

## **First Cup***(Letter from Abigail)*

Dear Arthur and Judy,

You are often in our thoughts and prayers, and your names are heard in conversations as those who know you speak of you, remembering you. The friendship and love established in Steinenberg will never be forgotten; instead it continues to grow and is passed on to everyone that's added to our number. Your work was the Father's work, so it continues on, bearing fruit.

This morning we heard about the job of a disciple, which is to bear fruit. In this the Father is glorified. The fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives is a result of the word and discipline of this life; of obeying and believing the teachings with our whole heart, being devoted to prayer and to the apostles' teachings. As we bear the fruit of the Spirit, which begins with love, we prove or bring a demonstration that we're true disciples of Yahshua as it says in Jn 13:35. I am so thankful that we are being disciplined daily so that we can bear fruit, so that our Father can be glorified and men can be convicted of their sin and then have hope to be saved.

This demonstration of love and obedience and devotion to Yahshua is certainly convicting the lost sheep and they are coming into the sheepfold. We are so happy and excited about all the new people there — Bill and Maggie, Tom and Jasper, Carmen and Judy, and all the rest! May our Father give you abundant grace to nourish them with the pure spiritual milk they need for proper growth.

I'm sure you've heard of our new brother from Spain, Luis. Since he was 13, he went to a Catholic seminary to become a priest — a desire of his parents. He studied for seven years, and finally got out at the age of 20, to seek freedom and other religions, because the seminary had not fulfilled the longings of his heart. He took off, and for two years traveled through Europe and India, looking for something real. A few weeks ago, in Italy, he met our Italian friend Tomas, who told Luis about us. He came, but it didn't seem as if he was in much need. He was light and silly, but after a few days, he began to respond to the message that he heard. For two weeks, he remained with us, and last Thursday, after a teaching on discipleship, he stood up and expressed his heart with the clearest confession I've ever heard. He spoke of his life as one who traveled, seeking for the truth. In his walk, he found many ways that offered him pleasure, religion, philosophy, etc., but they always led him to a ditch. Then he met a people who seemed to have found the way that led to Heaven. He wanted to go that way, but something separated him from this people and their ways. It was a river. And to get to the other side, he knew that it meant unloading all his burdens and leaving them behind; it meant cutting off all other ties that hindered him from crossing; it meant dusting the accumulation of wealth in things that he picked up in the world — opinions, religious beliefs, philosophies, habits, perversions, etc.; and it meant throwing himself in that river so that he could be a part of that people who had found the way. He knew in his heart that this way didn't lead him into a ditch, but it would lead him to the Father. Since he went into the seminary, he desired to be a part or to be one with God. He said that the river was baptism, and the name of that people was Yahshua.

We sat in amazement at his confession and then heartily gave our "Amen." There was much said at his baptism. He is the first fruit from Spain. The Father really loves and cares for Luis. I barely have the vision of what it means to the Father that a man gives up his life to do His will, laying his hands on the sacrifice, His beloved Son Yahshua, and receiving the forgiveness of his sins so that he can be a pure vessel for Him to dwell in. (If we're plagued by our sin, then somehow forgiveness hasn't been communicated to our heart.)

The door to Spain is opening! I told Yocef that I can hardly believe what is happening. I seem to be so involved at Tabitha's Place that my vision is so short sighted. Eph 5:17 says, "So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of Yahweh is." I really don't want to be like the 5 foolish virgins, but I desire to be a wise virgin, understanding the will of YHWH so that I can give myself wholeheartedly. It begins by simply loving others more than myself.

