

Wheat and Tares in the Community

ha-êmeq — Last night we read in the *Intertribal News* about a wedding in Asher where they had banners that the King tore down. At the end, he went and tore down Death, which is the last enemy, the opposite of life.

Right before the gathering, we got a message from someone who had been at that wedding as a guest, and it was forwarded to us. Part of it said that he was astounded by what he saw there. The person said he couldn't really understand enemies so much, until he saw Death in the middle. He said that he always hated death. When he was a little boy, his father died in his sleep. He went to bed a normal father, and then he just didn't wake up. It totally devastated their family. They were slapped in the face with death that morning, and none of them ever got over it.

So they pulled down all of those banners, and all of a sudden, Death was right there in the middle. And then he saw that the King conquered Death, that he was strong enough to do that. We have hope that he is going to be our brother; he wants to follow Yahshua.

I just thought it was so clear that death is the enemy, and that is what we are here to destroy. That man saw life, and he hated death. Most people never really come to grips with death. They just pass through the graveyard as quickly as they can; they just turn past that page in the newspaper of all the dead people's names, and they don't even consider that there is a gravestone with their name on it. They don't even consider how final it is.

So right in the middle of a festive wedding, to just have something as blatant and "in your face" as death... He saw that, and he saw that there is only hope in Yahshua to give him life, and he wanted life. It's only proper that we would all be thankful to have life. I didn't deserve life. I'm thankful to have life. The only reason why you wouldn't be thankful is because you don't feel that's what you've been saved from.

It is not *dying* that we're saved from, but *death*. Death is the place where everyone who is not living by our Master Yahshua's word has to go when he dies. Our Master called death a place of torment. When you take your last breath, you go to death, and that is a place of torment. That is what we have been saved from, even eternal death. Where did that man go? He went somewhere. How many people are dying right now as we speak? Thousands and thousands of people are dying right now.

ha-êmeq — I remember growing up, and somehow even though we weren't religious, we knew this prayer: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord, my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." Somehow, I was taught that, and I didn't even believe. You were supposed to say that when you lay down at night with your child. You teach them to say that. If I should DIE before I wake? What a thought to put yourself to sleep with! Somehow, it needs to be brought to our minds that, yes, this life is very fleeting, and we should use the time that we have on this earth to serve our Master. Then we can go off to sleep at night, because we know that we have done our Father's will that day, and we can be thankful.

Ahavah Rishonah — I am so thankful for the life that we have been given. We have eternal life. Eternal life is life without death in it. Death is separation, and we can have non-stop life. We can overcome those things that separate us. Before I came to the Community, I used to be so afraid of death. I was so afraid of where I was going to go when I would die. I would think about it all the time. In school I would write stories about it, and poems, and draw pictures about it. Thoughts of death consumed me. I knew I had a bad conscience, and I was so afraid of what the end was going to be.

I'm so thankful because in Yahshua I can see that those things that separate me from my friends aren't really me, but it's things working through me. I can judge those things because our Master overcame death. It really encourages me to hear Shemuel because I know that he just came into this life. It is so wonderful when people come out of the darkness and into the light. I want to be thankful for life all of the time. I'm so thankful that I don't dwell in the darkness anymore. I can judge the darkness that works in me. I can have eternal life today — right now. It doesn't have to stop. Our Father heard my cry, and He brought me where the light shines.

Kefarah — I'm so thankful that my imma gave birth to me nine years ago today.

Are you happy? Would it have been better if you had never been born? It *would* have been better if you don't live your life for your abba and your imma right now, and love them and obey them. Then you can grow up and be a *bat mitzvah*, and receive the Holy Spirit, and live for our Master Yahshua.

Maybe some people should just say, "I don't want to celebrate my birthday. I'm sorry I was born, because I'm just going to grow up, and go to the lake of fire, and go to

death.” We will, unless we change our way of living, and no longer be stubborn and obstinate and rebellious. That is what sends us to death — a life not surrendered to our Creator. He can’t give us eternal life if we are not surrendered. He has to put us in a place where we won’t bother anybody else for the rest of eternity.

