

Seeking First His Kingdom

ha-emeq – Yesterday when we were talking about plowing the fields I thought about what we talked about one time in 2 Tim 2:6-7 – *“Consider the hard-working farmer; he ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. Consider what I say, for YHWH will give you understanding in all things.”* It is hard to understand a true farmer because we are so far from dirt and crops here. Some people piddle around in their gardens, but a real farmer is hard working and he is always considering his garden. When he isn’t in the field he is always thinking and planning his crops. We can learn a lesson from this and have *“understanding in all things.”*

What we learn from experiences we go through during the day we can share about in the minchah. That’s what our Master did. He spoke to people in parables. He said, *“Consider the man sowing seeds...”* He said how some fell on good soil, some fell on rocky places... He related it to something.

I’m thankful our Father teaches us. We are going to be people that our Father will show great things to. The parables were for people like us. We need examples from the things around us. It’s not just *“Consider the farmer,”* but *“Consider the person you bumped into in the hall,”* or *“consider the athlete,”* or *“consider the soldier.”* Every single encounter that happens in a day is meant to show us something, how to be wise and understand people.

2 Tim 2:1 – *“My son, be strong by the grace of our Master Yahshua.”* Verse 4 – *“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life...”* No one. If you’re a Christian you might say, “I do. I work at IBM and go to football games and concerts and I’m a politician (or even a mayor). He must not have meant *that.*”

Verse 5 – *“Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.”* In a race, you’re disqualified if you don’t go according to the rules. That’s why there’s a referee. We don’t entangle ourselves with anything that is not organically related to the building up of the Body of Messiah. For example, Tribal Trading. It’s organically related to the Body of Messiah. It has a goal. Everything we do has to be part of our gifting to build up the Body (not like having a job at IBM).

Kharash – The difference is when we are operating, the Body goes to work. It’s not one brother doing a job, but “us.” So when people see us working, they say, “it’s those people.” We aren’t engaging in commerce without being led by the Head. The initiative comes from the Body. It’s not one man working at a job to make a living.

Now that we have a print shop here and we are considering doing outside jobs, we have to be selective. We can’t just print anything. What if some homosexual group wants us to print posters for their meeting and we refuse and they sue us? If we’re open for business and we won’t do it, then they’ll say we’re prejudiced. We have to be wise.

We must seek His kingdom first. Everything we do is for the building up of the kingdom.

Keli – Seeking first His kingdom fits in with everything we’ve been talking about the last few days. It’s the upward call. To seek His kingdom first is our goal for today, to make us more fit for the kingdom. If we do that first, all other things will fit in. We don’t compromise being fit for getting our food. If all you do is seeking your living that’s all that’s on your mind and you’ll do whatever to get it. But if you seek His kingdom first then those things will come into order. We have to judge what’s an entanglement and what’s not.

Ish Chayil – In Mt 6:34 it says that today has enough problems of its own. We get up every morning and consider what to do. We can cry out for grace to take one day at a time, and be focused on every day and loving our brothers.

I’m thankful for our children and how they are learning to stand at every minchah. We were not trained that way. What would we be like if we have been trained that way? Think what our children will be like in 20 or 30 or 40 years? We appreciate them so much.