

Radical Claims of the Good News Encountered

Part 2 — Special Treasure

There is no Christian today or for the past 18 or 19 hundred years who has been led by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:14) or been taught by Him¹ (Jn 6:45), since there has not been a holy nation of Israel (Eph 2:12) since the first century and maybe into the second century, when the letter of James was addressed to the twelve tribes. Acts 26:7 is the only way the Body of Messiah can be or was known then (1 Pet 2:9-10; Jms 1:1; Gal 6:16; Eph 2:12), which was Mt 21:43 then. If those twelve tribes took the place of the natural descendents of Abraham as a holy nation, then they would of course do what the natural Israel did not do in order to bear the fruit of the Kingdom, i.e., maintain their holiness before the Holy God of Abraham (Dt 14:2-3) so as to be able to celebrate the Year of Jubilee, which old Israel did not live up to even one time.

Mt 21:43 — The words of Yahshua the Messiah would be maintained by a *new* nation who was to bear the fruit of the Kingdom which was taken away from old Israel, yet it seems that there has been no nation that has been holy since the first century, as a special treasure (#5459, *segullah*) to God (Dt 26:18-19; Mal 3:16-17), who keep themselves holy by doing what Yahweh requires of people in His holy nation, who bear the fruit of the Kingdom (Lev 20:26; Dt 7:6; Rom 12:1; 1 Jn 3:2-3; 5:18).

Dt 26:17-19 — They were to be God's special personal property or possession, His prized possession, His royal treasure, but this is left *now* to Mk 9:11-12 (Dan 2:44), the restored nation, set apart to be all that old Israel and the first expression of that new nation in Mt 21:43 failed to fulfill (Mt 24:14). Old Israel died because they did not produce the fruit of the kingdom. They did not obey His voice (Dt 15:5). The first Edah fulfilled Dt 15:4 for a little while, but not for even the 49 years which it would take to celebrate a Year of Jubilee. As we said, Israel of old never celebrated a Year of Jubilee.

¹ Some may have been led by holy angels, but not the direct leading of the Holy Spirit.

Seven sevens means completion. The sound of the *yobel* (Lev 25:9) designates that they had borne the fruit of the Kingdom.

Acts 4:34-35 is the only way the Edah can be or it is not the Edah, the *witness* of the Kingdom (Mt 21:43; 24:14). Acts 2:44 — All believers who make up the holy nation (1 Pet 2:9-10), who are God’s holy people, live together in clans and share all things in common so that there are no poor among them, no needy, no one who lacks (Acts 4:32).

So as Lk 14:33 says, *therefore* or *likewise* indicates the conditions or terms of peace in verses 31-32, the radical claims of the gospel of Yahshua the Messiah. Christians will not accept these radical claims of the gospel because of the lifestyle these claims require (Acts 2:44-45) so that there are no poor among all the real believers that Jn 3:16 speaks of, none who are in need as Mt 6:31-33. This is not the way it is in Christianity, and never was. The first believers were *disciples*, not Christians who came on the scene after the Nicolaitans took over, a religious system that God hates (Rev 2:6,15) — a “one-man show” as in 3 Jn 1:9, in contrast to 1 Cor 14:24-26.

Our Master made a great effort to teach His disciples what it would mean to follow Him (Mk 10:17-30). The lifestyle of the holy nation can only be as the record specifies in Acts 2:36-37, as Mk 10:17 asks the same question today: “What shall we do?” And the Jews at Pentecost were told what they must now do in order to be saved (Acts 2:40), and the ones who heard our Master’s voice (Jn 18:37) gladly received His words (Acts 2:41) without a cause to reject them. Those who knew the cost of discipleship and paid it freely, without a cause to not obey the gospel they heard (Rev 22:17; Jn 3:18,36; Acts 5:32; 2 Ths 1:8), were baptized (Acts 2:41). The rich young ruler had asked the same question, “What shall we do?” in Mk 10:17 and was told, but rejected the Messenger and the message (Lk 10:16).

