

## **The Increase of Lawlessness**

ha-êmeq — Because of the great increase of lawlessness love grows cold, so obviously, it assumes that they had something at first, but it grew cold. The evil one would like to teach us to be lawless. Many of us as young disciples were taught what it means to be lawless. Lawlessness for us isn't going out to rob a bank. Lawlessness is pretty small by comparison. But the increase of these lawless little things makes our love grow cold. Then you have to search along the path if you are becoming someone else, someone who isn't love, if it's not love that's walking up to serve customers.

The prophetic word is a lamp for our feet, and you have to pay close attention to that. It's what we have to stand on here. We can get all kinds of gadgets and spend money. You know we don't have credit cards, but we have buying cards so we can buy something on the Internet. You have the potential to point and click. With those little choices you make, your love could grow cold — the computer you buy, etc. We have to pay much closer attention to what we've heard so our love won't grow cold.

Whatever doesn't come from faith is sin (Rom 14:23). Whatever we do in the Community, if we work without faith, it's sin. Those works are dead. If we get a computer, if we get a car, if we get a cell phone, it must be from faith that it's needed, necessary. We teach our children that they only get what they need.

Faith means persuasion. We are persuaded to do what He wants, because we've received that persuasion and we carry it out. Many times we do things that don't come from faith, so it's a useless, lawless deed. Everything we do must build up the Body.

Some people might need the best computer, but not everyone needs that. Some people say, "I don't have a car, and everybody else has one." Well, if you needed one you would have one. Where are these complaining people today? They are just puttering around in the Community.

No one in the Community would have a car if they didn't need it. Or they have a cell phone because they need it. Those who have cell phones and don't need them are the ones who will get the brain tumors. Some people have cell phones and others

wonder why they have a cell phone. Some people don't have a cell phone and then you see a child walking around with a cell phone, so who is his father?

The reason ha-êmeq doesn't have the nice pen that someone gave her is because someone else needed one, so now she has a 25-cent pen.

If we are salesmen, selling our products, we have to look presentable. In this present age we have to acclimate. We have to give people a chance; we can't just look like a *roadie*. We have to be considerate of them so they don't judge us prematurely. That's why we need to keep our beards trimmed. Some people don't look in the mirror often enough. Sometimes we look wild.

There are those who wear beards who misrepresent us. But what shall we do? Shave off our beards and look like unjust businessmen? We don't want to be a reproach, so look at yourself in the mirror every once in a while, and don't forget what you looked like. Your mustache doesn't have to grow into your mouth. Some people let their beards grow too long. Some people let their hair grow too long, and that's not good either. One fist is a good natural measure. Let's just keep ourselves presentable, and give people a chance when we go out on demos. We don't tuck our shirts in.

You can get plenty of good clothes at Salvation Army. Daniel could be the best-dressed person in the Twelve Tribes because he has a big clothing store, but he's not. That's a good attribute. We could go out and get 20 shirts for what this one would have cost new. You can get about 20 of these shirts for \$12. So we meet the needs of our people. They look presentable. And people can relate to us.

As far as cell phones, if someone has a cell phone who doesn't need one, that's lawlessness. It's not being led by the persuasion of the Holy Spirit. Someone might say, "I don't even have a cell phone, but this boy does. Does he need it?" People in Issachar or Naphtali can't even afford them, and they come over here and wonder.

Zakaryah — The first day I came to Europe, I was with some youth and we got lost, separated from our brothers. They said, "Do you have a cell

phone? Can we call them?” “Do I need a cell phone to reach my brothers? We can pray.” It shocked me because it was a youth.

That’s a good illustration. We could just put the Holy Spirit aside because we have all these gadgets, these modern inventions. It’s not good for you to sit in front of the computer all day.

Haggai — We talked about cell phones last night. They might call us away from an important time with our family. We decided to shut off our cell phones from preparation time until later. There was a meeting where we asked, “Do we need a cell phone? Do we have a good conscience?” You don’t need to decide whether you need one; your brothers will decide. Faith comes by hearing. Faith comes in counsel.

Can you imagine how much money goes out on phone bills? Can our Father bless us if we’re wasting money, if we’re not being frugal, when the money that’s wasted could have served our brothers somewhere else?

Yedidyah — I remember the excitement certain people had before the first Washington event, people comparing their cell phones with each other. Nahaliel talked about the dangers of cell phones, because it makes people extra-local. You are bigger than you really are. You go beyond. You start depending on people who aren’t there. Maybe if they are not there it’s our Father’s will. With cell phones it’s very easy to always put the burden on someone else, “Just call so-and-so.” Our Father needs us to be rulers and leaders, that we would sense the responsibility to make decisions. It’s easy for me to always defer and not make decisions.

Just the other day someone by himself logged into something he knew was wrong. Just a push of a button and you see the most vile things that have ever been. It’s simple; it’s right there. Everyone knows what I’m talking about. Is that putting our Father to the test? I’m not saying, “Do away with them.” But you’ll have to judge yourself. You’ll exclude yourself from the kingdom, and sin a sin unto death, if that’s what you want to do. And then you’ll get calloused to it, and think it’s OK.

Haggai — If there are needy people among us it should be a sign that maybe we have things we don’t need. How do we weigh this? Can I get rid of my phone so he can get his teeth fixed? I might get sick and need brain surgery. The needs have to really be judged. Do I really need what I have?

Is it a need, or can we function without it? How much do we spend a day in our communities, but we don't have olive oil?

Qashab — We've always heard that lawlessness is independence.

Everyone is doing what is right in their own eyes.

Qashab — If you become independent you're likely to no longer see the needs of others. You have to have a self-limiting judgment to go and ask for counsel. We have to resist the urge to be independent, because otherwise we'll fall away and have what we don't need. We can save some money and put it where our Father needs it.

We have to be submissive. Obedience is relative. Submission is absolute. When the police come, your heart is submissive, and it wins them. You can't just obey a policeman if he says to jump off a bridge. Submission is absolute. If a policeman pulls you over sometime, be very submissive and see what will happen. But he will give you a double fine if you are rebellious.