

## Putting our Hand to the Plow, Part 2

**Yowceph** – Today I was thinking about what Yoneq shared this morning from Lk 12:62 – “*No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*” No one means no exception of anyone. Our Master said, “*No one*”—after putting your hands to the plow and giving yourself to the sweat and labor required to do the work. It’s a great effort some times, but once you say you’ll do it, it’s like you’re betrothed. The first Edah was, but they lost their simple devotion.

You can act like you have your hands on the plow, but it’s a matter of where your heart is at (whether you have a clout on or a diadem). It doesn’t mean the people who have never put their hands to the plow, but when you’re really there and you get distracted or give up. It can be a slight thing of looking away, but it’s disastrous. Our Master knew what work it is to put your hand to the plow and then to turn back. They had plows back then.

We are embarking on a mission, a plan, and woe to us if we look back. Our Father wants a people who are determined not to look back, to strain with every fiber of their being. The earth is still fallow ground and a curse will come if there’s not a people who do it, who stick to the end. There *will* be people on the earth who do it by the grace of our Father, who put their hands to the plow and don’t look back.

**Baruch** – What we’re talking about reminds me of three lessons I have learned that really stuck with me.

The first was when I was eight years old and my father was teaching me to throw a baseball. He told me, “If you keep your eyes on the pitcher’s mitt, keep your gaze fixed on it and aim at it, the ball will go there. And he was right. Then when I was in the Navy and we were learning to steer a massive ship, we were told to fix our gaze on a point on the horizon and go there. When I came into the Edah and I was living at the Basin Farm, the first time I got on a tractor I kept looking back and my rows weren’t straight. Naboth came out and told me to aim at the tree and if my eyes were fixed on it I would go in a straight line.

I thought about what it says in Rev 2:4 – “*But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*” In 1 Jn 3:14 it speaks about loving your brother. That’s the mark I want to fix my gaze on. And if I stray from it, that’s the mark that I can know I have gone off. That’s how we know we have passed out of death and into life – that we love one another.

What our Master was saying to the church at Ephesus he was speaking to a corporate Body, not individuals. He said, “*You’ve lost your first love.*” If it was just an individual did, it wouldn’t cause a lampstand to be taken out of that place because the corporate Body would still be there. But it only takes a few people that aren’t being encouraged and no one is going to them to bring them back on course for the whole Body to go off. That’s what happened in Ephesus.

**Bachirah** – I’m thankful for what Baruch shared this morning. I’m sure there might seem to be valid excuses why someone would take their hands off the plow. It might be hard for some people not to look back. But if you are driving a car and a bee flies in the window and it causes you to wreck, do you blame the bee? It might seem like a valid excuse, but still you were the one who took your eyes off the road.

Lk 17:32 says to remember Lot’s wife. Some people might think they need things for the wilderness, like their radio. They will be distracted. I don’t want to take my mind off the goal no matter what comes. Mt 24:24 – “*so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.*” If we are keeping our eyes on the goal, we’ll make it to the end.

**Yashuvam** – I’m thankful for what was shared last night that what lies ahead for us is so much greater than looking back in the rear view mirror. What’s ahead for us is the establishment of the tribes, the race, our Master coming back – so why would we want to look anywhere else than where our Master is taking us?

**Sho’er** – If we do this we’ll worship Him where He is. It’s such a privilege to be able to come here as we are becoming like our Master, to have a focal point, to have our eyes fixed on Him like it says in Heb 12:2. Do you know how many people there are out in the world who don’t have a focal point in their lives? They don’t have salvation and they’re dying. What will it take to establish a nation? Even if

we lose our lives doing it, we'll be blessed.

I want this nation to be established on earth so our children can grow up in a secure nation and also for the people in the world who need to be saved. If we're not seeking them how will we find them? Not everyone is just going to come to us. We are overcoming for our children so people will be saved as a nation is growing, so our Master's work on the cross wouldn't be in vain.

Lk 21:34 talks about the cares and worries of this life. We have to go in a straight line and not go to the right or the left or we'll go off course. It's the same as worrying about the cares and worries of this life. We have to put one step in front of the other and press on so there will be a place for people in the world can come in to. We all remember what it was like to be lost and in the world. Our Master is waiting for us to put our enemies under our feet.

**Bakhirah** – That makes me think about Lk 18:1 – Our Master was showing them that they should pray and not lose heart. We will if our eyes aren't on our Master. We'll get weary and worn down. If we pray it helps us have our eyes fixed and not lose our purpose.

**Zedek** – We have to know our calling – that first we are *priests*. We're not businessmen, but everyone here is a priest. We have to be focused on our Master. If not, we won't be able to leave our business behind. Our first ministry is to be priests, not what we do (our business) in the Body.

I'm thankful we have put our hands to the plow as true disciples of our Master, Yahshua. We don't just put our hands to the plow and then walk away. That means we've never really put our hands to the plow. But if we put our hands to the plow and then get distracted then we'll have to pay the penalty and we won't enter the kingdom.

If we get distracted we can't do the works prepared for us to do from before the foundations of the world. It means we're distracted from what our Father wants us to do.

I'm thankful we will not be distracted. We have to set our face like flint and keep our hand to the plow and not look back. His offspring will, and not look back. That's what a true believer is. One who looks back and leaves is not a disciple. He was never of us. 1 Jn 2:19 – It says "Us" five times here. We are the "us." I don't want to leave "us." How could I? I'm part of the "us!"

Jn 17:12 – None of them were lost, except the son of perdition who put his hands to the plow and then walked away. Our Master has never lost a sheep and He never will. Jn 10:27 – "*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*" If one loses his way, He leaves the 99 and goes out to get him, if someone caused him to stumble or he got caught in the thickets.

We don't go after the goats, but only the sheep. We are His sheep. Sheep don't think about leaving the flock. Someone leaves and you say, "What about your child? Where will that child spend eternity?" And they say, "I don't care. I'm leaving anyway and I'm taking my family." How can the love of God be in them? We have to talk to people in this way. If they're sheep it will shock them into reality.

**Shoresh** – 1 Jn 2:19 – If we're part of the "Us," how could someone leave? It makes us not fit for the kingdom if we're not being like a little child.

When I was a child it wasn't in my vocabulary to leave my parents. There was nothing else for me. Where would I have gone? And we have nothing else to go to either, even if we're struggling. We have given everything up to be here.

**Chayeh** – We don't have any other agenda to live for. I'm thankful it's so simple. If we want to please our Master in everything we do, that's how we'll reach our goal. It's all in being like a little child.

**Nathaniel (of Asher)** – Paul exhorted us, "*You **must** enter the kingdom.*" (Acts 14:22) There's no other way. Sure trials and tribulations will come, but remember the "Us" in 1 Jn 2:19 is in the "Must" of Acts 14:22.

We can choose – to be uncomfortably hot or uncomfortably cold, or to be comfortably lukewarm. Either hot or cold is okay. It's the only way to the kingdom. It's better than being lukewarm. It's good that some people in the Body, when they sense that something is a little off, will get up "on the table" and say, "that's not right!" We need more people like that so we don't get lukewarm.

It's wonderful we can come here every morning and evening and hear from our Father, "*every word that proceeds from the mouth of God,*" so we won't starve. Mt 4:4 — Man does not live by bread alone

(not even Hobab's bread).