

## Impeccably Clean

It says in the Asheville paper: “The Asheville area is a highly competitive restaurant market. Last year more than 230 restaurants opened in the Asheville area.” Of the 230 that were opened, how many closed that same year? How many went out of business for certain reasons we’ve talked about — poor management, not being clean, running out of food, and lack of hospitality? How many went out of business? “Last year, more than 230 restaurants opened in the county, but 198 closed,” according to the health department. Can you imagine hiring all those people, and then closing? That’s why, so far, we are successful in a physical way, and hopefully also in a spiritual way.

Cafés that aren’t kept impeccably clean need to go out of business. So many people have said this and have written things about it. When we had our first café in Nova Scotia, people talked about how our restaurants were so clean. When Shoer’s father came here for the first time, he went to the bathroom first. He said, “I am not going to eat here unless the bathroom is impeccably clean.” It was clean, and it meant everything to him.

We need to keep everything clean — impeccably clean. You have to have someone assigned to do it continually. Then you have to have café meetings every week, and complaint mornings. You can have them whenever you want to during the week. That’s an established tradition. Cafés that don’t do it need to go out of business. They shouldn’t be open because they misrepresent our Master Yahshua. It’s better not to be open if it’s not perfectly clean.

Weekly meetings in our cafés are a tradition. So, before we open this café, we have to sit down and agree that we’re going to have meetings every week concerning how we can make the café better and cleaner, how to make the sandwiches better, and have better service. We have to let everyone speak, not just the manager. The manager can and *will* go off if he doesn’t let other people speak. It has happened before.

We have to keep the traditions. Their traditions in the first century weren't exactly the same as our traditions today because of the different environments. They didn't have cafés or the same culture surrounding them. We don't know what their traditions were, but we know that the same Spirit is giving us the traditions that we keep.

Every culture has traditions, and they're handed down to the children by word of mouth and by example, from generation to generation. It would create disorder if we didn't have proper traditions. If there's order, there's peace. So, before we open our café, we have to make sure our sandwiches are perfect. We have to start making them to see.

**Nun** — The traditions that are given to us can't just be externally kept. It has to become a part of our fabric. When I went to see the man in the health department, we were going over various aspects of the Deli, and he told us a story about when he was in Nashville and he went to a restaurant. He was in the restroom washing his hands and he noticed that the baker used the bathroom and didn't wash his hands. It really disturbed him, so he followed him and said, "You work here, don't you?"

The baker said, "Yes."

And he said, "I just noticed that you didn't wash your hands before you went out of the bathroom. That's not for the good of the public that you would do that."

So the baker grumbled and went back and washed his hands. Then the man from the health department felt the need to speak to the employer about it. He said, "Well, what am I supposed to do, watch these employees all the time? I've got a lot to do." The man was really taken aback by that answer. He wrote a report about it, and it became a big deal. It was written up in the newspaper. Then the owner called him and said, "I want to make it right. I want to do this and that, and you can come here and get free meals."

But the man from the health department said, "I could care less about free meals. I wouldn't want to eat there. I just want them to be conscientious. So many people are not conscientious in this business." Then he told me, "I look at you and you've been here since the early seventies, and you're still going. That's remarkable. I'm looking forward to your opening." When we told him about our plans for the kitchen floor, he said, "You're going to do that for your employees? No one does that. I can see you're not just concerned about your food, but you're concerned about

those who work there. It's going to go well for you. Actually, back in the seventies, when I was going to UTC, I used to go to the *Yellow Deli*. That's where I would go and eat." It was good to get that perspective from him.

That's wonderful. That shows he's qualified for the nations. Just think, all it takes is one person to bring a reputation down. That's why we have to pray every morning that not one person would mess up, that we would fail to clean the bathroom. The manager needs to make sure that everything is being done, or we can't open. We can't say, "This is Messiah" unless our cafés are impeccable.

If you want to know who Messiah is, go look at our café. Look at the people and see how they work together. That's why we're opening — not for money. We're there to represent our Master Yahshua. If He had a café and He was here in person, He couldn't run it any better than we could. It should be that way. He can't wash dishes any better than we can. He can't make a better sandwich. He's doing it through us, anyway. We're His Body. We're the only thing He has on earth to represent Him. We're the only ones who can represent our Master Yahshua. No one can even be saved except through one of *us*, if we really are the Twelve Tribes, the Body of Messiah, Yahshua, the bride and wife-to-be of the Lamb.

Just think how essential and important each one of us is. We have nothing to make us feel worthless, because we are the representatives of the one and only God. We represent our Master, and we're thankful that we can do that.

**Hakam** — If we live for each other, that's what makes everything that we do important and significant. What if somebody didn't make our food for us tonight? So, the person who makes the food shouldn't feel worthless because he's not building the café. The people building the café couldn't do it unless someone made their food. No one is living for himself. That's what takes away worthlessness and makes us all one.

**Nehemiah** — Our traditions are guiding principles to keep us from just doing what seems right in our own eyes. There are different things of the world that appeal to different aspects of our flesh. Our traditions have to be internalized, not just something we conform to when people are around us. Where the rubber hits the road is when no one else is around. Are we

going to give in? Do you believe in what you're doing or are you just going through the motions? That's why these traditions have to go into us.

Everything we do reflects our Master. If we have complaint and mope around, thinking about ourselves, then when people come in they won't see our Master here. Pr 18:1 in the NIV says, "An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends; he defiles all sound judgment." The way we're friendly in the café is that we're not thinking about ourselves. What we do is the opposite of pursuing selfish ends. It's to bring about a light so people can see our Master when they come in. I'm thankful for our traditions, and that it's not just, "We do this, and we don't do this," but that we do what we do because of revelation, and we pass it on to our brothers.

**ha-êmeq** — The bathrooms at the café last night were so filthy that if the health inspector had come he would have said, "That's great that you're going to have clean bathrooms then, but how can you use these bathrooms right now?"

Mary Martha taught me something. When I first met her, she had three children and they were real small. One was sitting in a high chair and every single time that one little speck of food got on the high chair, she wiped it off. The child was sitting there totally clean. She said, "If you create an atmosphere for a child such that he is uncomfortable in a dirty situation, then it will be in him later that when everything around him is dirty he will be uncomfortable.

When we were on our way here from Hiddenite, we stopped to use bathroom a few times, and they were horrible. Then when we got here, I went to the Deli and *our* bathroom was filthy. I know it's a construction site, but at the same time we want to keep it nice for all of you who are working there.

There's no excuse just because it is a construction site. You always appoint people in every construction job to take care of these things. That's how it was in the very beginning. If we're not doing that, we're not keeping the traditions.

When we open the café, it only takes two or three people to spread the word, good or bad. So let's not open unless we vow to our Father to seek for the grace to keep it clean as a witness of Him.