

## The Seriousness of Seeking Him

*(We sang, "Deliver Me from All Foolish Desires")*

Gader Perets — That song gave us the key to being delivered from our foolish desires — to abide in communion with our Father. If all that we want to do is have fellowship with Him, that is the way we will be delivered from our foolish desires. I want to give myself to that, setting my mind on our Father to abide with Him, step by step, day by day.

ha-êmeq — It was so clear in the song, "That is all we need to make it to the end." Sometimes, do you wonder whether you will make it to the end? Making it to the end is the highest mountain you are going to climb. It takes so long to climb it, and as you are going, you are thinking, "How am I going to make it to the top? What do I need in my pack in order to make it to the top?" All we have to do is have fellowship with Him. That's the package we need. But in that package would be everything. It is all we need to make it to the end.

Chets Barur — I was thinking that the first verse of that song is the key to the second verse. The first verse talks about fellowship with Him. The second verse says, "Establish me on the solid rock, that my deeds would endure." If we are in fellowship with Him, in true fellowship with Him, then we are whole. We are one. Then our deeds will endure, for they are wrought in God. Our deeds are the fruit of our fellowship with Him. We are not just doing our work like a slave.

We could just do the minimum things that we think we are supposed to be doing, but then we are not really whole. We are not really having the attitude of a son, realizing that we have an inheritance in our Father's house and doing everything we do with a whole heart. Then our deeds are not going to endure. They are just temporary deeds. We are just doing what we have to do.

If we are really whole with ourselves and whole with our Father, then our deeds are going to be complete. I really want to have completed deeds. I look around and I see a lot of incomplete deeds. I want to be in fellowship with our Father that I can complete deeds. Those deeds will endure. It wouldn't just be the physical deeds, but the spiritual deeds that are building our Father's house. Even though practically, we do physical deeds, and those deeds do build His house, those physical things are not going to endure.

For example, that courtyard out there is not going to endure. But the spiritual deeds that we did of being in fellowship with Him, being whole, being one with one another, those deeds are going to endure. Those deeds are going to bring Him back to the earth.

The temporary, physical things we are working at show us whether we are whole or not. They show whether our deeds are going to endure or not. They show whether we are half-hearted. If we are trying to keep back a little bit for ourselves, then our deeds will show it. As Paul said, their deeds will become evident in the day (1 Tim 5:24-25).

What we build with — hay, wood, and stubble, or precious stones — show whether we were one with our Father (1 Cor 3:10-15). Hay, wood, and stubble might have been more convenient. A wooden building goes up a lot quicker than a stone building does. You might see a pile of wood there and say, “Oh, that’s easy, let’s throw that up here,” but that might not be the whole deed that our Father wants for us. It is an analogy, but it is a spiritual lesson that we can learn from. I want my deeds to endure.

1 Cor 3:16-17 says you will be destroyed if you don’t build with precious materials. When you have the proper materials to build with, and you don’t use them, you are going to destroy the Temple. Whoever destroys the Temple, God will destroy.

*According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup>For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup>each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup>If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? <sup>17</sup>If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. (1 Cor 3:10-17)*

You destroy His Temple by building with inferior materials. That means what each and every person does has to be of value in the building of the Temple. Whether it is training your children or teaching or whatever you do in the Body, it has to be done in

love, with all of your heart. That is the true value, the true materials: doing things with all of your heart.

Joseph Fisher — “Let my heart be filled with your word...” That is where we get the right tools, the right material — when our heart is really full of His Word. We are clinging to the anointing, and we are searching deeply what our Master is trying to communicate to us. We are finding out how to build in our little niche in the Body, wherever we are, by learning how to apply His Word. That is something that spoke to me in that song. It is going to allow us to have deeds that will endure. They come from being connected to Him.

