

Zahakiel: Father in Heaven, we thank you for the week that has passed. We thank you for the many blessings you have given to us, the protection of your angels, and the guidance of your Holy Spirit. In these sacred hours, we ask for your presence to rest upon us, to draw us near to you, and to fill us with your joy. We ask for ears and hearts to be open to the message you have sent for our benefit, and for a will to put our hands unflinchingly from all that you set before us. This we pray in the name of your Son, Yahshua. Amen.

Adriel: Amen

Barb, Daphna: Amen Daphna: Amen

Elyna: Amen

Gloria and Nattie: Amen.

PastorChick: Amen.

Lucan: Amen

Naraiel: Amen

gadriel: Amen, Amen

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone. Last week, we began to look at a subject that I entitled "Waiting for a Teacher." Tonight is the second part of that study, picking up where we left off and looking at some particulars.

This is, I feel, an important topic for our consideration, especially as we turn our attention to the mission field in a more focused manner than before, and are considering new opportunities for evangelism in our various locations. It is also relevant in terms of Bro. Luke's recent reminder that the Feast of Unleavened Bread is coming up. With three of our members experiencing some potential difficulty in consistently connecting to the meetings, and with my own declaration that I will be serving as the facilitator of only the first meeting, our other members are called to participate in a more committed way than before. Most, if not all, may need to lead out in at least one meeting, and this is an excellent opportunity for the brethren to prayerfully select relevant, useful needs of the Church to address, and material (either written or pre-existing) to adequately address them.

We are all called to be teachers, and as much as my own desire to see more of the brethren lead out in Friday night gatherings has met with little response, I believe the Spirit will guide us inevitably in that direction if we are to be faithful servants of the Kingdom in this generation. In other words, do not take these opportunities and callings lightly; they are designed to equip us to facilitate the salvation of souls, including our own.

Last week, I began by leading us through some of the Bible's promises about the state of the inspiration of the Church. From the Old to the New Testaments, we see that Yah is trying to bring about a very specific condition in His people. Moses said, "Would Elohim that all Yahweh's people were prophets, and that Yahweh would put His Spirit upon them!" (Num. 11:29)

This is probably the third study in which I am including that verse, because it really ought to be a rallying-point for us as we take up the collective work of Evangelism. Not all may hold the "office" of a prophet, but do not consider yourself to be any less than the Biblical spokesmen for Yahweh in

ability, power, or authority. If we do this, we do exactly as John was tempted to do when he spoke with the angel showing him the visions of Revelation. We ought not to consider these men "greater" than ourselves in ability, or else we are rendering to them a form of worship or veneration, the creatures rather than the Creator.

Moses had no advantage over us; neither did the translated messengers Enoch and Elijah. In fact, WE have distinct advantages over THEM, and though the times are evil, no amount of wickedness can gain the least advantage over the infinite righteousness of our Father, who lives in us and guides us in the Way.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Yahshua who knew His own divine nature, which we now share through repentance, faith and baptism...and we shall see the same results that He did – a transformation of the world. We already know how it will transform, but we do not know how many people we will save by our testimony and example.

Inspired by several of our previous studies, such as The Seven Snares of Satan, I would like to go over five reasons why individuals may find themselves "trapped" in a mindset that causes them to await orders from a human leader. This leads to the "cult" mindset in which the members lose their independence, and experience a false sanctification as their actions conform more and more to what the leader expects, but their spirits become less and less like the free and joyful Spirit of the Savior.

As I mentioned last week, internally we do have a structure provided by Yahweh designed to perfect the saints, and to equip them for the work of the ministry; (Eph. 4:12) however, to those whom we are trying to reach in the world, that structure means nothing.

We are all CSDAs. We are all representations of the righteousness of Yahweh and the character of Yahshua. In everything we do and say, the universe and fallen humanity are watching us. In some Churches, even some Adventist Churches, this is used as sort of a "scare tactic," as in, "You had better be good, because you are being watched." This may be an effective technique to teach children (both physically and spiritually), but for those called to be members of the 144,000, we need no external "pressure" to be righteous. We do righteousness because of who we were re-born to be, born of the Spirit and the Blood. Because of this, because the Father and Son have made Their abode within us, we are One with Them, and do their works on the earth.

It is still important to know that we are being watched...because we ourselves must "watch and pray," knowing the great responsibility that our example before the world will save some who are willing to be taught. The difference is that now, we are not attempting to escape judgment by avoiding being caught in some sin; rather, we are involved in the work of revealing Agape-love to those around us – a distinction as great as night and day.