We are living. We are eternal souls, eternal beings. We have a body, but this body is not what’s living; what is living is inside of this body, giving it life. It would’ve been better if we had never been born if we’re not going to live our life for our Master, or live for our immas and our abbas, and be obedient to them.

No Rest for the Wicked

Isa 1:2; 48:22; 57:20-21; Rev 14:10-11; Mt 25:41,46; Rev 22:15; 21:8; Mt 13:30,50 — The rebels go where Satan is. Satan is a rebel, and whoever rebels will go where Satan is for eternity. His torture goes up forever and ever. For the rebellious it will be as Isa 48:22 and Isa 57:20-21 — no peace, never, ever. Rev 14:10-11 — He will be tormented with fire. The smoke of his torment goes up forever and ever. There is no rest for the wicked, day or night (Mt 25:41,45,46; Rev 22:15).

Some people make their living by lying. There are salesmen, lawyers, all kinds of people who love and practice a lie. It’s the unjust businessmen of this age and news reporters who make their living by lying. Outside are the dogs, the unclean (Rev 21:8; Mt 13:30,50). The eternal state of the rebellious will be forever and ever in the lake of fire, the second death. This is where all the tares are assembled. The tares are put in bundles, all the tares of different places. Tares are not true wheat. There is wheat, and there are tares. The tares are in the Community, but they’re not really wheat. They are not really accomplishing anything, and they aren’t serving a purpose. They deplete the soil of its nutrients that make the wheat better. They steal, rob, kill, and take away the minerals from the soil, and it is very difficult for the wheat.

All the tares will be assembled together and bound up to experience the fruit of their own desires (Mt 13:30,50). The tares who have grown up in the Community from their infancy are more guilty than anyone else in the whole world. Instead of being wheat, they become tares for some reason, and they take away from the Community. They don't build up, but tear down instead. Mt 12:30 — You are either gathering, or you are destroying. These are the two kinds of people in the Community. There are people who are with Him, and there are people who are against Him, but they would never admit that they are against Him. Their actions show that they're against Him.

Better to have Never been Born

The tares that have grown up in the Community from their infancy are the most guilty. Jn 3:18 — They are judged already. They do not truly surrender. They don't believe the gospel, the good news that sets them free from death. There is no need for them to go to judgment, for they have already judged themselves. When they die, they will instantly go to the lake of fire. They are not raised to be judged like the rest of the world who have never heard the gospel. The people who grow up in the Community hear the gospel all the time. Every day, they have opportunities. Jn 3:36 — Those who don't obey the gospel, the wrath of God remains upon them forever and ever. They have opportunity after opportunity after opportunity, but they choose to hang on to their own life. They love the world.

The tares that have grown up in the Community from their infancy are more guilty than all who blew into the garden, but never surrendered their lives. A lot of people blew in, and they might have stayed here a week or two or three. But some people are born and raised here, and then they leave. Why would they want to leave? Why do you want to go to the lake of fire instead of surrendering your life?

There are some sheep that stray, but you know where you can find the sheep that stray. They are out by themselves, and the shepherd can go get them. Stray sheep would

never go to the pack of wolves. They are just out straying around by themselves, and they can come back. But those who aren't of us leave us. They never were of us; if they were of us, they would have stayed with us, but since they left us, it shows that they were never of us (1 Jn 2:19).

If you are a tare in the Body, you don't need to go to judgment. If you know anybody like that, you'd better tell them. But they won't believe it anyway; they could care less. They just want to have a good time now, because they don't understand what they are living for. The wicked never understand (Dan 12:10). As long as they are breathing air and eating hot dogs, they are okay. The only people who go to judgment after the resurrection are the people of the nations who have never had the opportunity to hear the good news.

Set Free to Serve

We have been purchased, bought, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. We don't belong to ourselves anymore, but we belong to the One who bought us. He redeemed us, and took us out of slavery. He is the sacrificial Lamb, the choice Lamb who set us free to serve one another. Right now, the building of all of those who are serving Him is under construction. There is a lot of scaffolding.

