

## The Fragrance of Life or Death

Paul paints a picture of how we are to be in 2 Cor 2:14-16 in the Living Bible:

*But thanks be to God, who made us his captives and leads us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now wherever we go He uses us to tell others about the Lord and to spread the Good News like a sweet perfume. Our lives are a fragrance... But this fragrance is perceived differently by those being saved and by those perishing. To those who are perishing we are a fearful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved we are a life-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this? (2 Cor 2:14-16)*

You can see how people respond to us everywhere we go, even in the neighborhoods we live in. Some people pull away from us, some draw near. Some are perishing. It is really bad news or good news when we go into a neighborhood. It is better that we don't come in if our life isn't what the Word says it is to be. (We read 2 Cor 2:14-17 in another translation as well.)

In verse 14, that word *place* is #5117, *locality*, as in 1 Tim 2:8, where Paul said, "I want the men in every *place* to lift up holy hands." The word *diffuses* (NKJV) means that the smell goes out into the neighborhood. We have had some people who could have released a bad smell and others a good smell. In the third chapter Paul asks the question, "Who is adequate for such things?"

*Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (2 Cor 3:5-6)*

He made us adequate. Before we knew Him we weren't adequate. We are a smell of death-to-death or life-to-life in every place we go. I don't know how many neighborhoods or houses we will have on the West Coast, in localities or townships. It will be wonderful.

This is a partial quote of the introduction to a new play we are writing:

*A great noise in the background as the scene opens. A great crowd will be accompanying the Son of Man. The Son of Man separates them into two groupings or judgments, determining their eternal destiny...*

The people who have heard the gospel will not be at that judgment, the ones who think the smell is bad. When we move in they go into their houses and don't come out and see us much, avoiding the opportunities they could have to get to know us. They are judged already for rejecting the fragrance of Messiah's life. They won't be at that judgment, for they won't need to be. Why?

Keli – Because they came into contact with our Master and thought He smelled bad.

They were judged already (Jn 3:18). If they rejected Messiah, they are equated with all the rest of the people in Rev 21:8. They are listed as #1, the cowardly and unbelieving. It is the most horrible crime and sin you could possibly commit.

So we have to be that fragrance — I am saying this for our sake. One person can ruin how we come to a new place like one apple can spoil the whole bunch. Just one apple that goes out on the streets and has an argument with his wife or something, and then people say, "They don't get along very well." But, who were we being ruled by then?

*...determining their eternal destiny... Then the King will say to those on His right hand in Mt 25:34, "Enter into the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." The word King is a synonym for the Son of Man. His words are followed by the objection from the righteous, that they were never given the opportunity to serve Him.*

You can see His brothers there among the three kinds of people in Mt 25:31-46. The goats are on his left and the sheep on his right. We will write a play to try and make people see what the Scriptures mean. Some people just can't read it and see it, so we are going to try to act it out so that they can see the Holy, the Righteous, and the Unjust. We will see that play someday. Basically, it is for everybody, but especially for some Christians who can't see that there are *Three Eternal Destinies of Man*.

The goats that live in the neighborhood are not going to help you out much when there is a need. Basically, what Mt 25 is talking about is the Male Child who will suffer at the hands of the world when they go out with the age-lasting good news. They will be treated so well by the “sheep” of the nations and totally mistreated by the “goats” of the nations. The message will be, “Don’t take the Mark of the Beast.” The “sheep” won’t take it and they will even be killed for it.

That is the message in Rev 14:6-11. You can see what happens to those who receive the Mark of the Beast. Twelve thousand will go out from each tribe. Every one of them will die. They will be slaughtered, actually. Rev 6:9-11 says they will be slaughtered like sacrificial lambs. Their lives are almost perfect, with no bad attitude. They sing that song perfectly, and will be undefiled, pure in every way. They will lay down their lives for the “woman” who flees to the wilderness. They will be a decoy, a distraction, for the “woman” who flees. They will go after the Male Child, torturing them, tearing off their clothes, and so they will get cold and hot. The last one will finally be killed, and even in death they will lift their voice, in their soul (Rev 6:9-11).

We have to start now, training up the Male Child. Shem is going to have children and they are going to get progressively perfect in their attitude and their zeal. A great number of people will be added to our number, when we become that fragrance. Our Father is going to do it when the rocks and stones are set in place. When that foundation is laid, then the building is going to go on top of it. We have known for years that the deeper the foundation the greater the building will be built upon it. It will have a startling effect on the nations (Isa 52:15).

We will present it in a way like Yedydyah did in the article.<sup>1</sup> That reporter wanted to know; he was sincere. Do you think our Master could have said it any better?

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<sup>1</sup> Reference to the article...

We have that grace available to us, the same grace He had available to Him. It differentiates us from Christianity and from these other strange groups.

Let us be that witness in every place. How blessed are people when we move into their neighborhood! You will probably see a lot of people saved in Island Pond, like we are starting to see in Lancaster, as the people who misunderstood us begin to understand us. 1 Pet 2:12 and 3:15 says they will come and ask for the hope we have in us. A lot of people have asked that already, “What makes you so happy?” They used to ask ha-êmeq that when we first started out in Chattanooga.