So here are the five snares I have mentioned above. I will deal with each of these very briefly, but let conscience and discernment reveal to you if any of these are an area for prayer and meditation as we stand before our Father.

1) The first is the idea that, "I do not know what to do."

This was the excuse of Jeremiah, who said, "Then said I, 'Ah, Lord Yahweh! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a child.'" (Jeremiah 1:6) but here we see him saying, "I am too young for this."

Many, regardless of age, may be tempted to think along similar lines, if we simply replace "child" with "inexperienced." They may think, "I am new to this life, whether spiritually or physically, and I don't know how to properly give a study, or a testimony." But the promise of Yahweh was given directly after this statement. We read, But Yahweh said unto me, 'Say not, "I am a child," for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee,' saith Yahweh. Then Yahweh put forth His hand, and touched my mouth. And Yahweh said unto me, 'Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.'" (Jer. 1:7-9)

It is a great comfort to know that, though Yah has sent us, He did not just wind us up like a toy and send us on our way. His protection and care are active, and ongoing. He is with us every moment to direct us, if only we begin to walk, and to speak, with a willing heart. No earthly teacher could instruct us more effectively than this.

2) The second idea is, "I'm not sure how to begin."

The individual may have an idea of what they are supposed to do (e.g., "Give a study during the Feast of Unleavened Bread"), but they are not sure how to go about accomplishing the goal, or how to even get started toward it. This is where praying for wisdom comes in – a practice that I know is not done enough among humanity. We read, and this promise may also apply to the first thought that we just covered, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of Yahweh, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5)

Generally speaking, the first step of any task, however great, should be fairly obvious. If it is not, "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." (Pro 11:14) The brethren that Yah has placed in certain positions, the apostles and prophets and teachers, these are not merely there for the teaching of doctrine. Remember, doctrine by itself is not useful; it must become character in those that accept and believe it. The Church, therefore, is also there to advise and support its members in whatsoever task they purpose to accomplish. This includes speaking from their own experience in getting something started. The important principle here is to have the willingness to do the work of the Gospel. Once the will has turned toward accomplishing the goal, then providence, the Brethren, and Yahweh directly, will work along with that sanctified will to ensure success.

3) The third thought that may tempt men into uselessness is, "What if I make a mistake?"

Fear of making a mistake, like any other fear, is a manifestation of mistrust in the promises of Yahweh. As students of the Bible, we should know that while the Bible does use the words "err" and "error" in several places, they are inevitably used in the context of a moral failing, in other

words, a sin. The warnings of punishment for error are of this order: "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness." (2 Peter 3:17)

Errors, the way we use the term today of miscalculations or inexperienced mis-steps, are not really addressed in the Scriptures that often. We are told that we should prepare before we undertake any great work, "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" (Luke 14:28)

But of speaking the wrong words, we ought to not even consider this. We are told, and we all know this verse, "But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost." (Mark 13:11)

We are also told this, to give further comfort to those who believe they may err in language or thought: "I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed." (Psa. 119:46)

"For the Lord Yahweh will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded. Therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed." (Isa 50:7)

It should go without saying that even the greatest speakers find better ways to express their thoughts with experience. They all started somewhere, and "trust in Yahweh" is the best place of all to begin.

4) The fourth idea is, "I don't really see the need to do the work."

Leaving out for a moment the incorrect idea that everyone is predestined for Heaven or Hell, the Scriptures have made it clear that we who know the Father and Son have a responsibility to those that do not. Cain is the one who first asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain, the first "son of man," did not feel a responsibility to protect and care for his brother. Yahshua, the greatest "Son of man" sacrificed His own life for everyone else. The contrast here should be clear, and the application obvious.

Yahshua said, "I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work." (John 9:4) He also said, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest." (Mark 9:37, 38)

In yet another place, "Yahshua saith unto them, 'My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work. Say not ye, "There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest?" Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.'" (John 4:34, 35)

It is not a coincidence that all three of these statements are from Yahshua directly. A little-discussed aspect of His ministry is His urgency for the completion of the Father's work, and not

only that, his focus on getting His hearers to understand this also, that we may carry on the work after His departure.

Let this mind be in you that was in Him, and be always eager to do what is set before you. Do not let the spirits of sloth and idleness hold sway in your mortal bodies, for in Yahshua we have overcome the world and these, its dangers.

