

John 14

I was reading in John 14, the other night, and I noticed something I had never seen before. Yahshua said in verse 30, “the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in me.” May it be said of each of us, “he has nothing in me.” For if he does have something in us, then on the day he comes, we will not be able to stand as Yahshua stood.

What could it be that Satan has in us?

It is any small foothold he has gained in our soul. It is a small offense in our heart. It is this that will cause us to stumble (Heb 3:10). We stumble over His ways. Our Master wants us to know His ways — the way things are going to go for us, the trouble we will have to face as His disciples, so we won't stumble. After Jn 14:30, He went on to tell them in Jn 15 about His ways, about abiding in the Vine or being cut off, about loving one another, and about how they would be hated and rejected. And then He said, “I told you these things that you may be kept from stumbling” (Jn 16:1-4), “I have spoken to you that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them.” He doesn't want us to stumble, but if Satan has “something in us,” we will stumble. Though it may not seem like a big thing to us, only a small offence in our heart over this or that, it is still “something in us.” It just might be that we didn't like the way the authority over us did a certain thing and we harbor a small grudge. Or we resisted the “small hint” from a prophet in our midst, keeping our own opinion instead, or just wishing things would have worked out a little bit differently for us in a certain situation. These “little things” in your heart show that you are not linked vitally to the Vine and not trusting in the our Master's all-wise power. These are the “something in us” which will cause us stumbling.

The word “stumble” is also translated as “take offense at” or “get offended at.” There are many things which will happen to us as we follow the way of the our Master which will go against our reasoning, which just doesn't seem right, and which will want to offend us. Yahshua forewarned us of our hardships, so when they begin to happen, we won't be able to say “Why is this happening to poor me?” or “This just can't be right!” Yahshua said we are blessed if we don't take offence at HIM (Mt 11:6).

Jms 3:2 says we all offend (stumble) (get offended) in many ways. But if you are a teacher (verse 1), your offense will be transmitted to those under your teaching, even without consciously realizing it.

It is like the story of Judas Iscariot. He was a wonderful brother in the midst of the other disciples. He walked and lived among them as a beloved friend. They shared their struggles together and sat under our Master's teachings. He was trusted as an honest man to carry the common purse for the disciples. Judas had a bad conscience though, at least near the end of the three and one half years, because (Jn 12:6) he oftentimes had used the money in his care for selfish things. Now surely, he didn't buy himself a new chariot or some fancy clothes with it — that would have been much too obvious, and probably the amount of money they had was very small anyway — but he just took out a little now and then to buy himself a cup of coffee or a cold beer after a long hot day on the road. (This qualified him as a thief). Or perhaps he just bought a Lipton teabag and stashed it under his tunic. But whatever it was, it couldn't have been anything obvious because his close friends never detected what he was doing, believing him to be honest and as devoted to Yahshua as they were. (For when our Master said that one of them would betray Him, none of them said, “It must be Judas!” (Mt 26:21-25). Judas' own bad conscience left him as open ground for an offense to take root. And six days before Passover (Jn 12:1-8) and the crucifixion, it did take root. Judas saw that things weren't working out as he had hoped. Everyone was turning against them. The religious leaders were plotting to kill their Master. Judas had thought that Yahshua was their Messiah, but He wasn't doing the things he expected the Messiah to do. Upon seeing the selfless act of worship and adoration of Mary for her Master, Judas was offended. He stumbled. Satan had something in Judas. Yahshua rebuked the disciples for scolding the woman (Mk 14:5-6) for her waste. But Judas didn't receive the rebuke from his Master, because he was offended. It says that then Judas went off to betray Yahshua (Mt 26:14; Mk 14:10).

Yet in Yahshua's great love, just a few days later, Yahshua reached out still to Judas' offended heart. He loved His disciples to the “uttermost” (Jn 13:1-5,10,11). He wanted to cleanse His betrayer, but Judas was beyond repentance — even that great act of love couldn't pierce his offended heart. Judas had stumbled...betrayal is the

outcome (Mt 24:10).

It is sure that we are fallen men and are not of the stature of our Messiah, who could say “Satan has nothing in me.” But if we are judging ourselves and confessing our sins, thus keeping our garment without stain, then the ruler of this world won’t have anything in us.

Marsha