

Our Youth

We began our meeting by reading a summary of one of the morning sacrifices that Yahchebed had written up:

"This generation of youth in the world today are so far from the image of God because of the degradation and humiliation that went into their parents. There has been a continual erosion of the moral fiber of humanity, especially in the last 50 years. Man has lost his sense of propriety because of losing his sense of identity. The further away man goes from God and being made in His image the more he takes on a foolish character. This is a worthless way coming from the foolishness that is bound up in man's heart even from childhood. In the scriptures we see that this foolishness can only be removed through discipline — it is bound up in the heart of a child. Therefore, since discipline has become a thing of the past (Dr. Spock's gospel) that inherent foolishness has been left to fester in the hearts of children who have grown up to be adults. Now these are foolish, worthless adults having no sense of what is proper and what is not.

This lack of understanding and foundation for human identity has created so much chaos and confusion in society. To not be "cool" and consequently foolish in today's society means rejection. Young people gain their worth through belittling and humiliating one another — whoever cracks the biggest joke is the most respected. It is the very opposite of how we were created to be.

So, we wonder as we become adults why we feel so insecure and worthless. Why we let our children humiliate and embarrass one another and even us sometimes. How far we have fallen from the heart of our Maker! How very much we need the confirmation and appreciation and honor from one another as human beings. How much we need to love one another in order to reverse the Fall and its effects. The degradation of this world has brought us all so low we must cry out to our Master for the grace to bring restoration to our soul and others. It is only through our Master Yahshua, the One who is the source of our worth, can we know how to do this. May He help us bring back His glory to this earth by bringing it back to one another.

Yoneq: We have let our youth slip from the tight hands that we were instructed to have. We should never be responsible for creating a generation gap. One of the things people who have visited us have noticed is parents dancing with their children. They saw there was no generation gap. We have to be gathering, not scattering. Children should love to be with youth because youth love to be with adults. In the world, and it could happen here, the motives for going to the "youth meetings" were unclear. We have to see that youth do not put worth into other youth (or children), they cannot do it. All things have to be restored.

We need to correct things that have happened among us. We have to judge these things so we can be forgiven and not stain our garments. We can stain our garment by simple things, it does not have to be by gross immorality. If we stain our garments the Holy Spirit is not able to communicate to us — our conscience no longer hears and responds to the Holy Spirit. We are no longer able to judge ourselves. The wages of sin for us are still death (Rom. 6:23), not eternal death, but the place where believers go to pay for the sins Messiah didn't. This is what happened to most of the people in the church in Sardis. They were not confessing their sins because they were not judging themselves. Therefore their guilt remained on them.

If we see things in our brother and don't go and speak about it our garment will be stained. Pretty soon we won't even see it. We live by the word of God and we hear the word by faith. If we go on in sin (by not going to our brother) our ears are stuffed with cotton and we no longer hear the word that we live by. "Today if you hear my voice, do not harden your heart." The last thing He says to the churches are, "He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Something that keeps rubbing us finally makes a callous. If we are grieved about something we must speak. When we cease to be grieved anymore we are stained. If we do not obey Heb 12:15 we will see death (Jn 8:51).

Heb 3:13 — We better find out what this means, "to encourage one another as long as it is called today." If we have not considered how to stimulate one another we are calloused (Heb 10:24). We have to be

stimulated by a consideration [define] — if we know what is going on in the sheep. Ezekiel tells us about the watchmen on the wall. If we don't go to people with the things that we see than the blood is on our hands. There are teachers in Israel who don't even know where essential Scripture verses are found. By now we should be teachers in Israel, but we still need to be taught.

There is reason to believe that we are moving and shifting off the foundation because some of our children are leaving us. They are disrespectful to authority. They can have their own money — earning their own money and keeping it. They are stuffing food into their mouths that is not good for them. One person bought himself a walkman and walked around playing rock and roll music because his shepherds thought it was okay for him to do this since he was cut off. I John 2:15 tells us the love of the Father has never been in such a one. We have been teaching some of our children to love the world.

Ha-emeq: When I came back to Boston I saw that Phineas had changed. When I sent him here from Manasseh he was in a real good state. I found him here in a different state. Two things were obvious: he had fallen away and in his conscience he knew that something had happened.

(One little word from this meeting passes through our youth and children like wildfire. That understanding someone got from here that there would be no more ultimate Frisbee destroys authority. We can't hear things like that.)

Phineas told me stories about how games are a common thing in the community. Cards, Parcheesi, Scrabble, are all common. There was a progression of things that came to a head at the Breaking of Bread here in Boston.