Shemuel – I was thinking about what we are foundation stones for, which is for the Temple. I was relating that to these sacrifices (the minchot), which is an aroma to our Father. Probably the aroma to the people around us is them seeing how we lay our lives down during the day. When our Father was no longer in that temple, it didn't matter that sacrifices were going on all day. When we are the Temple, our lives will bring the presence of God among men as it says in Rev 21:3. I was thinking of ways in me, times when I lacked discretion. His Spirit can't cooperate with ours then. He has to have a Body that He can be totally transparent through. He needs a Body that people can see Him through. It made me want to guard the unity and guard the sacrifice of our lives.

### **If the First Generation could Know who they Are**

Our Father withholds and hides Himself from us (Isa 45:15). If our children, the first generation, could just know who they are – the very foundation of that temple, the restoration of all things – and how our Father chose them, picking the very sperm that produced them out of hundreds of millions of possibilities when the egg was fertilized, they would accomplish so much. Now our Father has chosen you, and so you are here, the most privileged of all people. Satan tries to destroy the foundation. If he can't do that, he will try to destroy the first generation. If he could do that, it would be left to another people, but it says it won't be left to another people (Dan 2:44).

If we could just understand who we are, the most privileged people of the last six thousand years... The Kingdom was taken away from old Israel (Mt 21:43), and from the

First Church, and now it is given to us. From us the fragrance has to come forth. It comes forth from the fruit. That fruit is mostly our love for one another. What builds the Temple is our works of service that are prepared for each one of us to do (Eph 2:10). You can see in Eph 4:13 the amazing thing the Temple will develop into. You have got to have the grace to put the people in the right place. You have to put the people in the proper places.

*...until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Messiah; from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Eph 4:13,16)*

Then in Eph 2:21-22 you can see the final structure of the Temple, which is based on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.

*In whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Sovereign in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (Eph 2:21-22)*

The Spirit of God will dwell in a Body eternally. That is what He has been preparing all of His life. He created all things, but He is a Spirit, and He never could get a Body until He made something happen. He will have a redeemed human being to rule the nations for eternity. We will rule over the nations who were better than us. They lived their whole life according to their conscience, and they helped the Male Child.

### **The Evil of the Victim Spirit**

ha-êmeq – I was thinking how important it is that our Father has revealed to us about the victim spirit. It will be passed on from generation to generation if we don't cut it off. I can hardly think of someone having more right to feel like a victim than these ones in Mt 25:34-36 — cold, hungry, scorched, beaten, being put in prison. How readily they could think our Father has abandoned them!

I just thought how our Father has exposed and revealed this to us so that we would not be that way. We can't blame others, and have all these excuses for our problems, and spend all of our time thinking about "poor

me.” They must have been surging forth, these male children, even though they were naked and sick; they were not whiners. The only reason they were that way is because their parents *raised* them that way. They raised overcomers. They were children whose eyes were turned outward.

I have wondered about the suffering the Male Child has to go through, “How come it has to be that way?” They were such nice children and then it will be so hard for them, but they will not be feeling sorry for themselves.

When you see people in hard circumstances, sometimes it makes you want to go away from them because they are acting like victims – or you think that is how they will react. The look on Steve’s face [a guest] was so nice. He said so many times, “I can’t believe how nice it is.” Steve could have been repelled if you were acting like victims, but he didn’t because you are not victims. You have gone through hard circumstances and endured. You will be able to train your children the same way. And you don’t have that aroma of being the victim of your circumstances. Then we will be able to bring forth sons who don’t whine and give praise to their Father. Then they will be able to be in such a place that it will move that thing in people’s hearts to help them, and they will give them food and clothing. Those people will be blessed.

Chets Barur – People have to come to that place of crisis in meeting and knowing us, of receiving or rejecting the good news. We have to be able to have our Father cooperate with our fragrance. Otherwise, then people may reject us without ever coming to know what the gospel is.

It is like the parable of our Master, about the rains coming down and the floods coming up, but those whose house was on the rock stood firm. How many times is our faith movable still? Then we get short and emit another fragrance. I saw that rock, that faith that Peter had, and how we should be on that same rock and be immovable, too. If we have that faith in our Master then we don’t have anything to lose and we are not touchy. Our Father wants to cooperate with us. He wants the flavor we emit to draw people. There are so many people He wants to draw.

Soreph Gamaliel – I was thankful to be with such zealots today, for I have been thinking about the words that described our Master, “Zeal for Your house consumes Me.” It must grieve our Father (and I know that He knows our frame) the areas we make allowances for ourselves in – the areas we are not zealous in. There I was at the Christian boat, *Logos II*, from an offshoot of *Youth with a Mission*, where we had gone to hand out papers. I was looking for some discrete place to talk to people on it, and meanwhile,

Yedydyah and Yeled Qatan were at the gateway talking to the gatekeeper! I thought, “Those people are bold.” I want to be more like them.

Do you know what the *plank* is on a ship? If you are one of the totally rebellious ones they make you “walk the plank” (off the ship and into the ocean). Can you imagine us being on a ship called *Salvation*, on our way to the other side (the Kingdom), and we are not zealous to do our part, to keep the ship in order? We have all those things to do to make the ship seaworthy, from swabbing the deck to making the meals, to keeping the sails trim — everything. If we are rebellious, we have to walk the plank. We are thankful our Father reveals these things to us. He lets Himself be found by us, if we seek for Him.