

With Him — Walking as He Walked

A brother was badly hurt. I will read part of what I told ha-êmeq to write to him:
Our Father disciplines those whom He loves. Sometimes, we find it hard to believe that He loves us at all. But He does. Your confession was clear and to the point. Obviously you belong to Him. You are a son of His love, so believe it. You're a brother of mine. You have been faithful, even though sometimes you were not. But still, you could find Him... He will let us find Him. But He has to wake us up first, so we can see that He is hiding from us. Then we carry out the search. But He issues the search warrant.

Our Father commands us to search for Him; He gives us the search warrant. But if we forsake Him, He'll forsake us. But even if He does, we can still search for Him and find Him. If we're not with Him, we're against Him. If we're not in communion with Him, we'll end up being against Him — we'll cause confusion, we'll cause problems, we won't be in fellowship with our brothers and sisters, we'll take things wrong, we'll hear things wrong and get offended. These are the things that come along with the narrow way that we're on, that precarious place where we find ourselves. But if we are in fellowship with Him, then we will be in fellowship with everyone else who is in fellowship with Him. But we can't be in fellowship with anyone who is not in fellowship with Him.

Mt 12:30 — We're either with Him or we're not with Him, and if we're not *with* Him, we're against Him. If we're not with Him, we will work in the Community in a detrimental way, causing problems and confusion. If we're not building the Body, we're tearing it down. One builds, another tears down.

A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for blows. A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. (Pr 18:6-7)

But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. (Mt 12:36-37)

So, here we are in Mt 12:37 — we'll be judged or acquitted by what we say. What we say expresses our fellowship or our lack of fellowship with our Master. What comes

out of your mouth is in your soul. Honestly, the Holy Spirit is not there when we speak wrong. That is why we'll be judged.

In 1 Jn 2:6, we are told that we have to walk as He walked. In the Greek, the word translated *walk* means “deport oneself” — the way you carry yourself, your conduct and behavior, just as that song says, “Cause me to know, the way wherein I shall follow.” The way in which we follow Him is how we walk. We might walk, but we're not walking with Him. “Can two walk together, unless they agree?” It is not just about walking, but it is about the *way* we walk, *how* we walk.

If we are not in fellowship with Him, we will always bring confusion in the Body. We will judge prematurely, as from a “family spirit,” judging on the side of our family. We have to judge right, not showing preference because the person is our husband, or our wife, or our child. If you judge from a “family spirit” you will defend them to the hilt, even though they're wrong, and you won't listen to the truth. You'll get offended and go to someone else to make your case.

A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars of a castle. (Pr 18:19)

So we can offend, and we can also cause someone to stumble by offending them.

But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! (Mt 18:6-7)

Woe to the one through whom the offense comes. So, we have to work everything out in the Body; we can't sweep anything “under the rug.” We have to bring it all out so that we can be in perfect fellowship with one another. If we're not together, in fellowship like the Father and the Son, then we're not walking with our Master; we're not walking as He walked. How did He walk? He walked in fellowship with His Father. That's what 1 Jn 2:6 means. *Walk* means how we deport ourselves, how we carry ourselves, which reveals what spirit we're giving ourselves to.

So if we're not one as the Father and Son are one, then somehow we are a little bit off. He *did* pray for that — that we'd be one as He and His Father are one. And His prayer is going to be answered through a people who take His word seriously. We have to really take His word seriously.

Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death. (Jn 8:51)

“... never see death.” They won't even *taste* death. It doesn't mean just die a physical death, but he won't even see the horror of death, for death is a place of torment (Lk 16:24-28).

The only way sin can be atoned for is through death — either your death, or our Master's death, whichever one you choose. If it's your death, then you're going to experience the same thing our Master did, going into the same place of torment as the rich and wicked man. But if we put our sins on Him, our Master atones for our sins by taking our place in that place of torment. He did take our place already, but He can only pay for what we allow Him to take upon Himself by our confessing and forsaking our sin.

So we have to walk as He walked — now, as believers, as *true* believers. How did He walk? How did He deport Himself? How did He speak? How are we supposed to speak? (1 Pet 4:11). Our Master doesn't speak through an audible voice coming from heaven; He speaks through His servants, His people. And that is how we know what He wants us to do.

If you know of anyone whom you are not in perfect fellowship with, then it is your job to go to that person. If you know that you've offended someone, it is your job to go to him and make everything right. If you don't, then you are not deporting yourself like our Master. You're not walking as He walked, and this is a *commandment*.

