

A Place to Belong

MALICE

MALIGNITY

CALUMNY (Lk 13:25)

Evil disposition has to be dealt with.

MALADY — sickness, disease, defect, deep-seated disorder, corruption, moral disorder.

A place where we can be made fit for the Kingdom. A place where help can be applied to our malady. A place where we cannot hide from God with excuses for our egoism, but where we must face our malady and admit it. A place where we prepare to face the Judge. A Judge Who understood and loved us while we were still yet in our sins (Heb 5), the only Judge that will ultimately matter. This Judge said, “Come to me all you that travail and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”

The agony of realized egocentricity. The discovery of the subtle power of pride in our lives.

A place where we can face honestly the sickness of our pride. A place where we, as plants, as the lily, can grow by the heat of the sun and the drench of the showers (i.e. grace). We grow up into Him Who is the Head (our provider) through the tensions and sufferings and tragedies that come into our lives. But unlike plants or the lily, which we are to consider — how they grow; we only grow in free choices.

That is, we grow only by making the decisions to choose the cross in the experiences in our daily lives as we live before the Lord of the Earth. The lily has no real choice. They grow in the place where God has put them, automatically. We do not grow spiritually as such, but as a type.

The remedy of our inhumanity is found in the true humanity of Messiah Yahshua. He will gather us and deliver us. And the only way to experience this is in His community (the Body of Messiah). Only here can we *cut loose* from all to love God for His sake alone and our neighbor as ourself. In this place we die to ourselves, not only to the sin in us. We die to the world and our flesh — our great ambitions, hopes, and desires. We here can let loose and soar. We leave behind here love for family, Western civilization, and the future of all civilization. We love God for His sake alone. But most love God for their own sake — for their own family, their jobs. But these have to be given up when we come to *this PLACE*. One cannot belong here and to the world at the same time. All things must be given up as ends and as reasons for our love of God (Lk 14:33). We must die to self and be buried with Messiah. Here is the *only PLACE* where we must cut loose and quite simply and quite totally, love God for God's sake. We are looking for a city with foundations, detached from the abnormal society.

We do not need to fear here that we are caring too much or loving too much or hoping too much; because in caring, loving, and hoping for God's sake nothing is finally lost or defeated or killed (Mt 16:24; 10:37-39; Lk 14:33). Seen in the true context of true WORSHIP, this is not a hard saying but a glorious one.

A PLACE where sin is judged not merely as something we have done but something we have felt: bitterness, lust, resentment, self-pity, ingratitude or hatred. The sin we can now *confess* is not merely that we are thoughtless and do not love our spouse or neighbor as we should, but that we are in a situation of being separated from the very ground of our being, from God (Eph 5:2,14; 1 Jn 1:6; Rev 3:20-21; Mt 7:21), being in union, not communion. We are in a *situation* called sin, because we want to do our own will rather than the will of God our Father, and we only truly turn to Him when we have come to a dead end in our lives, some tragedy, frustration or suffering. *But in any event, forgiveness is always available and very near to us.*