Judy, this summer we began to have cook's meetings, which have become vital to the care and order of our lives in our home. I'm so thankful for these meetings. Recently the Father has been speaking to us about reading His word everyday, at least 5 minutes. Surely we can't be so busy! Marsha said that we would receive so much life from the little bit we read and then we could pass it on to others during the day. Our conversations with one another wouldn't be so trivial and if we are faced with problems, that often the answer is in the Bible. Another

thing we talked about was exhorting us to speak kindly to others. For a while, our meetings weren't life giving and it seemed like we just came together just because it was Wednesday afternoon and time to go to the meeting. We can get so busy keeping up with our own little world of caring for our personal needs — our children, our laundry, our bedroom — and never open our eyes to see the great needs around the house. We might as well have Simone Marsha, Birgit, and Chrystell be at the meeting because to them everything is fine at Tabitha's Place. But we're to be women with eyes to see, ears to hear, crying out for wisdom and knowledge. These words were a discipline to me, piercing my heart, but I received them with joy because I hate apathy (a great enemy of mine), and desire to be such a woman who has a heart to do the Father's will no matter what.

About six weeks ago, our children began to participate in the thanksgiving meal by drinking from the first cup, which is the fruit of the vine — the overcomer's cup, the cup of victory and blessing. It is not the blood which is in the second cup, nor do they eat from the bread, which is our Savior's body. I am talking about the non-baptized children. I think that David Saylor wrote something about this, but I wanted to share with you something that Elbert shared with us at this past thanks giving meal. He began by asking different children questions like, "Have you been a blessing to your parents this week? Did you help win the victory by being obedient, receiving your discipline and allowing your parents to discipline you without you squirming? Did you lie and not get caught, or did you lie and confess it? Did you help your parents by not being obstinate and rebellious?" The conscience of our children is being developed and circumcision of their hearts is taking place as we speak words to them that'll go into their hearts and minds. So during the week, we must be talking with our children about the table of our Master and Sovereign, Yahshua. We come to the table full of joy and thanksgiving because we have the right fear of the table, making sure that our sins have been confessed and forgiven. This is a proper fear which we want to pass on to our children. They can begin to check themselves before the drink from that cup, thus developing the right fear and developing their consciences.

The cup is not for small children who cannot and do not have an understanding of the significance of that cup. It's not for those who can't judge whether or not they were a burden or a help to their parents, or if they were a joy, if they were trainable, etc. It is good if they begin to have an understanding of this in their life during the week. For example, Salem Joy and Cyril, who are two years old, are too young to participate and drink from the cup.

When Yoceph ministers the cup to Benjamin it gives me much hope for Benjamin's salvation because I get discouraged at times when I see his real behavior throughout the week. But we cover our children and they are protected and covered by us because they are covered by the blood of Messiah. I'm sure as we continue on, our Father will give us more revelation about our children drinking from the cup of blessing.

There's one more thing I'd like to share with you. We've been receiving much vision about Israel, priesthood, apostleship, etc.; and Lord's Day, Elbert shared with us about the tree that will sprout up once again because its roots are holy.

Many of us have come out of the religious system, and must relearn what the early Church had learned. Jms 1:1 — the early church had a concept of being the twelve tribes of the new Israel, as James wrote to the scattered tribes in the world. But the people lost their vision, they stoned the true apostles and prophets; men didn't receive one another, they stopped disciplining their children so their hearts weren't being circumcised, so they grew up without the Holy Spirit and they couldn't enter into the New Covenant. Therefore they developed rituals and forms. The tree was cut down that should have grown up into the twelve tribes that expressed the life of the Kingdom, having an effect on the whole world. But this didn't happen so the New Covenant was lost and the works of YHWH never developed into the twelve tribes and no one today has this vision.

Job 14:7 9 — speaks of a tree sprouting again although it's been cut down. Acts 2:37 — When Peter preached at Pentecost, men were cut and pierced so that they could receive the Holy Spirit. There must be a communication of forgiveness by the blood of the Lamb. In the New Covenant there is no consciousness of sin; if so, then one is always under the bondage of sin, and guilty.

In YHWH's economy, there may be some people outside of Messiah that are justified by faith. They aren't a part of the New Covenant or a part of Messiah in His Holy City, but they may be part of the nations. Those in the New Covenant are a part of the commonwealth of Israel, YHWH's assembly, the Church.

