

Transcription – Loyalty (Audio only)

Chag Sameach. We are here on the last Holy Day; and hello to everyone here and anyone who may hear this message later. We are going to start in 2nd Timothy 3 ... 2nd Timothy the 3rd chapter. And the message I want to go in today is on the subject of *Loyalty*. It's on the subject of loyalty. 2nd Timothy 3, starting in verse 1, says:

2nd Timothy 3:1-5 *Know you this, that in the last days **perilous** times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetousness, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, without self control, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of Yahweh; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

And it's interesting when you read this, this is talking about, *not* people in the world, but this is talking about people in the **congregation!** And this is what it is. And the more I hear every day as ... especially when people are here, like you are at feast time ... and the stories I hear what's going on in the States and going on around, I shudder. Because we're seeing the fulfillment of this in our life today. That *in* the end time, it's part of our culture not to keep our word any more. And not only is it part of our culture, it doesn't *matter*. It doesn't make a difference to us that if we give somebody our word, or we say something we're going to do and if we don't do it. We've become a *culture* of truce breakers. And like I said, the worst part is there's not even a repentant attitude because we *think* of it as not bad.

And I've said before that we can talk about thousands of things from Scripture ... and they're all important, all the subjects ... but when you *really* think about it, that *every sermon* that's given or *every message* that's given—just like the Holy Days—the *purpose* of *everything* is the Father is trying to test our loyalty.

And when He says about taking the leaven out of your house, what is it about? It's about loyalty. Back in the Garden of Eden, "Adam and Eve, you're not to eat of this tree. You *can* eat of this tree." And like I said, I've come to the conclusion that I believe *both* trees were fig trees. Because there's nothing the Father withheld that was good and it was the *same exact thing*. And He's saying, "There's nothing I'm withholding from you." But He *wanted* to see their loyalty. And what did they do? They didn't *have* loyalty to Him. They decided they we're going to do something the wrong way.

And really, if you think about it, without loyalty, you could know the Torah in and out, you could know Scripture in and out, you could be mother Teresa out there, *none* of it will matter if you don't have loyalty to the Father. Because something happened ... and we don't know the time frame with Satan. We don't know whether it was a matter of hundreds of years, thousands of years or *millions* of years. But Satan the Devil at one time, was not Satan the Devil, he was Lucifer, the light giver. He was the covering cherub it says in **Ezekiel 28** and he walked in the garden. But *something* happened. Something happened in that time that the loyalty was lost of Satan for Yahweh. That Satan ... that was *third* in the Kingdom, next to Yahweh and Yahshua ... decided third wasn't good enough. He had to be the *top gun*. He had to be the *top*. And scary about it, you see the same attitude today.

Where it says in **Matthew 20**, Yahshua gives to His disciples when they're wondering, "Who is the greatest among you?" And what does He say? "He who wants to be greatest among you, let him be your servant." And that word 'deaconos' is where the word minister ... we're all *ministers* in the body of Messiah. Meaningly, we're all *servants*. We're not all ordained *elders*, but we're all *servants* in the body of Messiah. And we all *should* be serving. And that's what the Father is testing us. He wants to test our *loyalty* to Him.

Let's go to Jeremiah 9. And it's really a *very, very* important subject in the time we're living in. Because, sad to say, I am seeing the spirit of disloyalty *everywhere* in the world today. And I've said it before, it's a sad thing to have to admit, but until the day Yahshua comes, we will *never ever* have unity in our congregations again *unless* congregations decide to ban together and say, "We will keep everything out of from the internet. We will not bring heresy in." Unless *everybody* makes that same covenant with each other, it's bound to happen. I've seen the most wonderful little congregations and somebody start bringing in some kind of heresy from the internet, or from somewhere else, or "I read this book." or "I heard this tape." and then what happens from there? Divide, divide, divide. And it's just something that's happened in the past and it's something we're seeing rapidly in the end time. But in Jeremiah 9, it says:

Jeremiah 9:1 *Oh, that my head were waters and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!*

Comment: So, wow. Here's Yahweh actually *saying* how He's even in *tears* over what's happening to Israel. He says:

Jeremiah 9:1-8 *Oh, that I had a lodging place for travelers in the wilderness, that I might leave my people and go away from them! For they are all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous ones. And they bend their tongues, their bow is a lie. And they are not mighty for the truth on the earth, for they go from evil to evil. They do not know Me, says YAHWEH. Let everyone be on guard against his neighbor, and do not trust any brother. For every brother will supplant, and every neighbor will walk as a slanderer. And everyone will deceive his neighbor, and they will not speak the truth. They have taught their tongue to speak lies. They weary themselves to commit iniquity. Your home is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know Me, says YAHWEH. For this reason, says YAHWEH of Hosts, Behold, I will refine them and test them. What else can I do because of the daughter of My people? Their tongue is a murdering **arrow**; it speaks deceit. One speaks peace with his neighbor with his mouth, but with his heart he sets his ambush.*

What does James say? *The tongue is a little member, but how much poison it can bring!* And do we do that? When we're talking to somebody, do we bring peace with our tongue, but behind is an ambush? Is it like that? And there's been times before that I'm talking to somebody and they'll say maybe, "Shhh! Be quiet. So-and-so might hear someone." And I say, "I don't mind if they hear me, because if I'm not willing to say something to someone's face, then I shouldn't be saying it behind their back. And are we doing that? In our congregations if we're ambushing each other with our tongues, I'm telling you, the poison of the snake is going to come and it's going to destroy it.

