

Bonding and the Brooding Instinct

“Bonding” is not first; seeking the kingdom is first. Bonding is a matter of the heart, not a schedule or an experience. Our devotion for our Master is most important, not our nice community with swaddling, home birth, potty training, etc. Some of us have gone off because bonding has become first. We must be sensible, have common sense, get things in the right perspective.

A lot of us have lost our brooding instinct. This is a crime against woman. We see this in ourselves, and we want to know how to be normal “brooding hens” knowing where our chicks are at all times. We will help each other with this. About the children we have already lost, who have left us — we will trust our Father with them. He is not “against us” because of our mistakes. He will restore us in these areas.

The Bride of Messiah must have an abundance of brooding instinct. We will stand out as exceptional in this perverted generation, doing what is only “normal.” We will talk at our weddings about how the Bride is a good mother, clothed in a white garment of good deeds. *We will teach this to our sons!* When they look for their wife, she needs to be a good mother. Our Father is looking to shepherd, mother, the whole universe. She is so aware of her children, both physical and spiritual. She got that way only by **preparation. Somehow we must know how to get our children’s hearts, plus doing all the other things.**

Titus 2:4-7 — These are instructions that we are to pass on to our young people **how to conduct themselves**. Brooding stands in contrast to bonding — a brooding hen doesn’t keep her chicks under her wing forever! Brooding knows the right time to cut the bonds and push the little ones out, when they are prepared for their purpose.

The women of Yehudah seem more to have this instinct than those of Benjamin, however, the characteristic iniquity of Yehudah seems to be that of a reserve in communication, which creates insecurity in the sheep. A characteristic of Benjamin seems to be a deep-seated worthlessness and lacks in child training. *Confirmation* comes through our friendships. We must make sure everyone is full of vision and zeal.

Insecurity comes from a wrong concept of leaders, that they are like “answer-people.” We don’t have a “Great Oz” (like the Wizard of Oz, a little man who stood behind a curtain and used a machine to create a big image of himself, and he was looked to for all the answers). Everything doesn’t have to run through the leaders; they don’t do it all. Such leaders will begin to show signs of not handling the load, having a hard time dealing with the people, so then the sheep get more insecure. There can be a lack of giving responsibility to others because they are young, new, or whatever. When we think this way, the Body doesn’t build itself up in love (Eph 4:15-16). Speaking the truth in love, you can’t be insecure, you must be real.

You can’t trust leaders who go on in natural strength, but we need leaders who are dependant on others (Eph 4:15-16). **We must train people to bring others alongside, raise others up.** Leaders see to it that others are doing what they are given to do, not just doing it themselves. It may even be that some people may not want responsibility, **so we must speak to each other, so we will grow up into the bond of peace. Reserved people cause others to be insecure** because they don’t confirm, don’t speak the truth, don’t bond. Our communities need to be full of *truly happy* people who are full of the word, full of love for the anointing, *who know they have a place, know they have a voice, know they are needed.*

Our weekly women’s meetings are like “taking the pulse.” It’s where we communicate and detect the spiritual condition of the women. We must deal with things among us quickly, as we would with our children. Be “first responders” — be quick as soon as you see something wrong. Then if someone thinks we are having a hard time with them, we can immediately, with confidence, show them that it’s an accusation.

If the older women aren’t affirming one another, that voice comes, “Who am I to say anything.” The older women must have a tight-knit fellowship. The evil one wants to get the older women insecure.

Honesty with compassion militates against insecurity. These are the people you are most secure with. It is a trick of the evil one that keeps us from going to someone because we’re “not really sure.” Sometimes things *aren’t* really clear, but this is fine because we can go humbly with what we have, not having it all together.

We don't have to go in strength. We don't want to blast people anyway. It's better to go in all humility and gentleness. And if someone resists, we don't have to just back down — we can go get someone else.

If get so much confidence before we go to someone, we can make people feel bad. We want to give people a chance to explain themselves. *We go, knowing we are needy ourselves, to hear their heart.*

Yehudah will suffer so much if we don't deal with this reserve. The Yehudites may not even be intimidated — they are just **reserved**, just waiting to speak. We can sense the resulting insecurity sometimes even in the Minchah (but it is not the women's place to take over...). That reserve even comes from a lack of warmth toward our Master. **We must recognize the enemy, know the gates we must possess, and go after them.** We cannot do anything apart from our Master — the women of Yehudah cannot overcome this reserve apart from Him.

If we hesitate to speak or act, then we're lost. Often we then become guilty of gossip. Sometimes, at the scene of an accident, all it takes to restore breath to an accident victim is to *reposition his head*. There is something spiritual to learn from this — many situations simply may not really be a big deal. When people come to us about someone, we should say right away, "Did you go to her about it?"

