

The Judge of Our Thoughts

Dear Racham,

Tomorrow David Yonah and his family leave for Judah, so I thought I'd include a little letter. Actually, I've had lots of little letters formulated in my mind as various circumstances have come up in my life over the past year and a half. I feel like our Father has helped me to see a lot of resistance in me to correction and a critical way that leads me to be overconfident of myself. I remember times when you brought things to me, the hard times I had — like when you told me ha-emeq had said I didn't have the hearts of the children in my training group. I can see now how I really gave in to self-pity because I didn't want to receive.

I feel like I was often critical of the children — not seeing the whole picture — often feeling separated from the parents because of what I saw in the children and trying to do something about it apart from the parents. I don't think that the separation in me was something I was even so aware of. I thought my motives were good, but now I see that a lot of the ways I have reacted to children have been because of how I've been irritated or disturbed, rather than always responding out of compassion.

I've learned a lot living with David Yonah and his family. I think I am coming to a place where I am really wanting to judge where I am before I react to a situation. I think in the past I was unrealistic about what I demanded from the children, I could take in the standard, but I think the reality is that a lot of our children haven't had a good foundation laid in their lives, and I've tried to get them to that point in five minutes. I'm seeing that it doesn't work, and if I'm honest, it's not the way I'm treated. David Yonah was saying the other day that critical people just need to see that they are faulty too. I'm seeing it, and I'm thankful. I know I need a *deep* work done in my life.

At times it has been hard living in England, but I have really learned something through it. I have seen that sometimes I have lost respect for people because of their faults, especially weaknesses in the way they raise children, but I have come to see how wicked this was. I have come to see how much my brothers and sisters have loved me anyway, and how they are people our Father really uses. I have come to see that the *way* I saw things (not the *fact* that I did see things) has at times divided me from my brothers. It has become clear to me that the spirit that was communicating to me, stirring me up, was not the *Holy* Spirit, because it divided me from my brothers. This is how I am learning to judge *every* thought — does it build the unity our Father is desiring to build? I feel like through this we are becoming good friends. And that is so exciting because it means the enemy is going to be bound — I mean that is what overcoming him is all about. He wants to divide — using all the bent ways we have and see in one another, he's continuously prompting us to think the worst, but by the power of the *Holy* Spirit we are going to become the best of friends.

I'm so thankful for how you were such a true friend, full of mercy to me when I was in Boston. I'll never forget how you pulled me through when I was struggling. You and Miriam always made me feel like part of your family. Tears are in my eyes thinking about it. It is so powerful a thing — that we can have relationships the way we do.

It is frustrating being here — we meet so many people and they see our life — and there it is — we know what we have, we know there is nothing like it on the face of the earth — we know there is nothing else in this universe that is really important or has any value — and *nothing* — people just love *their* lives — getting the dole, watching television, going to the pub, smoking cigarettes — they are just blind — but we do have hope — we want so much to find the ones that are sick of *their* lives — the ones that will see the pearl — we are living for that time when we find just one such a person.

I was very excited to hear about Gidon. I'm so glad, tell him I love him. Chassidah always talks about David Solomon. Tell Miriam thank you so much for the doily.

We love you,
Emet