And it doesn't mean that we shouldn't be able to be forward with each other—we *should* be. If there's a problem or there's something the Bible gives us *parameters* for doing that. You go to your brother in private, you go in humility. You try to restore your brother in humility. If it's something that's a matter of sin, you have go with witnesses. If he won't listen to witnesses, you have to bring it before your congregation. But that's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about, like I said, the point of coming in what we call, our *Sabbath face*. Coming in smiling to each other, friendly to each other, but going behind the back and literally *ambushing* each other. And *clearly* what the Father says is, it's really bad. And He says in the end-time and we all see it. It's very, very hard to find people that you can trust—very, very hard.

Proverbs 17. We'll go to some Proverbs. But again, if you *cannot* be trusted, if Yahweh *cannot* depend on your loyalty, you have nothing—you have *absolutely nothing*. And how do we show Him our loyalty? By being obedient to Him. If His Word says one thing and we're *purposely* going against that, where is our loyalty to? Our loyalty is to *what* you obey is what we're going to see here shortly. Proverbs 17 in verse 9. It says:

Proverbs 17:9 *He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.*

He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separate friends. And there *are* times that we *do* have to share with each other things in the congregation. There's even times publicly we have to announce something in a congregation about somebody. But, again, this isn't what I'm talking about. I'm talking about when someone brings something to you in confidence, something personal about themselves or maybe something that, happened with somebody that for some reason has to be told to you. Can we be trusted with a word to keep privately? How many times did someone maybe say, "Can you please keep this privately?" And then *do* we go around telling other people?

When we give somebody our word and say, "Yes, I won't repeat this matter." Do we go and tell somebody else, "Well, you know, don't tell anybody else, *but ...*?" And then that person says, "Well, don't tell anybody else, *but ...*" And then before you know it, it goes around everywhere. And *do* people have our loyalty? Can things be trusted? And there's even been a couple of times, even in our marriage, where somebody came to me privately and said they wanted to counsel about something and *maybe* even asked not to tell my wife. And Petra understands, because again, as a pastor, if

somebody is bringing something to me in confidence, I'm not going to repeat it to somebody else. And, most of the time, me and my wife work together with counseling, but if it's a man and there's something that may be a man issue or for whatever reason he'd rather not even have me share it with my wife, I won't do that. I'm *not* going to betray a confidence of somebody who is counseling with me because of that.

So, so important. If you can't be trusted, you have nothing—you have *absolutely nothing*. Like I said, it doesn't matter how smart you are. It doesn't matter how much you know the Bible. If you *cannot* be trusted, if your word is not your bond, if somebody can't come up to you and share something with you and you keep it in your confidence, we are *through*. We have absolutely nothing. We might as well leave now. And in a world of truce-breakers, it is *so* important in the end-time that we start learning this.

That we start learning when we give our word, no matter *what* it is, if it's the simplest thing that, "Yes, we'll be at breakfast at 8 o'clock." or "Service starts at 2." or "I'll help you Sunday move your refrigerator." *Whatever* it is, that once the words come out of our mouth, we have to perform what it is. And that's why it says in the Tanak ... what does it say? *When you make a vow to Yahweh, perform it quickly!* Because who knows? You can die that day. And you don't want to die with a vow you made to Yahweh not performed. So, you want to make sure whatever comes out of your mouth, we're performing. What does it say in **Matthew 12**? We will be judged by *every idle word*. So, everything that's coming out of our mouth that we're not keeping, on judgement day, we're going to have to give account for that. And that's why it's *important* that we're keeping the character and that people can trust us.

If we go to Proverbs 3 ... and we're going to start to see how important this is to our Heavenly Father. Proverbs the 3rd chapter in verse 32. Proverbs 3 in verse 32, it says:

Proverbs 3:32 *For the froward is abomination to YAHWEH, but His secret is with the righteous.*

His secret is with the righteous. What have we been going over all Passover week? The mystery of the Gospel, right? Something that *wasn't* given in times past. And we say sometimes that the Old Testament is the Messiah *concealed*, and the New Testament is the Messiah *revealed*. And *are* you able? Are you able to *be* loyal? Are you able to be *trustworthy* with the secret of Yahweh? What did it say in the New Testament? That we are **stewards** of the mystery of the Gospel. Can Yahweh trust you? Because if we can't ... and what does it say? If you can't love your neighbor who you've *seen*, how could you love Yahweh who you've not seen?

