

The Unchanging Culture and Gospel

We sang, "There came a warrior..."

ha-êmeq — Some people would hear the story of Gideon and say, "So what?" But the story of Gideon is so important to us because of what he went through. He had an army, and it went from huge to really small because our Father didn't want to have a huge army. He said, "If I could just have a small, devoted army, I could do a lot more with them than if I had a huge army with lots of half-hearted men." I'm so glad that happened in history. That's given us so much courage a thousand times already, and it will keep on giving us courage. So when you sing, "A sword for Yah and for Gidon," that means Yahweh is going to help us win the victory. That's why the songs, when they mention a Bible story, give us so much life, because we know Gidon; he's really important to us.

The story of the resurrection is also so important to us. Everything has a direct impact, like when a stone hits the water. "So what?" Well, you're going to see a splash! These things really affect us. There's something that happens.

In the days of Noah, our Father was sorry He made man. So what? Well, the "what" is that we're going to make Him *not* sorry; we're going to make Him happy. He finally has a people that aren't going to make Him sorry that He made man. Finally, there's somebody who can answer the "So what?" So what about all these things in the Bible? So what? You'll see what. You'll see the effects of our life.

Our Father's Word gives us life. It heals the fatal flaw. We start being able to get along with each other. There are no wars, and no killing or robbing... it's not going on here. There's a people being raised up where those things are being judged, that's what! And then people will finally not be able to say "So what?" because they'll know what. They might not like what, but they'll know what.

The Unchanging Culture of our Father

I've been reading today, as I learned in school, that human culture is a developmental process, and the cultures of humans change over time. The cultures of animals never change. They're always the same. They did the same thing six thousand years ago as they do today. So, what kind of culture would you rather be like? I like the culture we have. We're a culture that never changes, never degrades.

Christians excuse or justify the way the church is today by saying that, of course, human culture changes and therefore, the church must adapt, but she is beautiful and amazing...” Rev 17:1-7 — “Wow! How marvelous the woman is! How beautiful she is!”

But I would rather be like the unchanging culture of the animals than the degrading culture of fallen man. Man is fallen, and they justify their flaws in every way. I would rather have the culture of a sheep. But even a dog or a cat, if you go back six thousand years, they’re doing the same thing. Cats still eat mice. They didn’t acquire a more refined appetite. They didn’t say, “I’d rather have filet mignon.”

We’re the same culture, the unchanging culture of our Father, and I’m thankful that we’re the same today as we were yesterday. Just like our Master — He’s the same yesterday, today, and forever. I’m thankful we’re connected to the source of the culture He is establishing on the earth once again. It is being restored.

Sho’er — I’m so thankful for our Master Yahshua. I read something today in John that really stirred me up. When our Master was on the earth, after He was betrayed by one of His best friends, and He was beaten, they crucified Him, they hung Him up on a tree, beaten and bloody, and even the world makes a lot to do about that story, but then in Jn 19:30 it says that Yahshua said, “It is finished,” and with that He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. But it doesn’t go into the story between that verse and when He rises from the dead. But I’m so thankful that our Father is giving us the revelation and understanding of what happened at that point when our Master Yahshua gave up His spirit, when His soul was pulled down into Sheol, the place of departed spirits, where He took the full penalty of the sin of the entire world upon Himself, and He experienced excruciating agony for three days and three nights. It was absolutely unfathomable agony. He became our sin (2 Cor 5:21).

In Isa 53:10 it says it was Yahweh’s will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though Yahweh makes His life a guilt offering, He will see His offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Sovereign will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of His soul, He will see the fruit and be satisfied. The world makes a big deal about the fact that He was crucified, but no one makes a big deal about what He experienced in death, or the significance of the fact that He rose from the dead.

When we sang, “The grave is empty, won’t you come and see?” Lev Rak shared that the proof the tomb is empty is that this room is full. It’s not, “Won’t you come and see an empty tomb?” but, “Won’t you come and see the proof of the resurrection” — the tangible, touch-and-feel reality that Yahshua, the Son of God, came to this earth, walked a sinless life, went into death for three days and three nights, took on the sin of the world, rose again, and... Boom! There’s the proof!”

The proof is brothers and sisters dwelling together in unity, overcoming the fatal flaw that divides the rest of the world, destroys human relationships, and crushes families. The fatal flaw can’t be overcome in the natural; it can’t be overcome through a philosophy. That’s impossible! It defeats people day after day. It renders the human race utterly defeated and feeling worthless.

I’m so thankful that in these last days, our Father is raising up a demonstration; He’s giving us revelation of who our Master actually is. We actually found Yahshua ha Mashiyach, the Son of the living God. We actually found Him, and we actually believe in Him. Our Master said, “More blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” They’ve seen a demonstration of His life. They’ve seen the proof of His resurrection because there is a people overcoming the fatal flaw.

I just want to proclaim that our Master Yahshua is risen from the dead, and I know that to be a fact because the God of heaven is actually saving me from my sins on a daily basis, on a weekly basis, on a monthly basis, on an annual basis... He’s saving me, changing me, making me into someone who is learning how to love and be like Him. That is impossible apart from Him. I’m just so thankful to be here and that we can proclaim His resurrection by our lives together tonight.

We’re going to have to make the gospel clear to people who have never heard the truth. In the Old Covenant sacrificial system, they had to bring an animal for their sins. That animal *became* their sin, whatever their sin was, just as our Master became our sin. Whatever we were, He became that sin.

It has to be as if we would take Hailstorm or Misty or Violet — one of those goats that you love the most. Which one do you love the most? Begonia? (*Begonia is Violet’s baby doe.*) You love that baby the most, therefore when it grows a little bit more, you’d have to take it, when you’ve been disobedient to your parents, and you’d have to put your hands on that animal, and the priest would take his knife and cut its throat, and all

the blood would drain out of that animal, and then it would die and fall over. It's alive until all the blood runs out. That animal that you love the most would take your place in death. It's representing our Master Yahshua when He died in our place.

That's the gospel, the good news. We have to tell people about that. Of course, that animal wasn't resurrected, but our Master was. He came back after He took all of our sins into death, and was tortured three days and three nights, and came back to life, never to die again. That's who we serve. That's who we love. That's who we want to be like.

We have to give up our rotten, stinking life in order to receive the gospel, the good news. We have to give our life up so our Master can be that atoning sacrifice for us. Even though He died for all, all who live ought not to live for themselves, but for Him, because He's given us His spirit. And we can't live for Him unless He's given us His Holy Spirit, to live and follow Him and become a disciple. But first of all, we've got to lay the animal on the altar, take the knife, slit its throat at the jugular vein so that all the blood rushes out. Your beloved animal looks you right in the face, loves you, and all the life goes out of it. You're forgiven based on our Master's sacrifice. That's how we have to give.

(Speaking to our guests...) You have to place all of your sins, all that you've done in the past, on our Master Yahshua. You're no different from us. We had the same sins you did. But they were all placed on our Master Yahshua. He went to death for us. Now we don't have to go to death because He went in our place, and now we can serve Him and live for Him.

Do you know how big a battleship is? Enough blood was shed from animals like that to float a battleship. We can't leave that part of the gospel out. We've got to let people know and help them understand. We love those little goats. If we had sheep, we'd love them. We would get the one we loved the most. Have you read *Andrew's Lamb*? I've never read it without crying. It always touches my heart.