Ben-yamin Corder was corrected in the middle of the sacrifice for playing the guitar too fast. He resisted and rebelled. He was talked to and talked to sacrifice after sacrifice without using the word. It was like carnal men speaking with other carnal men, saying, "You should not do this, you should not do that." It was draining the life out of the sacrifices. (Yoneq — Every elder has a sword. If they don't use it they are cursed. Jer 48:10 applies to them.) Phineas sensed the need for the penetrating cut of the word. Things build up and we become calloused when we ignore them. When we keep people in rebellion it lowers the temperature and pollutes everyone in the Body.

Everybody who loves the world needs to leave. It is hard to tell them to leave, but they need to. Ben-yamin needed to leave. I remember the meeting several years ago when Chazaq and Tikvah were told they had to take Daniel out of the community because he said he'd like to get on a snowmobile and go out into the world. We thought at the time that high-handed rebellion, but there is much more going on now.

Ben-Yamin said he did not understand what the big deal was about playing cards. He and his abba had always played cards. **(Yoneq — But did his abba put the commandments into him?)** When he realized that he had to leave he was cut to the heart and he was saved. Now he is glowing and happy.

Phineas said that if they asked that question in Island Pond that was asked here, "Who wants to leave and go to the world?" and they added what Derush had, "And we will help you do it," then there were youth who would take up the offer and leave. (Yoneq — Are we impressing our children with the commandments or with worldly games in order to be popular with them?)

When the community began you knew what you couldn't do, you knew what was expected of you as a disciple.

Jeremiah Gonyaw also went through a big thing the other night. He had seen western movies with his abba while he was in the community (visiting relatives). So you can see these things are in the parents.

Huldah and Yael were telling me the other day that Kepha's generation was more serious. The hippy generation we grew up in was much less serious. They were saying that some of our children who have grown up their whole lives in the community are more worldly than they are, and they did not come into the community until they were 12 years old. They don't understand it.

Yoneq: Huldah, tell us the things you were talking to us about the other day.

Huldah: I feel like when we started realizing that we were losing our youth in Island Pond we wanted to do fun things with them. There was this big slumber party at a cabin one weekend, with boys and girls together. When I was in Island Pond I saw these independent youth driving around town and going shopping alone in

Newport. That was foreign to me. I was not raised like that.

At celebrations I always sat with my parents. Now I see children sitting by themselves and you know that what they are talking about can't be too good.

Somehow we did not have the confidence that we were in the covenant, therefore we didn't have for our children either. So we did exciting things with them to win their friendship. We are not under that thing from the world with our children. It is worldly to think we have to raise them by giving them, "a variety of experiences."

Sarah and Ruth are faithful and diligent. To me they are some of the most godly young women in Island Pond. They are more prepared to be a godly wife than many youth who are older than they are. A lot of our children's worldliness is from their parents. I have had new young disciples come to me and ask, "Why don't the girls who have grown up here dress the way we do? Don't they want do?"

Yoneq: We should put the word into them. You may say, "That's what we did when we were Christians." But that is when you didn't have the Holy Spirit.

Ha-emeq: Fads come in. We don't understand these things, that there is nothing that is not a spirit. It is just a fad to wear your dresses down on your hips. They always have their reasons but it is just a fad. (Yonah — Even people in the world know that a fad is just a way of expressing your differences from your parents.) The narrowest point on a woman's body is her waist; you have to push your dress down to your hips. Salome was telling me the other day, "I am so dense. When I noticed Shimini Yom wearing her dresses like that and asked her about it, she said, 'Oh, they just slip down there,' and I believed her."

Huldah: I see youth having a lot of free time and clumping up here and there. There were also parties, like the one at Seymour Lake to say good-bye to Yahnathan(?). Sarah Marchildon felt out of place. The other youth were telling her, "Why don't you loosen up?" Heman said, "I have never seen such a party spirit, it was wild." He had to leave. Shelavav told Sarah that the youth are always talking about who likes who. This is worldly!

Yoneq: And those who aren't a part of it feel rejected. Where is the word? Our youth are not even bringing their Bibles to the sacrifices. You weren't in the Vine House without your Bible. The days seem to be over when the guys on the crews would always have their pocket New Testament with them and read whenever they had a chance. It obvious we did not get the commandments into them.

The greatest thing in curriculum should be putting the word of God into them. We are under the thumb of the state if we are worried about giving them things to read and not putting the word into them. The most exciting time in anyone's life is when the word of God teaches our heart. Matt 6:9-15 — The Kingdom must come now, here. Pray for it everyday — it is the center of all our prayer. We are offering our children to Molech.

Savov: (crying) We didn't know how to bring the word to them, to bond with them. We have really repented to them for doing these things with them.

Yoneq: We are not condemning physical games, but when they become more important than anything else, and the word is neglected, than something is wrong.

Ha-emeq: I know we said we didn't want to give them too much responsibility because they get too bossy, but it seems like responsibility is what they need to grow up. They should be trained up by the time they are twelve or thirteen. They really thrive on responsibility. We need to let them come into responsibility. We have been raising them up to take over the community. We can't do without their help.

