

Made Fit

The first thing the priests did was trim the candles and light them. That was the incense. The praise we have gets the fire going before we can give the sacrifice. The sacrifice cannot burn without the praise — that is our singing, our praise, our shalom. It warms us up, to give our bodies to Him.

Leviy of Manasseh: We made a covenant with our Master, so we made a covenant with each other.

Dean: If we are in fellowship with Him, our fellowship with one another is the icing on the cake.

Ben Nabiy: We can't take it for granted our communion with one another. We have to pay attention (Heb 2) lest we drift.

1 Jn 3:4 — We know we have passed out of death into life. If we do not know, then we are not connected to the Spirit.

Abel: Our union is based on what Yahshua did for us, but our communion is up to us using our will. We have to use our will to keep Him in our heart, otherwise He is outside of our heart and is knocking on our heart. So then it is up to *us* to open the door and He will come in and sup with us. The doorknob is on the *inside*. It is up to *us*.

The Laodecians had union, but they were not enjoying communion. It is a deliberate choice. That is why we must not let our love wane and decline. He told the Ephesians to have an undying love for our Master. And then years later our Master wrote to that same church and said, “Your lampstand is taken away; you let your love die.” In the restoration, our love will not wane. Why? Because it is restored to how it was in the beginning. We are on the incline, back to the place where they started to decline.

Hakam: I think that the problem was they knew the life they had in the beginning and they may not have understood what was happening to them that they were falling away. But we are down here [lower than where they were] and our Father is giving us revelation as we grow. He's giving us revelation about how our spirits must be conjoined together if we're to walk in communion with Messiah. You can get up in the morning and put Messiah on, but it doesn't do any good if you don't come out of your room and give your heart to your brothers and sisters and join your spirit to others. It has to happen before we can offer our bodies as one sacrifice. Because we know we're one sacrifice through our shalom. We come down and that warmth really communicates that we are one sacrifice, we are one body.

Rom 5:3-5 explains how that happens, step by step, through *approval*. A proven character is approved through the final approval. He cannot come back for anyone except for the people who have that hope, who are longing for Him to come back. If there is anything hindering our fellowship now, it keeps us from longing for Him. We have to be pre-*pared* — prepared for Him as with a paring knife. We have to be prepared before He comes so that we can be fitting and suitable. We have to prepare ourselves. It is a previous preparation, which is done while the king is far off. We have to start preparing.

Havah: Before, everything I did took me where I wanted to go. But coming into salvation, I knew that our Father's way is the way I wanted to go. I wanted to go His way. But still, all my ways are still in me — my own way. I thought how salvation is really about each little way we have being changed to be His way instead of our way. And it's a painful process. Each little aspect of our lives being redeemed and perfected to be His way and the only way that can happen is by total surrender and trust. You can't know it. You can only take it on and trust that it's going to take you where He wants you to go.

You were trained in the world like your mother or your father. You were trained in their way — the way they got along with their husband or wife, the way they trained their children, the way they related to one another. This is what the Bible says is passed on from parents to their children. What was your mother like with your father? Well, you are like that if you do not see that and change it. They did not have the Body of Messiah; they did not have salvation to cut these things off. So therefore it comes upon us to do it so that we do not give it to our children. You are going to do the same thing to your husband as your mother did to your father — we have

that way in us, in our genes, in our character. That is why we have to cut it off. That is why our Father sent our Master Yahshua to redeem us and restore us to be like Him. We have to correct it. It is not easy; it can only be done by the word of God. Now we have to be like our Master so we can pass *that* on to our children. And that is what we are here for — being made fit for the kingdom.

“No one who sets his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” *Fit* means prepared for the kingdom, prepared to rule. Whenever it says kingdom, it means to rule with Him. So therefore we have to come to have the mind of Messiah.

You cannot just enter into the kingdom “cold turkey” (suddenly, without any preparation). You have to be made fit, acquire the mind of Messiah, acquire His likeness. If not, we will not be able to rule with Him. We will not be *fit*.

Shimonah: I was thinking about how I always saw that — setting your hand to the plow — in a Christian way. But it's in a daily walk without introspection and looking back. We have to keep looking ahead; we have to forget the past; we can't look back, but only look forward and believe He can take us where we need to go.

