

Drawn by the Father

Our Master Yahshua said, "No one can come to me unless the Father draws him" (Jn 6:44). There is something about a person who is willing to do the Creator's will — our Father's will. There is something there as well in those who can't be drawn. I don't know exactly how it is — in their will, or otherwise — that they can't be drawn. A person has to have something in him that is willing to do our Father's will — what he was created to do. It would be a horrible thing if we didn't do what we were created to do.

It is amazing how we're drawn, and how we didn't reject what we heard. It is truly amazing. Somehow, we have all heard and learned from the Father in some way. It's a mystery.

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me." (Jn 6:44-45)

ha-êmeq — I am from liberal California, and I remember my first encounter with a child. I encountered a rebellious child, and it was one of my most terrifying experiences. That's why I remember it so well. I mean, what do you do with a little person who comes boldly against you in rebellion? That is when I decided never to have children. I can actually remember the room it was in and everything. I knew there was nothing I could do. I was raised where there was no such thing as spanking; I never even knew it was an option. I remembered thinking, "I'm never going to have anything to do with them, because I can't control them. What would I do? How could I possibly keep them in order?" The thought of being a teacher like Zimrah was out of the question. To me, they were just out of control creatures!

And so, it is a phenomenon to see children who are obedient and respectful. When you see them, you think, "You mean, they can actually be nice? Wow!" I remember right where I was standing when it dawned on me, when I was taught by the Word of God how a child could be. And I remember my first experience with a wonderful child, and I thought, "Oh, I could have thousands of them! They are fantastic!" There is nothing better than a trained child; they are just so wonderful. I'm so thankful for them.

If I saw that picture, I would want that recipe. I'd say, "Give me the recipe: I love that picture." But when I flipped over the other side, and looked at the ingredients... I remember one of our freepaper articles that Bachirah, ha-Qinai's wife, wrote. She spoke of how she came and fell in love with the picture on the "recipe book." And of course, like any recipe book, you flip it open and see how you're going to make that "recipe."

When she came to Australia, she loved the Community and wanted to know the "ingredients." They said to her, "Love, happiness, peace... and God!" She responded, "Oh, no! Please! Not God! That's not in the recipe, is it? NO! I want the picture, but I don't want God in there! Why God?"

When one of our guests talked about "traveling through fires and smoke on the way to one of our Communities, he said, "Oh, this is just part of the test." Somehow, he knew it wasn't going to be easy, that it wasn't going to be just flipping to the recipe page and sliding right into it, like a water slide.

They each found "the terms of peace" on the recipe page. So children have terms of peace, too. That's how they get peace. It isn't as if it just plops upon them. They've got to meet the terms of peace, just as we all do. And that makes me so thankful for the recipe, the one with God in it.

When Prisca moved in with us (she is the first person who moved in and actually lived with us), I remember that it wasn't as if I had to read it in a recipe. I knew when I saw her, and how needy she was, that it was true: "If you want to have this recipe, you're going to have to take her into your household. Just don't think of getting out of it..." Actually, we never thought, "Well, maybe we'll just get her an apartment really close by." That wouldn't work! It just wouldn't work. She had to be with us in our house, because we LOVED her. It wasn't a burden, "Oh, you mean I have to give up my room?" The recipe was being written in our hearts.

For centuries the way had been overgrown with so much brush. You couldn't even get to the picture of the recipe anymore. It was covered! But somehow, through the years, it has been revealed. And then we understood, because the Community formed without us reading about it. We didn't know that the first church did it. It had already formed, because love is what made it happen in the first church, and love is what made it happen again. It was love.

So then Prisca lived with us, and then Aquila came along, and he lived with us. Love made the same "recipe," and all of a sudden we saw it in the Bible, and we said, "Wow! This is the recipe!" And with certain ingredients like God, and our Master Yahshua, and His Words, the terms of

peace — all these things make up the recipe. There is nothing that we can leave out. We'd like to leave out the smoke and the fires and all the things our guest saw. We'd like to make it a smooth road, but it isn't, if the recipe is the recipe. There has never been an obedient child, standing straight and tall like that, who hasn't kept the recipe; it just doesn't work.

There have been a lot of people who are just like Bachirah in Australia. "No one can come to Me unless the Father draws them." They may not even know, so much, what is in them. She was actually willing to do the Father's will, and she didn't know it, but if she could really truly meet the true God, our Elohim, she would know.

Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me." (Rom 10:20)

ha-êmeq was found, but she wasn't seeking. Inwardly, she was willing to do the Father's will, but probably didn't even know it. But after she started hearing the truth, it came forth, because that is what she wanted to do. "I have shown Myself to those who didn't ask for Me..." And then in John 7, it solves the mystery of who can be drawn.

If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (Jn 7:17)

Our Master said that. People will know, because they're willing to do the Father's will. Those who are willing to do the Father's will were drawn somehow, after they started hearing Him speak. It's amazing, isn't it? Salvation is a miracle, just a miracle.

And then it goes on in Jn 7:18, how some people speak and it's for their own glory. Others are seeking the glory of the one who sent them. So here we are, and we had all these messages out there in Christianity. And, somehow, we were repelled by it. If the person is seeking his own glory, we were not drawn to that. After they told you "you're saved," for the hundredth time, you still didn't believe them. There was something missing in there, and you knew. That is why people keep on going down to the altar. Every time a preacher preaches, he likes them to come down to the altar, because that gives him his glory. He loves how many people come down to his altar, and he puts it in his book.

But if we're seeking the glory of our Master Yahshua, people are going to know what teaching comes from the Father, or just from ourselves.