5) The fifth and final reason why some may feel the need to await orders is another fear, a fear of being distracted or discouraged once the work has begun.

They may reason, "If I am told, by someone I respect, to do something, I will do it... but if I am left on my own, perhaps I will not follow through on my agreements or commitments." This is a very dangerous mindset, and it is subtle, because it can be justified with the thought that we are being obedient to the Church's will, and that we are somehow "better" when we are doing work assigned to us by another. Of course, if we are directly asked to do something, we have a more "visible" reason for completing it, and yet all that providence and our consciences may set before us are requests from the King of Creation.

We read of those who have begun to labor for the Father, "And it came to pass, as he sowed [seed], some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth... and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth, but when the sun was up it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit." (Mark 4:4, 5, 7)

Here we see the various obstacles facing those who have found the "earth," who have turned to Yahweh, the Source of life, and have been called to grow and mature for the Heavenly harvest. There are demonic attacks, as represented by the fowls of the air. There are half-hearted commitments, which may cause some to have a strong, almost overpowering, zeal... but which fade away when the initial excitement passes and trials and temptations appear. There are "thorns," which are the cares of the world, and the pressures placed on those who would serve Yahweh rather than men. These things are designed by Satan to distract or discourage the workers, but the solution again is to steadfastly deny that these have any power to change our minds or actions.

The solution again is to have Sabbath rest, to lie "dead to self" in the Father's love, and to remember His precious promises. Doing this, we always overcome whatsoever the world and those who follow its principles place in our path, and we have no excuse for failure to follow through with those things to which we set our hands.

We know, for He is faithful that has promised, "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Yahshua the Messiah." (Phil 1:6)

It really is as simple as that. We lay hold of this promise, as we lay hold of all promises, and we see – we bear witness – to the work being completed in us, and in the world through us.

We find, then, that there is no reason why the people of Yah should not rely on Him directly for our individual ministries. We always seek support, encouragement, and prayers, from all the brethren, but the Father has given each of us unique skills and talents that are assuredly useful in the winning of souls. Each of us was known, as Jeremiah, from the womb, and equipped from that point to do the work our lives were brought forth to accomplish. Knowing this, and having confidence in Yah's will for us, we may testify with the other saints of Yahweh, "He that sent me is with me; the Father hath not left me alone, for I do always those things that please Him." (John 8:29)

Are there any questions or comments about the study tonight?

Peter: C:

Adriel: Amen

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Peter: I must say that I can see where some of the points are applicable in my life at some time or the other and I also see that when I put away the fear of not knowing what to do or to say but let Yah lead and accept that his will be done, it is then that he gives me the words and the courage to accomplish what I must do at that specified time. As I was sharing with you last week about a worker at work, I was wondering how to get more information on where he is standing as a Christian without pushing him away and his view on the trade mark and so forth. I was not sure how to start but I did give my will over to Yah for his guidance and be willing to be lead as he sees fit and he did come through and I was able to share with him more than I had expected and got a better understanding of where he is standing in the faith. His name is Brad and he attends church quite often but his church is a dying church. They had 250 members before and now they have 150 and few young people and mostly older ones and a young pastor. I have seen his willingness to talk about the truth and I am getting a better understanding of the things that I must present to him as time allow us to talk, so I am requesting prayer and advice also on steps to move in bringing the message to him. End

Zahakiel: Ok, thank you for sharing that. Are there any others with comments or questions?

Lucan: C

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Lucan: I notice a common thread in all of the listed reasons. All of them are wholly focused inward, on self. In my experience, when someone is living up to all the light they have, they have little time or reason to dwell on themselves. Their life is lived in service to others. If the reason for not doing something is other than serving Yahweh or serving others, it seems highly suspect.
<End.>

Zahakiel: That is certainly true, yes. Any others? Ok, then I will ask Bro. Luke to close the study with a prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We thank you for the life that you have given us. We are blessed to live that life freely, regardless of what restrictions the world may seek to place upon us. We ask for your Spirit's guidance and direction as we go forth to share your gift with the world. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Gloria and Nattie: Amen.

Adriel: Amen

Zahakiel: Amen.

PastorChick: Amen.

Peter: Amen.

Barb, Daphna: Amen Daphna: Amen

Elyna: Amen.

Naraiel: Amen.

gadriel: Amen, Amen