Amen. It is not always easy to stay connected, to pray. Paul said it was a struggle to pray. Fellowship is something we have to seek for. If you seek for Him with all of your heart, He will let you find Him (1 Chr 28:9-10). We have a Temple to build. He is just telling us how it has to be. If we forsake Him, He will forsake us. The first thing we can tell Him is that it is hard, but then you have to break through that. He said that He is someone who hides Himself. He just wants to see if we will want Him badly enough to seek Him. Maybe we don't want Him badly enough when we don't find Him. He lets Himself be found:

*They entered into the covenant to seek YHWH, the God of their fathers, with all of their heart and soul. Whoever did not seek YHWH, the God of Israel, was to be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. Then they took an oath before YHWH with a loud voice, with shouting and trumpets and with rams' horns, and all of Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all of their heart and sought Him with all of their soul — and He was found by them. (2 Chr 15:12-15)*

If you look at Lev 20:26-27, you can see how Israel, as a nation, was to be a holy, set-apart people. He is the One who sanctifies us (Ex 31:13). What does that mean, that He sanctifies us? It means He sets us apart. Then in Lev 20:26-27 you can see who we are if we don't seek Him. “Put them to death; execute them.” That is, eliminate or cut them off from the nation, for you are a set-apart people. He sanctifies us to be totally, absolutely separate from the world. We are not to love the things of the world. Whoever loves the things of the world will be eliminated from that holy nation. If we could only

see who we are, and how He wants to sanctify us! We can't be sanctified unless we are sanctified. We have to be sanctified, set apart.

Our Father is getting people to rule the universe. He means business. It is not like we can love the world and love our Father at the same time. He has to have someone who will put Satan in his place and overcome the damage he has done to us in our spirit. A man has to pray in his spirit, and in order for that to happen, the composite nature of man really has to be one. The composite nature of man has to be one, because God is one.

God is holy and we are to be holy — we have to be all that He is. The damage which man has incurred in his spirit is what keeps man from doing God's purpose. Man has to be made one again. That is why we have to be redeemed, healed. Our spirit needs to be made alive to our Father. That is what 1 Cor 6:17 is about: "Whoever joins himself to Messiah becomes one spirit with Him." We become one spirit with Him in order to achieve the purpose man was created for. No one else can do that except redeemed man. We have to be set apart for that one goal in order to achieve it, to be worthy of it. Paul said we have to be without any division.

You can see in Leviticus 20 all the things that are required of the holy nation. If you don't do them, you will be eliminated, cut off. It is like the child who doesn't respect his parents. He will be eliminated from the holy nation (Lev 20:9). Whoever slights his parents — that is what cursing one's parents means, if you look up the Hebrew words. It means to bring down and not hold in high esteem. It is a continual slighting, not just a one-time offense that makes you feel so terrible, so horrible that you repent. But if you go on in that way of slighting them, you will be eliminated from the holy people.

Read Leviticus 20 sometime to see what was required of Israel. They didn't live up to it, until it reached the point where our Master said, "I will take the Kingdom away from you and give it to a people who will bear the fruit of it" (Mt 21:43). He wanted a people who would not be eliminated. We have to be regenerated to accomplish all that

we have to do — to be one as our Father and our Master are one, and to bear the fruit we are to bear.

We have to keep the sign that we are His people. There is only one commandment that we keep as a sign. A lot of the people of the nations keep some of the Ten Commandments, but they don't keep the Sabbath. That is the sign that a whole nation is set apart. It says that if you break the Sabbath you will be eliminated, for you are not a part of the whole nation. The Sabbath is a sign of who God's people are and who they aren't.

We are redeemed for a purpose, not just to go to heaven when we die. It is not even in the picture as far as accomplishing God's purpose. The Holy City is God's people. They have His motivation.

Livi — If the Israelites didn't seek our Father, they were to be put to death. Really, that is where we really are if we don't seek our Father. We don't have life. We can see all the things that the Israelites had to set them apart. I could see "seeking our Father" as being a heavy thing, but really, it is in order to give us life and make us everything we were created to be. I am thankful for what we are hearing.

ha-êmeq — It is the most important thing, really, what He is saying to us. When you read in the Word, "Kill the men and women..." they were talking about executing people in the Community who don't seek our Father. They were going to execute the women who didn't seek our Father. It was so important, for they were there to build the Temple of our Father.

