

Because We Love Him

ha-êmeq — When we started the Community, we had a common purse. We didn't know how to do it. We got a petty cash box with a little book beside it. If someone came and needed money to park downtown, he would mark off \$5. At the end of the day you'd count all the petty cash slips — just like a business — you had \$22 in the box, then there was \$17.

We all took a vow of poverty. I was so happy to take a vow of poverty. I didn't just say, "I don't have any money." But I was going to be as poor as I could be, not with money falling out of my pockets.

I think that's how our Father was able to bless us in the beginning. People always ask, "How did you do it in the beginning?" We bought about 10 houses. That was life in the beginning. It just gets disorderly with many checking accounts. You have a household account and a business account; anything left in the business account goes into the household account — finished! Our life gets so complicated if you don't have that mind.

Then you see people on the phone with their friend for an hour. It's the "kinfolk syndrome" (*kinfolk* is your relatives).

ha-êmeq — They get into all kinds of long conversations, passing on gossip. It has to do with ruling. If I'm not ruling on my section of the wall, and I'm too busy, then I won't stop to talk to someone I'm covering and find out, "Who are you talking to?" People need covering. We need to teach people what the phone is for. We're probably not ruling over the sheep.

Knowing the right thing to do and not doing it is sin. Everything should have a purpose in the Body. Before long we'll have to have a whole carriage barn — baby carriage barn — with everything under lock and key.

Dt 8; 1 Cor 10:7,10,11 — These things are written down for our instruction. Hebrews 4 says the same thing. They are written down for our instruction. The scriptures they had in the First Church were the Old Covenant:

Beware lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; lest, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, then your heart becomes proud, and you forget the LORD

*your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
(Dt 8:11-13, NASB)*

That's what happened. And we're being warned now so we don't fall in the same way they did. These things happened to them as an example and were written down for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come (1 Cor 10:11).

There's nothing I can do about it. Everyone will have to follow his heart. If we put people under the law it won't do any good; they'll fall away anyway. David wasn't under the law. He loved his God. If we don't love Him, it means we're under the law.

Emet — A little while ago we heard that Paul said, "You haven't resisted sin to the point of shedding blood." Our Master sweat drops of blood on the night He was betrayed. He wasn't caught up in "not doing this, not doing that," but He was caught up in doing our Father's will.

David said to his son, "Be courageous and act." We have to see the signs. I don't want the people in my community spending too much time on the phone, or devoted to gadgets. But I want us to be devoted to the Apostles' fellowship, prayer, and the breaking of the bread.

Yedidyah — There were times in old Israel when new kings came and they destroyed all the Ashtoreths, and other times they were falling away. Gidon tore down the altars, and it really produced something. When dullness sets in, it destroys.

There was a time in Hamburg when everyone would gather together and there would be dullness. Finally someone would share something, but there would be no response. One First Day Eve gathering, a few people shared, the musicians played... At the point of the victory cup, Ne'eman stepped up and said, "I've never done this, but I think I'm going to pour out this victory cup because it seems like no one should drink from it. We're not walking in victory." It was wonderful. We were all dull. Ne'eman came and destroyed that idol. It produced godly sorrow, and we repented, and after that everyone shared. He didn't want to see us go down to silence, and lose the kingdom.

Daniel — It would be the easiest thing to throw out all the digital cameras and computers. The hardest thing is to judge ourselves. Yônêq was just saying we have to look to the past, see which way they were going and not go that way. We always tend to slither and slide.

How many times have I seen someone do something, and thought, “Oh, maybe it’s OK, maybe I can get one of those things...” But our children will be just the way we are. “The eyes of the children will be on their fathers’ idols.” It doesn’t matter whether or not they see you do it. The hardest thing right now is to produce a generation that will love our Master Yahshua and follow in our footsteps.

Christianity is under the law. Unless you have our Master’s Spirit you can’t help but be under the law. We want to do it because we love Him.

In Lk 19:13, He said, “Do business until I come; be occupied until I come.” That is about stewardship. That’s who we are in the Body, that’s how we live. It takes away our personal sovereignty. We don’t own anything. We don’t even own the shirt on our own back. If someone needs it we’ll give it to him.

Shemuel — In a way we have to look at everything in the Community as though we owned it, so we take care of everything. In another way we have to look at it as though we didn’t own anything.

ha-êmeq — This brings us back to something we’ve all known. Redemption brings us all back to the purpose of creation. Adam was created as a steward.

As soon as our Master redeemed them, they went right back to that in Jerusalem — they shared everything, took care of everything. All who believed had all things in common. We are created to be stewards. The American Indians had a hard time because the Pilgrims wanted to buy some land from them. “What do you mean? Buy the earth? How could you possibly own it?”

Now we are free from being selfish, free to be stewards.

Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God. (1 Cor 4:1-5)