something to overcome for the sake of our Master — for the joy set before Him. Heb 12:1,2 are two of my favorite verses: for the alegria (joy) proposed to Him. Did we overcome that sin this week? We are in a battle. Remember it is a narrow way, contracted by pressure. Everyone's time to be tested is going to come. We all have to be tested through and through.

As a nation purified, cleansed, perfect in our fellowship, all of our sins confessed and then we go on to begin the next week perfectly cleansed after the breaking of bread. No dead wood, all cut off. That is what makes us a holy nation — we pass on forgiveness to each other. It is the outward sign of our forgiveness, passing the New covenant cup around. If you ever have any doubts that you are forgiven, don't, because you confessed your sins and you drank the cup — you are forgiven.

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