What if you claim to know Him, but you don't keep His commandments? What does that make you? A liar. And where do all liars go? To the lake of fire. That doesn't mean someone is a liar because he lied, but because he *lives* a lie. He claims to know

Him but is not obeying His commandments, and is causing all kinds of trouble in the Body. If an arm is not fellowship with the head, it is liable to do something that it shouldn't be doing. We are a Body. Each member of the Body is to function in harmony with all the other members in every place, in every locality.

So we have got to work everything out. Some people are oblivious to their sin and respond like this: "What do you mean? I didn't offend him. What did I say? I didn't say anything wrong. What are you talking about?" Such a person is oblivious and dull; he can't hear the Holy Spirit speaking. He just thinks you're accusing him, *framing* him.

Is it possible to carry out our Master's prayer that He prayed? Are we just living in vain, going down the dusty road to death, or are we on the road to life? If we aren't in fellowship, then we have to pay the consequences of *not* being in fellowship — and that is death. We'll have to experience the very torment our Master experienced because we're not allowing Him to take our sins. We're not judging ourselves right. If you have the Holy Spirit within your soul, you'll judge right. And if He's not there, then you'd better search for Him so that He *can* be there.

The Holy Spirit hides Himself, receding to the recesses of our spirit. It's wonderful that He'll never leave or forsake us (i.e., our spirit), as our Master said, but He *will* leave and forsake our soul. What we carry out with our body originates from our spirit — whatever spirit our spirit is in fellowship with — and then our spirit touches our soul, and our soul expresses itself through our body. Animals don't have a spirit, but they do have a soul. They are not able to communicate with the Spirit of our Father because they don't have a spirit. But we *do* have a spirit through which we can communicate with our Father. We communicate to His Spirit from our soul through our redeemed spirit (1 Cor 6:17).

If the Holy Spirit is not in our soul, then what we do in the Body is in vain, and what we do through our body is in vain. It is in vain no matter how much we "read the rules" or "know the ropes." If we're not led by the Spirit, we're not the sons of God.

Whoever is led by the Spirit are the sons of God. Were you led by the Spirit to offend someone? Or was it just your own soul that did it, because you didn't believe the Spirit?

If we search for Him, He will let us find Him. Do we search for Him? We ought to. What if we're not searching for Him with all of our heart? He won't let us find Him. When a child wakes up and his abba or imma aren't there in the room, he will get out of bed and look for them until he finds them. The child will run around everywhere — in the house, under the bed, upstairs, downstairs... and he'll cry out, "Where's my imma? Where's my abba?" And of course someone will help him find them.

Chazaq — We sang, "*We are thankful to be chosen to be part of a people who no longer live for themselves, but for Him who gave up His own life so that we could live together, free to demonstrate the love He's poured inside of our hearts.*" We're accountable for what we sing. It comes out of our mouth, from our soul. We're going to be accountable for that. Once we seek Him in the morning and find Him, we'll be "free to demonstrate the love He's poured inside our hearts."

That's "deporting" ourselves...

Chazaq — Right. I'm so thankful for our songs. We need to really mean it when we sing, that we're going to love Him by loving one another. That really puts to death any selfish desire. And I'm thankful that our selfish ways do get exposed — and they will; we can't hide. Our Father creates the perfect circumstances to reveal our selfishness, so we can die to it so it won't take us to death.

Death is not just oblivion. If you want to know what death means, the definition is right there in Luke 16. This wicked man found himself there, in that place of torment, for eternity. We are thankful that our Father saved us from that place. The only person who has come out of that place is our Master Yahshua. Now we don't have to go there. That's simple, isn't it? Those who have been delivered from that death are living for Him. If they're not living for Him, then they haven't been delivered yet. If we *are* living for Him, then our speech — our deportment — proves that we're delivered.

Those who pass on gossip and useless knowledge show what spirit they're in fellowship with. You can tell a tree by its fruit. If the Holy Spirit is within our soul, then

the fruit of that Spirit is love, and love is laying down your life for your brothers. Our Master laid down His life for us, so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers (1 Jn 3:14-16). What is the fruit of the spirit?

But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Messiah Yahshua have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the spirit, let us also walk by the spirit. (Gal 5:22-25)

Can we skip patience? Let's just go on to the next one, ok? You can't fake patience. You can go about with a smile on your face, and you can act as if you're at peace, until someone says something a little bit wrong to you. Then you reveal your true character. Your character is proven by how long it takes for someone to "get your goat." And if we lose our temper, we may not find it again.