Daniel: The pride is in their hearts, Mark 7:20-23. The responsibility is doing what it is supposed to, saving them and causing them to mature. When they are proud we correct them, not take them out of their position of responsibility.

Ha-emeq: We need to understand how it is that Shemuel Lamb got in the place he is in. When we lived here before he was the most sensitive child in the community. His name was changed from Peter to Shemuel because that was who he was, we weren't hoping that he would become it. But now, if you asked anyone, he has the worst reputation in the community.

It seems as though the process whereby Shemuel and Raphael lost respect for their parents was twofold. With Andrew, they heard little jokes about the ways he had, and immediately they wanted to separate themselves

from him. They couldn't stand to be around him, they were embarrassed with him. With Deborah it was different. When her children did something she would separate herself from them. Instead of seeing that she was like them, and taking identity with them when they fell, she would stand back as if to say, "See how awful my children are."

Sharon: Keliyah (Yakin's daughter Talitha) had a cause. She gained a lot of momentum as a crusader for the cause of the youth.

Yonah: A lot of times we feel like we are lacking in our brooding instinct and we look to the professionals in the body to make up for our lacks. (Yoneq — Youth counselors often arise when parents don't talk to their children.)

Huldah: The brooding instinct is gone — instead of bringing the word and the sword to their youth parents felt guilty over not winning their child's heart. I remember when I told my emma that it was really hard here in the community and she said, "You are rebellious and you are not giving up your life!" That was the end of it.

I used to have a hard time with a certain single brother about the way he treated me. I thought he liked me and I didn't like that. My emma did not pat me on the back. Instead she told me I was not loving him and she made me read 1 John every day. She said, "You don't love Yahshua any more than you love that brother."

There were many times when my emma just let me be handled by the women in the house. She would say when one of them came to her about something they saw in my life, "You go talk to her about it." She didn't shield me at all.

There is definitely a thing in them (the youth) that doesn't want to be corrected. I have seen when I try to get close to someone's life everything is fine until I correct them. Then they back off. Now I see youth talking to each other about adults in the community. There is something really wrong with having a hard time with authority.

Yoneq: That is the thing, they are among themselves a lot. Why do they want to do the youth things? We know why we wanted to go to the youth meetings at the churches we grew up, and it wasn't to hear about the gospel.

Daniel: We have something in us that the youth need to be together for social times. I feel the ripples of this from Island Pond in my community. We still have worldly minds. We have even commented that when the youth dance together that it is a powerful thing. What is really a powerful demonstration of our life is parents and children being together. We need to fill up our children. We can't be afraid to spend time in the word of God with our children.

Ha-emeq: I think I am responsible for bringing in couple's dances. I want to repent. I think we ought to do away with couple's dances altogether. We have to get rid of these computer brain dances. We need to change our dances to more simple ones that everyone can dance and enter into worship with.

Yoneq: We don't want to do any dances that the Israelites would have done around the golden calf.

Ha-emeq: If it was the old ones and young ones doing their exercises together dancing it would be better. It is the old ones who need the exercise.

Yoneq: We need to fill up the empty spaces that the youth movement was trying to fill. It is not that we would necessarily go home and throw away the Frisbee, but if we don't enjoy reading the word of God and letting ourselves be impressed by it we certainly won't put it into our children. We must not be afraid to talk to our children about the word. Remember when we used to pass the Bible around the table and have everyone read a passage and explain it. We had those large print New Testaments and you could read from anywhere except the book of Acts. It was stimulating to think about what you were going to read.

Timshal: We were talking to Matthew Nelson last night and the bottom line of what he said was that he really wants to communicate with his parents but that he didn't know how. He didn't know how to talk to him with out him reacting or without reacting to him. Our children don't know the heart of their parents.

Havah: I feel a little bit like I did at the Dysfunction teaching. My heart is to communicate and function properly with my children but often I feel utterly bankrupt. It seems like the only thing that will work is to see that our Father is there to cry out to.

Yoneq: I want to guarantee that you do have something to give to your children. John 7:37-38 — It say that he who thirsty, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in Me will have rivers of living water flowing out of his heart. That ends the doubt. That thought that you have nothing for your children is an evil thing. You have something for them if you are in the New Covenant.

Tell your child to open up the word and read it. You will explain it to them after they try. You will learn the word together. Make sure your children know that you love them. Make sure you have their attention. Turn your whole body around and face them, eyeball to eyeball. So many people feel their children are a bother to them and this attitude communicates to the children.

Huldah: We could just start reading the Bible to them and have it totally lack life. I know if I love Yahshua with all my heart than I will love my children and I will have their heart. They will know that you love them.