To be redeemed, we must show in our own lives that we are no longer caught up in the bondage from which we were set free and released. Paul uses the word *redeemed* four times in Gal 5:1; Gal 3:13; 1 Cor 6:20; and 1 Cor 7:23. We have been redeemed. We were in bondage, and we were under an evil slave master. We have been purchased by a good slave master, and now we are serving Him. We are bondslaves with our Master Yahshua. He set us free from that evil slave master. We have a good Master, and we serve Him as Abraham's slaves served him.

Gen 12:5 — Abraham purchased so many slaves. I have been bought; I am a slave. That is what *slave* means. It doesn't mean someone who gets beaten all day long. It

means purchased to serve, and set free by a good slave master. 85% of slaves had good slave masters. If a slave master bought you, then he set you free from futility. You are not out in the world trying to make it on your own. He didn't buy them and then say, "Okay, now get out there and make it on your own." Then what would they have to do? Kill, steal, and destroy to make a living? No, they come under a good slave master, and they serve there and find direction for their lives. We all work together like Abraham's servants. We're servants of our Master Yahshua, and we serve Him daily.

David Zerubbabel — It is so amazing how the apostles made reference constantly to that system which Christianity despises. The system of slavery was a reference point for who we are, as servants of our Master. Paul said that he was a bondsman. If it was a horrible institution that should have been abolished, then it wouldn't have been the very thing that our Master and the disciples used to explain what our salvation is.

We were redeemed from the hands of an evil tyrant, and brought under a good slave master. We find our identity being in His hands. That's just like the slaves on the plantations. The slaves of good masters of the South received glory and honor by being identified with their master, and they took on his name. When I was growing up in the South, we had a servant who was a grandchild of a slave, and his last name was *McGuire*. He was a Châmite, so where did he get that name? Did he get that name in Africa? No, his grandfather took on the name of his owner, and he was proud of it.

Of course, we aren't trying to reinstitute slavery, but we are thankful that now we can be bondsmen of our Master. In Messiah there is no separation between Châm and Shem. We are all slaves.

Havah — I'm very thankful for what I heard. Our Father saw something in us. He wanted us, so He paid the price for us. I don't want to forget that. I want to waste my life on Yahshua.

I had a conversation with a girl at the neighborhood block party last night. She asked me what I did in my spare time, and I was thankful that I could tell her that I didn't have any. I asked, "What do you do in your spare time?" She said, "I do a lot of nothing. I don't have a life. I don't do anything. I don't have any friends." The girl was 13. What is she going to say when she's grown up? Maybe she'll say, "I wish I had never been born."

I just felt like crying for that girl. She has no clue what she is facing. It made me thankful that I was saved, and I don't have to grow up like that, and I have friends. I don't want to be a tare. I want to be a part of the "us" that will bring Yahshua back.

Yadel — Sometimes, there is a misconception that being able to have your own time is freedom, but it's not true. Living for yourself is really living for the evil one. Our Father saw something in us of value, and He bought us. He redeemed us and purchased us. I don't even have a right to breathe for myself; I am not my own person. I am our Father's possession.

I am thankful that our Father called us for something so much greater than just having to live for ourselves. That is really what true freedom is. Our Father created us so that there would be satisfaction and joy in living for others. When we are living for Him, we know that our life is useful to Him, and we can give ourselves to bring about our Father's kingdom. The minute that I start to think for myself, I am just handing myself over to the evil one, saying, "Okay, bind me up, where are your chains?" And that is when I am totally useless to our Father. I want to see the reality that it is not freedom to live for yourself, but it is death. I want to be a life-giving spirit and show others what true freedom is. Life comes from being wholehearted and loving our brothers and sisters. That is when we make ourselves useful to our Father.

Derekah — I could be in the same place as that girl Havah talked about if it wasn't for our Father's mercy. I'm so thankful that our Father saved me. Now all I can do is love Him and serve my parents for the rest of my life. I know that I'm going to make it to the Kingdom because I *want* to. I can have confidence. I don't have to get worthless, and think that I'm never going to attain, or that I won't get anywhere. I'm thankful for life.