

There Won't Be any Duds in the Kingdom

Obadiah — The other day when Derush came from Chattanooga and was trying to fix the bathroom, he didn't know what he was getting himself into. He said, "I am going to see Hakam and talk to him about it." He humbled himself and asked for help.

We used to say, "Deep calls to deep," from the Psalms. I always took it in a superficial way, when you get into a hard situation like that. But I realized that sin is a deep thing. Sometimes I get a glimpse; I look inside myself and it looks like a bottomless pit. I can hardly take it. There is a time when "deep calls to deep." Our Father gets into something in our life and He wants us to go down.

The salmon has a determination as he meets danger after danger and trouble after trouble. We have the power of an indestructible life; it is the same principle of life that works in the salmon. But I know that it is not automatic, because in the first church they also had the power of an indestructible life. When you go through those things, you have the power to make it through like the salmon. Otherwise we would not be able to make it upstream.

We have the amazing opportunity to be the kind of people who are invited to the wedding feast. There was a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son (Mt 22:1-10). Verse 7 happened in 70 AD. In verse 9 the king sent out walkers. They gathered both the good and the bad.

We understand that in the parable the bad are those who didn't have the wedding garments on, but we can apply this in different ways. The good and the bad could be those who forgive their brothers and those who don't. One had the power to forgive, and the other didn't. Or one was zealous, and the other was just a dud. There are lots of duds.¹ We are going to see that when we invite people home, some will be good, and some will be bad. We know that's going to happen.

¹ The dictionary describes a *dud* as one that is ineffectual; a failure; misfit. It can also mean a bomb or missile that fails to explode.

We have seen this over the years — some will be good, and some will be bad. Some are just plain duds — inactive, unresponsive. We can all be like duds. Are you a dud? You don't have to be one, do you? You can be an overcomer. You don't have to be a dud. You can respond. You can be zealous, forgive your brother, take initiative.

But we have seen lots of duds, haven't we? Have you seen a dud lately? Who thinks he's a dud? Raise your hand. See, there are no duds here. (*ha-êmeq whispers that a sister had raised her hand; Yônêq addresses her by name...*) You didn't raise your hand, did you? You're not a dud! That's how we feel about ourselves sometimes, isn't it? You feel like a dud, but that doesn't mean you're a dud. A dud can't forgive, won't forgive, won't be zealous, and won't encourage his brother.

So the servants went out in the highways and byways and invited all they found. Sometimes we fish with nets, as it says in Mt 13:47-48. They brought great masses of fish in, and some were good, and some were bad. Some were clean, and some were unclean. Then what did they do with the unclean? They sorted them out and threw them back. That is what will happen in the very last days — we will be fishing with nets, and the good and the bad will come in.

Do you know what a dud is? It is someone who won't pay attention. He gets distracted. He won't look at the person speaking. He is always looking down, looking here, looking there. He doesn't give his strength; his spirit is distracted. He can't control his spirit. Our Master always made sure His disciples were paying attention. He talked about ears, didn't He? "He who has ears, let him hear?" In verse 51 He said, "Have you understood these things?" and they said, "Yes."

And Yahshua said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old." (Mt 13:52)

That's the discerning spirit that we have to bring out.

So sometimes you may feel like a dud. It means you are not seeking our Master; it means you are not going to the throne of grace. I just want to read one more thing so we will know that we are not duds.

Therefore [whenever you feel like a dud] let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb 4:16)

In our time of feeling like a dud we go to the throne of grace, and we will find out we're not duds at all. But the enemy wants us to feel like duds. We have to overcome that enemy and help others overcome that enemy. (*Looking at the sister who raised her hand*) Do you repent?

The first church left their first love and became duds. They became lukewarm; only a few overcomers were left, and they weren't popular with the lukewarm ones.

Qatan — The word *dud* is associated with ammunition. A dud is ammunition that doesn't fire when you need to face the enemy.

There will be no duds sitting on the throne with our Master. There will be no duds in the kingdom. Someone will be standing at the door, and no duds will be allowed to come in, but only the overcomers — that's all He wants.

ha-êmeq — It is so good what he said about duds being those who don't fire. You are depending on them to fire, and they don't fire. It's so disappointing. It's like being "instant in season." A couple of nights ago, Havah shel Hakam came into the kitchen and said, "You girls² go out right now and speak to the brothers." They had just been thinking of onions and carrots and things like that. Then all of a sudden, Havah was calling on them to do something they didn't expect.

They were asking, "Don't let her make us do that. We can't go out there like that." And I said, "Fire!" and they all fired. They didn't know what to say, but they went out, and they all three fired and fired well. They weren't duds. I would have hated it if they just said, "No, I can't go out there." But they were able to be called on.

² Some of the young women who had faithfully served meals and cleaned for a week of freepaper meetings were being asked to address the brothers before the men left town.

Our Father needs you; you don't feel like it, you're shocked, but still you go ahead and do what you are called to do. You go to the throne of grace. It is so important that you go to the throne of grace and get grace (Heb 4:16). But if I am going to the throne of grace, before I get there I am going to have to be humble. I'm not going to go proudly and expect to get grace. You have to go humbly. But humble and bold must go together. Obviously, a humble person can be very bold at the same time.

(Looking toward a guest who was counting the cost...) You just have to give up your "duddy" life. That's what we all had to give up.