Heb 3:6 — We are His house, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast (outspokenness) of our hope until the end. "Out of Zion will come forth saviors." **A savior does not hesitate — he wants to save! We will continue in the ministry of rushing in to save each other. A first responder knows that our Father will show her what to do.**

Gen 22:17; 24:60 — Our descendants must gain possession of the gates of their enemies. We are duty-bound to do this. When we start breaking down the walls, our Father notices. What are our enemies, what divides us? Write down what we want to remember — our Abba does! (Mal 3:16). We must have our meetings, even if only two show up.

Clothing

We must exercise common sense in judging matters of clothing. There was an evangelistic event in Washington, DC, where people were dancing for hours in 100-degree weather. The young women were told that ha-emeq had said we must wear ankle-length bloomers, etc... but then the women were soaking themselves with water to endure the heat, and they had some difficulty seeing the men wear shorts and tank tops when they had to be covered to their ankles.

We can learn some things from this example. Evangelistic events call people to follow Yahshua, so we would not be doing extreme, even unwise things such as dancing for hours in such heat. The answer here wasn't to wear less clothes, but to do less dancing! Being so heavily clothed as to be ridiculous in such heat misrepresents our Abba.

Men's shorts should go over the knee, just below, so when they sit it does not come up too far or hang loose to show their leg. To make shorts, you can bring the inseam in a little, not making it too tight, and adding a cuff is nice. Men's tank tops are for labor or swimming, not for the minchot or for evangelistic events.

Normally women aren't as distracted by men, whether they are dressed "modestly" or not, but now in the world there is a sexual spirit; it is becoming common for women to be very aware of men. So we want to have our brothers and husbands clothed properly.

Women of Yehudah have a reputation among the rest of the tribes for not wearing bloomers. A smile, and freedom of movement are the "first step" of the dance of Israel – this characterizes our dance.

Someone having to hold her skirt down is not normal — do they not want to wear bloomers? Why? They do not represent us, so we should not send them to an evangelistic event. Do they not know why they like to dance?

Bloomers can be knee length —we wear bloomers.

Our women can learn to have common sense in their clothing. Lightweight Indian fabric blouses call for wearing a camisole. It isn't proper that our bra would show through our blouse. Or we could wear a blouse that is a little heavier, but not have to wear a camisole. In extremely hot weather, we could wear two *very* lightweight pants,

(or light pants and light bloomers) rather than pants that are heavier. We can be sensible in our fabric choices – some fabrics, you can see right through when the light is behind someone. But some good fabrics are thin but allow only a little light through. We can let our sisters help us. *We must teach the young women to have their own sense of modesty, make it their own.* Modesty, and wearing layers, is part of our “lot” — something we must accept as women who follow our Master. We don’t want to be a distraction.

We must send the most spiritual people to evangelize, not the self-conscious ones, or those who don’t smile, or who won’t wear bloomers.

Breast implants will become an issue, as more people are saved. It is dangerous to remove the implants, but it is dangerous to leave them. We should talk with women that look abnormally or disproportionately large. *Talking personally with new disciples is part of taking on the problems of the nations.*

Cheap underwire bras are totally ineffective. Sports-type bras with wide cotton-covered elastic can be a good support.

Women must wear proper support to not bounce when they dance. We want also to be graceful in the dance.

Dances with arms on each others’ shoulders are a typical problem. *Deal with situations right there, at the time* (such as immodesty in the dance at a wedding). Ask them, “It’s immodest – why don’t you feel it when you dance? It takes away your dignity. Drop out of the dance so you can remedy the situation!” *T* *each* them to know, to be aware, if they lack this common sense. Some large women simply may not be able to do all the dances. We don’t want our women and girls to dance in a wild way, or dance the way the young men do at times. We, as a people, don’t dance in a frenzy.

Single people dancing couples dances with each other or a married person is NOT appropriate (unless perhaps their own brother or sister). Bridegroom could practice with older women or link arms instead of pulling the person close.

We will be having dance seminars — the dance in Israel will be inclusive, social. Children dancing in the outer circle with adults looks disorderly, is awkward. The b’nai mitzvah can go humbly into the middle with the children.

We must teach women about the Shalom embrace. Rubbing someone’s back communicates something sensual. Some may do this without any bad intent — they are just naïve — but we should take them aside and teach them kindly. No chest contact, only arms, shoulders, heads.

Deodorant and other Health Issues

A long, long time ago we learned not to do this, to use deodorants from the world. In extreme cases it may be necessary. Armpit skin is the quickest-absorbing area — many medicines are applied externally to this area. Deodorant is now being associated with breast cancer. Putting it under our arms is worse than eating it. Some people can drink plenty of water and bathe daily, and won’t have a problem with odor. Caffeinated drinks, nervousness (stop being nervous!), other things can cause body odor.

We can find natural alternatives for those with problems — we don’t expect people to smell bad! Don’t leave people insecure. We can, for those who need it, look carefully to find a good natural deodorant.

Some deodorant stones have alum (an aluminum product) in them.

Propylene glycol is NOT good for us.

Talc has associations with aluminum and asbestos.

We can go back to making our own body powders – there are various recipes. It’s all right to use some scent, some essential oils, for a nice, clean smell. Encourage people to try this for a time.

