

Where the Gospel Came From, Part 1

We all have to walk like our Master. All of His life, it seemed as if He knew what was ahead, but it was only because He *knew* the Scriptures. He knew because Yoceph and Miriam taught Him, and He was taught even by the scribes and Pharisees. They knew what the Scriptures said of the time when someone would have to be sacrificed. He knew the day would come (being who He was and understanding the Scriptures as He did) when He would be that sacrifice. He knew that he would have to take the abuses that He read about in Isa 53:3-7 and Psalm 22. He knew the time would come when He would have to go to the cross, and go into death, and suffer on behalf of all mankind, in order to take away the sins of those who would confess and admit them.

He set his face like flint. He finally came to the point that the preparation in His life was over. He was probably about 30 years old when He went into the waters of baptism. Then the Spirit came upon Him, and He set His face like flint to walk toward the cross to pay that penalty, which we deserved, in death. He paid it in dying and in death — in going into death, into that *place of torment*.

So I'm thankful that we can walk as He walked, going through the preparation we are experiencing now, in everything that is going on in our lives. As He did, we have to set our face like flint in order to follow Him, regardless if anyone comes with us.

"Though none go with me, still I will follow..." meaning, though none go with us *from the world*.

The gospel is as Moses told the Levites after they came across the line in Ex 32:26, after everyone "went wild." After they came across the line, he told them to take up the sword and go back and slay their fellow tribesmen, including parents and children, who did not cross that line. That is what they had to do: though none went with them, yet they followed — they followed Moshe's direction. They came across the line to become the priesthood of Israel.

That's what we have to do, too. A lot of us have had to do that — leave behind family and friends. I know a lot of you were born here, so you didn't have to face that, but everyone else had to face leaving everything behind. Everything, as it says in Lk 14:33 (NLT) — *everything*. That means more than just material possessions. Lk 14:33 in your translation may say *possessions*, but it means *everything*. That means we have to leave everything — no matter what. We have to leave behind anything that would keep us from following our Master Yahshua, being saved, and having eternal life. Those things will keep us from living for Him and loving Him and obeying His commandments and not looking back. They keep us from *following Him*, which is salvation.

So after our Master set His face like flint, the preparation was over, and the task had begun. He walked His course and hung on that cross after three years. Then He died and He went into death. His Father had to forsake Him because of sin. He *became* sin. He became all of our sin. He went into death to pay for our sins. So our Father and our Master love it when we confess our sins. He loves that more than anything — for us to confess our sin and let it go. If we don't, we'll go “wild” like the people of Israel did in Ex 32:25. They went *unrestrained* (NKJ), *wild* (NRS), and *naked* (KJV), doing all kinds of things.

That is where the gospel came from, since that is what our Master said we also had to do. We had to take up the “sword” and “slay” anything that would hold us back (Mt 10:34-39). Then we had to leave behind everything. So that is where the gospel came from, and that *is* the gospel. It sounds horrendous that they would do that — go back and slay even their own mother because she didn't want to follow. Ex 32:29 says that is how they ordained themselves as priests, and our Master said we have to do the same thing. We have to cut off our parents, our job, everything that would hold us back.

We have to obey the gospel first, and then we have to obey His commandments. We have to live our life for our Master Yahshua if we're truly saved, if we truly have eternal life, and if we are truly followers of our Master Yahshua.

Let's all hold up our hands and surrender our lives to our Master, just as our Master had to surrender His life to His Father, to do His will. That is why He prayed, "Father, your name be hallowed. I want your name to be *great* upon the earth. I want Your kingdom to come, and Your will to be done." And He had to pray, "*Deliver Me from the evil one.*" He had to pray that every day. "*Don't let me be tempted to the degree that I would fall.*" He knew what He was up against. That's why He had to set His face like flint to not succumb to all the tendencies that people have. He didn't give in even when He was a youth. But He had to pray continually to be delivered. I don't know how He did it, but somehow He did it through our Father's grace. And now we can follow Him. In fact, that is what it means to follow Him. We can walk as He walked.