So those who gladly received the apostles’ words knew what they had to do in order to follow the Messiah, to be a disciple, since they heard the many other words (Lk 14:26,33; Mt 10:34-39; Mk 8:34-38). So after they were baptized, there is Barnabas in

Acts 4:36-37. Just as all the other men who responded on the Day of Pentecost had to do in Acts 2:41, he went back and sold his farm (Acts 4:34) and probably brought his wife and family back with him to be saved as well, as in Acts 16:30-34. In the case of the Philippian jailer in Acts 16:31-32, they all believed, but if his household had not believed and followed Messiah, he would have been obedient to the gospel anyway, accepting its radical claims and the lifestyle those claims required, as Barnabas did, counting the cost of having eternal life (Mk 10:17-22, 28-30; Mt 10:34-39; Mk 3:31-35; Lk 14:26). Mk 10:29, Mt 19:29, and Lk 18:29 all say *wife*.²

The whole witness of the New Testament scriptures gives us revelation that salvation is never cheap, but costs you everything that Mk 10:28-29 says in order to have eternal life. Eternal life is what the rich young ruler asked what he must do in order to have. It all boiled down to what he had to give up in order to follow the One who could have given it to him, as Rev 22:17 says — freely, or without a cause to reject it after he heard what he had to do to have it. Yahshua expected he would do what He told him, since he asked what he had to do — “*trust and obey, for there’s no other way.*” The word *come* in Rev 22:17 and Mk 10:21 means to move, to follow Him wherever He goes, without a cause to not be able to follow Him. It is not just to *believe*, but to *follow* — “Come and follow Me” (Jn 12:26).

Follow means to accompany, to go with, to be an attendant, as the word *come* in Rev 22:17 compels motion from one place to another. *Freely* means without a cause greater than to have eternal life, which all the rich young ruler had to leave could not give him anyway. The rich young ruler had a cause not to do what he was told to do in order to have what he asked for, so he walked away sad (not gladly receiving His word, Acts 2:41). He did not come with Him, but stayed there, since he had what he calculated to be sufficient cause not to follow, but to turn down eternal life, which could have been

² In the NKJV and Interlinear Greek/English New Testament it says wife.

all that Mk 10:29 listed as what one must give up — his own possessions and his relatives if they were unwilling to come also (Lk 14:26,27,33).

So the rich young ruler could not or would not become Yahshua's disciple, and Yahshua tells all others the same thing — not just the rich young ruler, but everyone who hears the radical claims of the gospel. All who refuse and reject evidently have a cause great enough to reject the offer of eternal life, because they love their own life and can keep it — at least until they die (Jn 3:18,36). 2 Ths 1:8-9; Rom 1:21,28 — “Did not know God” — or refused to retain God in their knowledge (Gen 3:22).

Those who will not drink of the water of life freely are those who would not accept the lifestyle they must assume because they loved their own life (Mt 16:24-26) and would not leave it behind. In Rev 22:17, *come* means to move from the lifestyle you now have and come to the new lifestyle all believers have as being now disciples of Messiah (1 Cor 1:2; Acts 2:44; 4:32) — that is, if they accepted the radical claims of the gospel of the Master and Savior Yahshua. If not, then they were not willing to the Father's will (Jn 7:17), not willing to accept the lifestyle those radical claims require in order to be immersed into that life (1 Cor 12:13; 1 Jn 5:12; Acts 5:20).

Jn 10:10 — *Life is zoe* (#2222), a lifestyle in the spiritual realm in the Body of Messiah. The word *zoe* expresses all the highest and best, as Jn 14:6 and 1 Jn 1:2. This is what is given to the saints in the light, the highest blessedness of creation, in preparation for the Kingdom. It's more than just a new lifestyle, but is as Acts 5:20 and 1 Jn 5:12 and Acts 4:32 explains. To live this new lifestyle requires the power of the Holy Spirit upon every believer (Acts 2:44; 4:32). Our Master compared the Kingdom to the most valuable thing in all life — “a treasure hidden in a field.” And what does the man do who finds it? As Mt 13:44-46 says, the kingdom is beyond price.