

New Morning Magical

What are you craving?

We're beginning a whole new exploration today into Scriptures that can help us, just as much as Paul's specific writings, to negotiate life between now and when the Lord returns.

I encourage you to get out your Bible and follow along as we begin this new adventure together.

Here's today's instalment:

"Everything boils down to identifying with Yeshua the Messiah." That's the word of the Lord, so let me say it again: ***"Everything boils down to identifying with Yeshua the Messiah."***

Our success and failure in the carrying out of our own salvation, as Paul wrote to the Philippians, depends on how closely and how completely we identify with the Lord, both as a Man and as the Son of the Most High Elohim.

There is no greater example of faith, obedience, selflessness, graciousness, patience, purposefulness, and sacrifice for others than the One Who came to show us all those qualities and, to the extent that we are willing to receive it, impart all those to us.

The new edition of *You Think You Have It Tough* is a very different book. I have shared with Barbara that it has been exhausting to write, because I re-lived Yeshua's journey from Bethany before the Passover, to His entrance into Jerusalem, to His last supper with His disciples, to His passion in Gethsemane, to His trial and abuse at the hands of the Jews AND the Romans, His crucifixion, and His burial. I'm getting through the 3 days and nights of waiting for the resurrection now. Parts of what I saw made me sick, literally; sometimes, I just wanted to stop everything and run away, because what I saw was so horrible! As short as the chapters are, I could only complete two a day at most, because the experience was so upsetting and exhausting.

I'm convinced that we can't read Yeshua's story enough. For us to get beyond our little universes where all the things are that we think are so monumentally important, we have to not just read **about** Him; we have to walk **beside** Him. For us to **KNOW** Him, as Paul says, we have to be with Him and watch Him through His journey as a Man. When we recognize the magnitude of His sacrifice for us, even to be on the Earth as a Man, we realize the smallness of our own challenges in comparison.

In **Galatians 2:20**, Paul says:

Together with Christ have I been crucified...

Paul identified Himself – and invited us to identify ourselves – on the cross with the Messiah. Who in the world can know what that means unless you walk *WITH* Yeshua THROUGH the experience!

Don't stop there, though, Paul would say; identify yourself with the inescapable frustration that Yeshua must have felt during His life among people who barely had a clue, if any, of Who He was! Go on to identify yourself with the unspeakable injustice of His betrayal and rejection by those closest to Him.

If we have been crucified with the Messiah, then we suffer *with* Him. We identify ourselves with the horror of His treatment prior to His execution by a method specifically designed to inflict as much suffering as possible while leaving the victim alive to experience suffering fully. The preparation for crucifixion alone often caused death!

Now consider that Yeshua uttered **not one word** of protest, defense, or even complaint. Now, how identified with Him are we in our lives today? How close are we to His standard? Do we think it isn't achievable? Paul knew it was:

Galatians 2:20

...yet I am living; no longer I, but living in me is Christ.

If the Messiah is living in us truly, we ought never to complain about anything in our lives EVER! We ought never to utter a word of complaint, protest or defense, because to do so would be to deny that Yeshua DOES live in us!

Look at the magnitude of His faith, which you and I can adopt today:

Galatians 2:20

Now that which I am now living in flesh, I am living in faith that is of the Son of God, Who loves me, and gives Himself up for me.

The faith that you and I have today is **OF** the Son of YaHoVeH. It was His before it could be ours. Yeshua's faith fuels ours. He had it before we *ever* could, and He had it in the midst of the *most*

horrible circumstances imaginable. Yeshua **alone** suffered **for** all mankind. So, His circumstances actually **defy** our imaginations.

Yeshua's faith ought to become ours, if we intend to meet Him standing on our feet, like Paul, knowing that we, "**contended the ideal contest...finished [our] career[s], [and]...kept the faith**" (2 Timothy 4:7).

We think we know about faith, but do we KNOW faith within ourselves like Yeshua and Paul did? Let's look at what faith is, one more time:

Hebrews 11:1

1 Now faith is an **assumption** of what is being **expected**, a **conviction** concerning matters which are **not being observed**;

3 By faith we are apprehending **the eons** to **adjust to a declaration of God**, so that **what is being observed has not come out of what is appearing**.

"You won't recognize it."

6 Now **apart from faith it is impossible to be well pleasing**, for he who is coming to God must believe that He is, and is becoming a Rewarder of those who are seeking Him out.

What's not said: *No seeking = no rewarding.*

8 By faith Abraham, being called, **obeys**,

9 By faith he **sojourns** in the land of promise as in an alien land

10 For he **waited**

1-2-3, obey, sojourn, wait

1 Thess. 4:

Be ambitious to be quiet, mind your business, work with your hands.

Hebrews 11:

15 And, **if**, indeed, **they remembered** that from which they came out, they might have had occasion to **go back**.

What did Peter do within days of Yeshua's resurrection? Yeshua showed Himself to them all, save Thomas; then 8 days later to Thomas and the rest; then it was some more days, and the guys went to Galilee, when Peter decided He was going fishing (John 21:3). Basically, Peter decided, "*I'm done waiting around, I've had it; I'm going BACK TO WHAT I REMEMBER!*" Yeshua shows up –for the third time – after the guys catch nothing all night, and they don't even recognize Him at first! If we think we can go back to what we remember, we're right, but

we won't catch anything either; nor will we recognize the Lord when we see Him standing in front of our eyes! It's during this encounter, after Yeshua feeds them that He gets in Peter's face over whether Peter loves Him and telling Peter to feed His sheep. Yeshua is as much as saying to Peter, *"Don't go back again to what you remember; do what I'm asking you to do for Me."*

Hebrews 11:

16 Yet now they are **craving** a better, that is, a celestial; **wherefore** God is **not ashamed** of them, to be invoked as their God, for He makes ready for them a city.

What are we craving today? The celestial or the terrestrial? The Earthly or the Heavenly?

Well, that's where we'll stop for today. Join us again tomorrow for another look into Scriptures that can help us today.

Until then,

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;
May Yahweh light up His face toward you
and be gracious to you;
May Yahweh lift His face to you
and appoint peace for you.

AMEN