

Borrowing from the Nations, Part 1

We ought to be especially kind to the righteous people of the nations because they will not take the abuse that we give to each other – accusations, etc. We abuse each other with things like accusations. And then when we go to somebody with it, we find out it wasn't them, it was us! We were the ones who weren't thinking the best! That is what happens if you don't have your armor on.

We have the Holy Spirit, whom it is possible to grieve. How many times do we grieve Him? Eph 4:30 — He is not going to leave us because we grieve Him. He is better than we are. He committed Himself to us. He says, "I'm going to win you." He would not have given us the Holy Spirit if He didn't know our hearts. So we can forgive 490 times. We are the Holy. We can do it because we have the Holy Spirit.

But our Father is not expecting the nations to forgive that way. They are not the Holy — we are. We are the ones who have the Holy Spirit. They are not expected to forgive as we are who have been forgiven much.

We met a woman of the nations yesterday who treated us so well, and we prayed for her afterwards, because something could happen and she could lose her righteousness. Ezekiel says that. All they can do is see their sin and feel sorry for it. But we can see ours and repent and be forgiven and cleansed. So now we have to be perfect as He is perfect. We have to speak to people. Even the Gentiles speak to each other. But we have to speak to the Gentiles — reach out to them.

But we are not supposed to borrow from the Gentiles. They are supposed to borrow from us. Years ago in Sus we borrowed a ladder from one of our neighbors, and what happened? We didn't return it right away. And wouldn't you know, he had to come over to us to get his ladder! And though he didn't turn against us, he did have grounds for an accusation against us. It would have been our fault.

We can love people in the world and not look down on them that they are not as kind as we think they ought to be. But we could condemn ourselves by judging the nations. We are not perfect either. You might look down on someone in the supermarket because of their screaming, out-of-control child and say, "How awful!" but you may have one yourself.

Shoresh — Pr 2 "...then you will discern the proper fear of your master and discover the knowledge of God.

" Today I heard the knowledge of God – the way God sees things. I'm so thankful to know that the way we treat people could help them preserve their righteousness. Because people in the nations could lose their righteousness. So when there are nice, kind people, we acknowledge them, and it strengthens them. The nations don't know what we know. All Lot saw was good farmland – that was all he could see.

Abraham saw so much more. But somehow they had some kind of agreement with each other.

We can love our wives like this in an understanding way. And with our children, they don't have the grace or understanding we do. But if we provide the right environment for them they can receive our correction.

Yesterday Yoneq was talking about picking up trash. At a meeting we had in Cossackie people started voicing negative accusations about us, and then someone stood up and said, "But they PICK UP TRASH!!!!!" And that was the end of the argument. It helps people.

And greeting people: We have to see the importance of greeting people and being friendly. It will put a guard in them from receiving accusations against us later. That would be a terrible thing to receive accusations against us – it could turn their eternal destiny.

Then if people ask us why we are different, if they ask us about the hope that they see in us, we will be prepared (hopefully) to give an account of the hope they see in us. We must live like this in every place. Love demands this.

Nahum — That's why we all have to be in love. It has to be a whole sacrifice with no bad parts in it. The bad parts have to be cut off or one person could ruin the reputation of the whole community.

We are not supposed to borrow from the nations. They can borrow from us. And we are to give to him who asks. And if they don't return it, we can understand because we know that they don't have the Holy Spirit. We cannot expect them to be better than us. We are His excellent, noble, glorious, majestic ones in

whom is ALL His delight.