Shoer — I'm thankful for what ha-êmeq said about the recipe. There is a specific recipe, and it has got specific ingredients in it. A lot of people might like the cake that the recipe is supposed to produce, but they really don't like certain ingredients. So they try to make the cake by taking out this, or taking out that, but you don't get the same cake. It doesn't come out the way the picture looks.

They try to take the true gospel out of the recipe: "You have to give up your life," and "You have to hate your life in this world," meaning you don't live for yourself anymore. You can't take that out, and still get this life of love. You'll just perpetuate the way the world is, which is everyone living for themselves. Some people have to live for themselves, to provide for their family, whereas other people go far beyond that, because they have some selfish drive in them to be wealthy, taking advantage of others. None of it can produce the life that God wants.

We were driving down the road yesterday, and a tractor trailer went zooming past us with this slogan on the back of it: "All glory be to God." And I thought, "What does that mean?" What if I'm driving down the road, and I'm just an unbeliever, and I see that, then what am I supposed to think? That he was "blessed" with a nicer tractor-trailer, and so "All glory be to God?" It is just so confusing. It just doesn't make any sense.

There are so many messages out there, as Yônêq was saying, like one church we passed had a sign that said, "'Let's meet at my house before the game on Sunday,' says God."

There's one on the way to Hickory that says, "GOD ROCKS!" right there on the front of the church.

Shoer — People have to wade through this stuff. It is no wonder that Bachirah said, "Oh, no! Why God?" because that is what she was exposed to, which really isn't God, but some sort of idol. So when Yônêq was talking about those who are willing to do our Father's will, they run into the true recipe, which makes a people loving one another and in unity, just as the Father and the Son are in unity. They love one another as our Master Yahshua loved us. And that is glory. Glory is not just some catchy phrase, or a big church, but glory is people loving one another. It is people raising their children in the way of Abraham; it is perpetuating the life of

God on the earth. That is what glory is, and that is what the recipe really produces.

David Zerubbabel — Not only can you not leave something out of the recipe, but you can't add something to the recipe. Part of the terms of peace that Yônêq was talking about is Lk 14:33, "So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce — or forsake — all that he has..." He doesn't actually say, literally, "possessions," as if it were only material things you have to give up, but it includes the things that we might want to add to the recipe: "Well, I'll join you, if you keep the feasts." People come here and want to bring in things that are really important to them. If they could just bring in that — the things they think are lacking in the recipe. They like the recipe, but say, "It's almost right... If I could add just this one thing that is really dear to me, then that would make it perfect." You can fill in the blank. We can all identify a few things.

But our Master said "everything" — you have to become like a little child and learn everything all over again. A little child doesn't bring something to add to the recipe; a little child is trusting, surrendered, and comes into the world naked and crying. Whatever we try to bring in is going to pollute the recipe — even if it is a "good" thing. Maybe there is something someone has that our Father is going to add to us at some point. But it has got to come from the right source; it has got to come at the right time. Even when you make a recipe, you don't just throw everything into the bowl all at once, right? There's an order to things.

Turn to Micah 7. This is the sad state of Israel:

Woe is me! For I have become as when the summer fruit has been gathered, as when the grapes have been gleaned; there is no cluster to eat, no first-ripe fig that my soul desires. The godly has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among mankind; they all lie in wait for blood, and each hunts the other with a net. Their hands are on what is evil, to do it well; the prince and the judge ask for a bribe, and the great man utters the evil desire of his soul; thus they weave it together. The best of them is like a brier, the most upright of them a thorn hedge. The day of your watchmen, of your punishment, has come; now their confusion is at hand. Put no trust in a neighbor; have no confidence in a friend; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your arms; for the son treats the father with contempt, the daughter rises up against her mother... (Mic 7:1-6)

Can you imagine that — a daughter, opposing her mother? That is incredible, isn't it? But it is happening all the time, in the world. A daughter opposes her mother...

For the son treats the father with contempt, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house. But as for me, I will look to the Sovereign; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. (Mic 7:6-7)

He is waiting for a nation to come into being, a nation that will not be this way.

That's why our Father had to take away the Kingdom. Our Master said,

Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. (Mt 21:43, NKJ)

He had to take the Kingdom away from Israel, and give it to a nation — a new nation — who will produce the fruit of it. I'm thankful that our children are what our guest noticed. That means there is a little hope for us, in our children — otherwise, there is no hope for us.

Sameach — As we were talking this morning, I saw the simple "math" involved. Our Master saw all the people giving money in the Temple; then he saw this widow putting in two coins. He said, "She put in more than all of them combined."

He perceived and understood that she put in all that she had. I'm thankful that we have a place where someone can come and put in all they have, all that they are, and just give everything. If you do that, you won't be disappointed. I'm not saying that you won't go through hard times, but you won't be disappointed. We really have a wonderful place that we can put in all that we have, and live that way every day. It is such a wonderful place.

You could come here with so much, and put it all here, or hardly have anything; maybe all you have is your needy life, and you can put it all here. But what if I read that in the Bible, and I went to the church downtown, and said, "Listen, I want to be like that! I saw this in the Bible, and I want to put in all that I have!" What are they going to tell me? What doors are going to open to me? Where can I put in all that I have?

One of the worst things imaginable is if what a person is on the outside is not the way he is on the inside. That is what our Master had to be confronted with when He came to His own people, who rejected Him. "He came to his own, and his own people did not receive Him" (Jn 1:11). They were something on the outside which they weren't on

the inside. That is hypocrisy, which is one of the worst sins imaginable. Hypocrisy is one of the most horrible sins — to be something on the outside that you're not on the inside. Even the Gospel of Thomas says, "When the inside is like the outside, and the outside like the inside, then I will return." One of the most horrible sins is not being on the inside what you pretend to be on the outside.