I saw Chets Barur and Hananyah putting in the foundation for that building. It was really important what they were doing right at that time. They were putting in a foundation and then they were going to build on it. Chets Barur was thinking about materials and Keli was judging the level, which was a little bit off somewhere. It was really important. This is a building we have vision for. We have vision that twenty years from now some zealous disciples are going to be here and the children are going to have their goats out there and they are going to be properly nourished to serve our Father. We have vision for that. It is part of the national identity that our Father is putting into us.

So it is really important what they are doing right now. Chets Barur was selecting the building materials and when he returned someone had

dragged in an old stained-glass window and said, “I think I will set this right here on that part of the foundation.”

Chets Barur replies, “I am the one running this job, and where did you get that window anyway?”

The other brother says, “I really feel that it belongs there,” and there starts the war.

Chets Barur says, “I know that window is not supposed to be there. I have labored on this foundation and I know how the building is supposed to be built.”

If that brother takes a stand and says, “I really feel that God wants this window here,” there goes the Body of Messiah.

That is what happens. Something comes in through the radio or something and all of a sudden that song is being sung in the Edah. Some people say, “I don’t feel right about this song!” And others are saying, “Ach, it is fine.” It is so evil when that happens. What we build with is what is making the Temple into what it is meant to be. Really, the person to do that should be put to death, because if he is not, it will bring chaos, subverting the whole building project, and you will be left with something that wasn’t intended at all. It is forsaking the foundation and then it is all over.

That is what Leviticus 20 says: anyone who listens to mediums or other spirits must be put to death. The same thing should happen today if we listen to another spirit or another anointing, trying to bring it in. That is what Leviticus 20 is trying to teach us. Leviticus 20 really sets Israel, the holy people, apart from the nations. That is exactly what it is teaching us.

Chets Barur — Their blood would be upon them. In a spiritual sense, that is what is happening today if we are listening to other spirits and not seeking our Father, just going on — we are cut off.

*A man or a woman who listens to a familiar spirit or medium shall surely be put to death. You shall stone them with stones... (Lev 20:27)*

Leviticus 20 talks about all the unclean things. We must be totally set-apart. We don’t eat unclean animals. The only thing we eat is food, and all food is clean. What do I mean by that? All food is clean? Christians say that in Mk 7:19 our Master “declared all foods clean,” but that last phrase was added by the translators. It is not in the original.

Some people say, “Eat whatever is set before you,” as though putting it on your plate magically turns it into food. Our Father distinguishes us here from the nations. He knows us. He only wants us to eat food, not dogs or pigs. Christians say, “All food is clean,” and that is right, but what is food? Paul said if it is sanctified by the Word of God, which teaches us what food is (1 Tim 4:4-5).

Hayeh — We are cut off if we don’t seek our Father. We are cut off from hearing from Him and from fellowship with our brothers and sisters. He needs us to be whole, to be one, even within ourselves. If we are not connected to Him, then all the things that delight our flesh contribute to unrest within us. You don’t have anything to stand on. He is our Rock. We base our beliefs on Him. I am thankful He knows what we need. Sometimes I feel I can never do enough, but that is because I am not seeking Him.

You are still in training as a disciple. Don’t feel condemned. We are to pray with the highest element within us, our spirits, not just with our minds. It is the struggle we are in. Believe me, you can do it. It is the narrow way.

God is one and man is divided. God is looking for man to be one like He is one, to not be divided within ourselves.

Joseph Fisher — Our Father doesn’t want us to acknowledge Him in vain. He wants us to go out and struggle and seek Him and commune with Him, so that He can reveal Himself to us. Sometimes we go out there lacking faith, lacking conviction, and then we doubt our Master. But I know that our Father is doing everything He can to bring us to a place where we can receive Him. He is doing everything on His part to make sure we make it to the end. He is not torturing us. He is looking for people who will really struggle to know Him. He wants them to rule. We have to continue to believe that. That is the hardest work to remember that.

What He desires to say to us is, “Well done, My good and faithful servant.”