About fluoride toothpastes — fluoride can accumulate in joints, especially large toe joints, and cause extreme pain.

Cavities are caused by bacteria in your mouth. We can keep our mouths and our childrens’ mouths clean. *Along with being faithful, we must be effective.* Brushing and flossing are best: if we learn to be faithful with this, we won’t need the metal tools to use ourselves. Unless we are trained in their use, we could damage tooth enamel.

The Older Women Must Teach the Younger

We can't be so focused on our problems that we can't see what's around us, and teach. Older women are regular disciples, confessing their sins, but they think and teach.

We need to keep our houses clean, the common spaces especially. We must gain ground. Many have no eyes to see, have been raised in a mess, do not know how to clean. *It doesn't matter if we can do it, if we can't raise up others.*

Negative training is like getting out of bed and leaving the room without making it up. When we see dirty dishes, we do them. When we see disorder, we deal with it. *We must teach women how to be women.* This is part of the good news: "Your *whole life* will change!!" If they say "Yes," then you're free to handle them and dig into their lives. *The terms of peace is wholehearted.*

Have "community seminars" by gifted women; bring out the gifts, have demonstrations.

Wisdom from Mithkah at the Stentwood Farm

Everyone must have vision that this is our home. No matter how run-down the house is, if we clean the windows, make curtains, put plants inside and out, we can make it a home. Notice how the approach to the house is: the first impression is lasting. Deal with corner by corner: establish order, chores, even for children. Weekly, have the women work together on a project.

We must have faithfulness with our cooks' meetings. We keep notebooks, and we take note of input from each woman. It is our house, my house.

We may have our bedroom nice, but rarely do guests come there!! The common areas come first. We can send gifted women, praying for them, to yard sales, flea markets, thrift stores, looking for low-cost decorations.

Encourage decorating gifts in our sisters — even if it's not the same as your tastes, give them a chance!

We will even have a national identity in how we decorate... low, soft couches and chairs, pillows, low tables, tapestries, baskets, plants. The things we use to decorate rooms for a couple's first night may be gold, velvet, more lavish, special, even unrealistic. Oriental rugs.

Studies have shown that mirrors in a room are an irritant. Their place is in the bathroom.

Teach women to love their husbands by trimming their hair and beards — keep it even, but not trimmed close.

Reheated Food

The change in temperature from cold to hot actually alters the structure of the molecules in the food.

Heating again can cause the food to be *bad* for us. Leftovers, in general, are **not nutritious. Use common sense. We wouldn't want to center a meal around a leftover. Food that doesn't nourish is more labor on our bodies to digest, without providing anything in return. We want to use freshly-prepared food on a habitual basis. Wise women need understanding to *make judgments, how to apply what we know in given situations*. It truly is best to make something fresh each time.**

We can make things ahead for the Sabbath — we have this provision from our Father — but we would not want to go further and make ahead for First Day.

We must consider our meals ahead of time, such as when we will need bread. Take time to make a sour, soak grains and beans, consider what is best for our bodies. Have forethought and care.

The "sour" taste in dough may mean it is not good for us. *We want to come to have an art, our own art of bread making, making our own sours*. Some have put flour/water mixture outside in green place, covered with cheesecloth, to develop a sour that can be used for a month. It is not really good for us to eat commercial yeasts.

H₂O₂ is good for cleaning and disinfecting milk buckets.

Our Children

We don't have whining, demanding children — or do we? We must remember that whining in reaction to our expressed will is a form of rebellion, not to be patted, reasoned, or coaxed into agreement. It seems that many young parents have not been closely helped and taught about such foundational things.

We want to train our babies not to scream. When they are infants, and young babies, they are swaddled at the minchah, but by the time they are a year old or so (parents must know their child!), they can be trained to be quiet. Swaddling doesn't take the place of discipline, but could be used up to a year or so... we have to see with each child.

We don't want to condition our babies to nurse at the minchah. This will take forethought on the part of immas. (I don't think this means young infants, but we begin to be aware if our baby has a "nurse" reaction to the minchah.) It is not becoming (can be a distraction if there are a lot of women with babies), not good training for baby (can be a pacifier, substituting for training), and doesn't allow imma to be involved with the rest of the family, if the baby is nursing at every minchah.

We don't just let a child cry or just "get it out" do we?

Swaddling is not "tying their arms" for your convenience. Swaddling restrains the whole child.

Bonding is not the gospel, but giving our lives 100% is. We have to have understanding about how much a woman can do with her little children. Put pressure on those who can carry the load, then let the imma help out.

If we lack confidence to help young parents with their problems, because of the deep problems we've had ourselves, then we can point to others who are good examples, for instance, "Well, this is what Huldah has been doing with her child, and has found very good results."

Deal with each situation, with each family, as it comes up, to help them. The standard is the same even though each fabric, food, and child is different. We have to teach the imma to be sensitive to what is going on in all these areas of life.