

Never Give Up

When people come into the Body we take on their iniquities, their debts, college loans, dental bills, but also the wealth of the nations to help us get out of debt. Dt 22 – We must not avoid our responsibility to one another. That's how leaders are born — they don't see the sheep and hide, but rather, they fulfill the law of Messiah in the Body. Dt 22 talks about our responsibilities. We don't ignore problems that come up, but we take responsibility and help.

Bakhirah – When I had been in the Body a short time we moved from Westminster Station to the Basin Farm. And because we were starting in another place things were somewhat chaotic as it can be if we don't have the right people in the right places. I remember saying to a brother, "I hate living in disorder!" And he said, "I know. That's why you're here!" It shocked me into reality. They needed me! Knowing that changed my attitude.

Bynah – Someone shared something this morning that affected me. They were talking about those who went out from us were never of us. If we're right about something it won't cause us to divide from our brother. If we're right with our Father it causes us to be in fellowship with one another. We can pray for them to see it.

Yatsaq – I'm thankful His forgiveness sets us free in our spirit to be kind and love others. It can be so easy to get into our complicated, natural reasoning when a conflict comes with someone, or even to look around and see people who are causing disorder. Or someone might say or do something that offends you and you feel trapped in your complicated, natural reasoning and forget the simplicity of forgiving your brother. You can be trapped in your reasoning, but when you remember forgiveness and when you extend that forgiveness it changes the atmosphere.

When you feel someone's offended you, what do you do? Do you mull it over? Do you try to figure it out or want restoration? The Pharisees were trapped in their natural minds. But our Master came and offered forgiveness and it set people free. They clung to Him because of the forgiveness He extended to them. We can extend the same forgiveness as our Master and set each other free.

If we have been forgiven, we can forgive one another. If not, then we won't be forgiven. *Forgiveness is like a load taken off us, a sentence fallen through, a stain washed away, another chance to live, a fresh new start, a new beginning, a new breath of life with the power to forgive.* Forgiveness is everything He paid for. His forgiveness is everything to us.

ha-emeq – I had a thought about something that happened a long time ago the first time I realized that I was part of a Body and that it wasn't just me anymore. We came together in the Areopagus and I wanted to sing or do something – I was so happy. So I waited and I thought someone was going to speak up or do something, but no one did. Ruth Deshe was next to me and I grabbed her hand and said, "Come on, let's run!" I pulled her up and tried to run, but I couldn't. I was connected to a body and it was not coming with me.

Sometimes something is bothering my people somewhere and it affects me. I think about our Master on the cross and how He connected Himself to us. He wasn't guilty, but He connected Himself to human beings and took all our sins and it pulled Him down to death, but it couldn't hold Him. Now we can overcome too, and we'll leap up to Him again someday.

We can't leave the pier, because the ship is coming over the horizon. We have to know that the ship is coming. Long ago, people sent letters to their loved ones telling them they were coming on a ship. So the next week they would go down to the shore and watch on the pier, and they wouldn't come and they wouldn't come and they wouldn't come and they would weep and think, "They got caught in a storm and they're dead!" They were their loved ones, their friends. So after awhile they turned around and went up over the hill and they went back to their homes, and after awhile they couldn't see the ocean anymore. It was miles from where they were living.

Then finally the ship came over the horizon. And people came onto the shore and they didn't see their friends. They looked, but they couldn't find them. They didn't know where they were living and so they

settled down and lived life apart and they never did find each other.

I was thinking about Demas and how he left Paul in the most critical time; he deserted him for the love of the world. And he wouldn't even visit him in prison. During the crucial times in our lives we can't leave the pier or we'll be like Demas. Our Master is going to come for those who are eagerly waiting for Him. We don't know the day or the hour, but He will come for us if we don't leave the pier.

It was a sad story that people who came over here were never connected to their loved ones. They never came back to see whether the ship ever came. Let's not give up. We don't know when our ship is coming in.