Rev 21:9 — The bride is those who are under the covering of the apostles. Only under the apostles' anointing can we have a New Covenant heart. (We are getting a foretaste now of what the bride will be — the peace of Jerusalem.) Rev 4:4 speaks of the 24 elders, which may be the twelve apostles of the early church and the twelve of the latter church, and they all have an angel; therefore they were in absolute unity.

Rev 21:12 speaks of the twelve gates with twelve angels, and with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. To get into the city one must go through one of those doors. If you are not in one of those twelve tribes, then you are not in Messiah. Today we will see the demonstration of the twelve gates (verses 13-14, 21, 25-27).

It was the tribe of Levi who responded to the call and gave all their dedication to YHWH. They lived together and shared everything in common. They were the priests in the Old Covenant and their lives were the offerings; they didn't give grain offering. The burnt offering is something we give continually on the altar, never coming off the altar. This is only in the New Covenant and not in the religious system of which we must come out, or else we'll experience the plagues that will come upon the nations.

The only way one can know what an abomination is, is in the Holy City. No one shall enter, whose ways are foul or false. There will be some who actually live in the Church community, whose names will not be written in the Lamb's Book of Life; the Book of Life, yes, but not the Lamb's Book of Life. This is the difference between the wheat and the tares. The tares being those who never really came to know Messiah, doing things lawlessly and not building up His Body. Paul only wanted to know Messiah intimately (Phil 3:10; Mt 7:23). The wheat and the tares, the sheep and the goats, the five wise virgins and the five foolish ones.

If we're going to have a foretaste of the Kingdom we must be in the New Covenant today, *partaking of* His blood and being covered by His blood. The Corinthians weren't in the New Covenant. They were carnal, unspiritual, and Paul tried to cut them to the heart, that they might receive the Holy Spirit and bear its <sup>[His -]</sup> fruit as true disciples. 1 Cor 1:9; and Acts 2 and 4, is the only way the church can be the New Covenant church. A New Covenant person will never blaspheme the Holy Spirit and say, "The Holy Spirit is of the devil." There is hope for those to be in the nations.

Rev 21:12 — These angels will be perfectly and totally coordinated under YHWH and the twelve apostles will be in perfect unity. This is the anointing they're under. And the church will also be in perfect unity, as Yahshua prayed in Jn 17:21-23. Evangelicals say it's too good, it can't be done, and then they wait for heaven. Then they pick up spiritual stones and stone the prophets and apostles that come along. But there is a ministry in the last days that's being accomplished by YHWH. It is the ministry of angels. YHWH *will* perfect a remnant, a seed that's been preserved; if not, the whole world would be like Sodom and Gomorrah. But for the sake of this small remnant, the world will be saved from its own destruction. This seed will be the salt of the earth.

Isa 49:5-6 and Dan 2:44 speak of the twelve tribes. This vision will last until the end, so that we may be a part of the twelve tribes. The so called Church today has no practical concept of being Israel, the spiritual Israel expressed in twelve tribes. Israel is not just a mystical glob, unrelated and without any organization.

There are some, though, in this system that by the mercy of our Father may be justified and be a part of the nations, but not a part of the Holy City. Only those who *LOVE* Yahshua are worthy to enter into the Holy City, not those who are fearful of hell and therefore remain only out of fear. But these who love Yahshua and come to know Him intimately. I want to be in the Holy City. Only those who care enough not to practice deceit and abominations will be in that City.

Jn 17:21 — YHWH will bring this oneness about. Do we believe it with all our hearts? Is it a conviction? This unity expressed in twelve tribes, which is Israel, is the whole purpose of YHWH, and we're to attain this; therefore we must read and hear the Word so that we can be what YHWH desires. This will change us, purify us, perfect us, and sanctify us to be the royal priesthood.

Zec 14:16 and Jn 11:52 speak about us.

(The issue isn't sin, but whether or not we are going to give our wills over to YHWH and enter into self judgment. We're not judged for sin anymore — Yahshua paid the penalty — but the giving up of our will to do His will is the question. We can't try to stop sinning, He will take care of us if we become dirty. We need to hear from YHWH when we sin, in order to continue to do His will.)