Ben Nabiy: Plowing is like a lost art. It used to be a normal thing to put your hand on a plow and plow with a team of oxen. But there's a reason why he used that as an example. Because it's different than plowing with a tractor. When you plow with a tractor, you can look right down the rows and your wheels are right in the rows. But when you plow with a mule, it's hard to see ahead. And you have to look right down to where the plow is. You have that thing on your neck and you have to watch that you're plowing the soil and not tearing the roots up, and it is work. The plow has to get close enough to the roots so you don't tear them out, but close enough to get all the weeds out. It's intense because you are dealing with an animal that you have to guide with the reins and you have to be constantly aware of what you're doing every second of the time. It's a constant engagement. Whereas with a tractor, there's nothing to it, compared to doing it with a mule. With a mule you have to keep your eyes right on the row all the time. It's a total engagement. It's a more real example if you ever plowed, because you know that if you look back, you're going to destroy your crop.

The word *fit* that our Master used here meant adjusted or adapted to be suitable, appropriate, or in keeping with; to be rendered competent or qualified for, or prepared for, or, to equip. We are being equipped for the kingdom (Eph 4:12) in relationship with the apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers. They prepare the saints for the works of service. The Greek says that they *qualify* us for walking in the works that were prepared for us in advance. And if we are not walking in those works, we are going to go off course.

So that is what *fit* means — appropriate, suitable, adapted to, being altered, custom made, fit, made in advance, made suitable. *Suitable* is to agree with the king, having the mind of Messiah. 1 Cor 2:16 says we have the mind of Messiah — our mind is adjusted to His mind. We know what His mind is about how the Corinthians were dividing. They had denominationalism creeping into their church.

They were starting to get into little sects and divisions and groups. He said, “*But we have the mind of Messiah,*” so don't denominationalize — it's carnal, it's creeping in on you.

To agree with the king is having the mind of Messiah. 1 Jn 2:28 talks about being adjusted to the king, remaining in Messiah — *in* Him, abiding in Him so that we will have confidence on that day when we see Messiah, so that we will have His mind, be suitable for Him, adjusted to Him in every way. We have to be prepared for that day, and we are being prepared for it in every way.

Pr 21:27 speaks about giving a sacrifice without having your mind, your attention on Messiah. It is really a wicked thing. It talks about the sacrifice of the wicked or the sacrifice of those who are not wise, especially the person with an evil intent or evil mind, not being of one accord.

We are plowing a field now, cultivating it, so it will produce the fruit of the kingdom.

We are here to change. So when a disciple is ready to change, the word changes us, conforms us into the image of Messiah, to be like Him, having His mind. Let us give ourselves to that today.

1 Cor 1:10-15 talks about denominationalism. And in 1 Cor 3:1 it talks about how carnal people are who are

engaged in that. It is not written to Christianity; it was written to the church, which was still one, to keep them from dividing into denominations and the Spirit leaving them.

Hakam: It's a miraculous thing that we've actually received the Holy Spirit who exposes all the ways that are entrenched in us so that we'll be able to surrender our ways. I don't want to be tripped up by the evil one who would make me think that our God is not for me or does not have the power to change my ways. We can change. We have enemies that try to keep us from really laying hold of that. Our battle every day is believing and receiving faith and giving ourselves to Him and having our hearts in a place of allowing a change, admitting the way we are and then the Holy Spirit will continue to have access to us and we will change. Our Father is for us; He loves us. Our Father wants us to know that and never doubt that.

There is a way in us that seems right to us but the end is destruction and death. Salvation is the way out. Heb 2 — How can we escape if we neglect His salvation, if we do not pay attention to the things we have heard. If we do not pay attention we will drift off course. If we drift off just a little bit, it sets the course for our whole life and we have to be brought back on course. And we are being brought back on course. The way you were raised set the course for your whole life. We drift; we have a tendency in us to drift. It is a driving force, a way.

The greatest miracle in the world is that we would be fit for the kingdom. That's what Paul was trying to tell the Corinthians. He wanted them to be fit for the works of service, preparing for the kingdom, having the mind of Messiah.

If we are ready to have communion with Him we can lift our hands up — if there are no differences of opinion, all conforming to His word, no one grumbling, but all working for the peace of the Body. Those who are for Messiah are building up. Those who are not for Him are scattering. Only those who are for Him are able to enter into the prayer.