So, if we can't even be faithful to each other in a little matter ... that my brother needs help moving his apartment this Sunday ... and we used to have this all the time, back in the old organization. You'd have 50 people that would give their word to help something, and then the day comes to do it and there's what, like 5 or 6 that show up. Where are all the other people? When we give our word to somebody and we say, "We'll be at this meeting." ... we had a situation this week where somebody gave their word a couple of times and said they're going to come and meet with us about something, and then the person never showed up. Not anybody in our group ... an outsider that happened.

So, it's like, if somebody now ... what's the next thing? If that person comes to you and says, "No, but I'm really telling the truth now!" How can you believe them? We were getting something from a furniture company a little while back and they were supposed to deliver on a certain date and they didn't. And then it was another day. And this went on about seven or eight times and then finally I said, "Well, you know something, I just want my money back." And they said, "No, I *promise* you, it'll be there today." And I said, "How can I trust you? You've made that promise seven times and you lied to me. What on *earth* would make me think that I can trust you now?"

And it's the same way. Whether it's a marriage, whether it's your children, whatever it is, if you lie to somebody *once*, why should they trust you after that? And if you're building trust with somebody, what does that trust take? It takes *loyalty* that you're loyal to that person in the trust. And I've said this many times, trust takes sometimes *months* and *years* to build and one situation can destroy it. And you have to think that, in relationships, like I said, whether it's marriage, whether it's parents and children, whether it's friends. Do you want to ruin a friendship of many years over one bid of mistrust? Is it *worth* ruining a friendship like that? Or is it more going *out* of our way to keep our word even if it's ... the situation is not the best situation?

But can we be trusted with the secret of Yahweh? Can Yahweh trust us with the things He's given us? Let's got to Proverbs 20 in verse 19. It says:

Proverbs 20:19 *A revealer of a secret walks about as a gossip, yea, do not meddle with him who opens his lips.*

Like I said, a lot of this *chattering, chattering* sometimes that goes around ... and I don't think *anybody* would want to be around somebody like that. If you have personal things in your life, or something ... sometimes some of us need to share things. I say that, many times, more than half of the time, when somebody wants to counsel, they're not really looking for advice, they're looking for someone who will listen to them.

And sometimes I'll sit there for an hour and let somebody share with me because I know they need somebody to listen to them, they need to open up. And then if they want advice, they want advice or if they don't, they don't. But if you're a *talebearer*, if they know that you're going to tell them something, and then something personal, you're going to run back and share it with a hundred other people, why would anybody want to put their trust in a person like that? Proverbs 11 in verse 13. It says:

Proverbs 11:13 *A slander is a revealer of secrets, but the faithful of spirit keeps a matter hidden.*

The faithful of spirit. Are we faithful of spirit? We talked a lot this feast about how to be filled with the Holy Spirit and how to deny ourselves and allow the Spirit to work in our life. And *are* we like that? Are we faithful of spirit? Can somebody say ... and there's friends of mine out there, that I might disagree with on the doctrine of this and that, but when somebody has asked me I'd say, "Well, I don't agree with them everything. We have this difference here. But I can tell you this for their character: if they told you something, believe it's the truth. Because their character, I know they wouldn't lie."

Are we like that? That somebody could say that about us? That, "Oh, so-and-so said that? Yes, without a doubt believe it." Because face it, we're in a slanderous world. And today with the internet one little button can send slander around the whole United States—or the whole *world* actually. And I'm telling you, some of the busybody-ness that's going on in America with the internet is *absolutely* ungodly; it's *absolutely* against Yahweh. And we really, as a body of believers, really have to start thinking how much time we need to spend on that internet. Because every minute you're on the internet is a minute you're either not in prayer, you're not in study, you're not serving, you're not with you family, you're not with your job. It's taking away from *something*. And it doesn't mean there's not a time for the internet. Because face it, you can go on the internet maybe in 10 minutes and get news that would take an *hour* to read somewhere else. So, there's a place for the internet. I'm not saying that, what I'm saying is, chat rooms and all these other things, that I see very, very little fruit coming out of.

But you know what I see on the other side? Over and over and over I just see gossip, I see maligning, I see people cutting each other down over and over. And very, very little fruit, if *any*, coming out of these chat rooms and these things. And we have to start thinking, is it *really* profitable to Yahweh to be into these kind of things? And again, I'm just asking questions that you would ask yourself—rhetorical questions. That if we're here to redeem the time, because the days are evil, are we really redeeming the time if we're gossiping all over the world on the internet? Is that really redeeming the time? Proverbs 17:17 ... Proverbs 17 and verse 17 ... it said:

Proverbs 17:17 *A friend loves at every time, but a brother is born for the time of trouble.*

A friend loves at every times, but a brother is born for the time of trouble. And they say you know your friends through *one* bad incident more than 99 good ones. Because everyone loves a party. Have a party, you'll get everyone coming to your door. But when something is bad, when you're going through a time of trouble, that's when you really see who your friends are.

We have friends of ours, in the States right now, that are going through a very tough time in their life with a certain situation and most of the brethren have abandoned these people. And we've stopped by them and we're loyal to them and we're there with them. And, in situations sometimes, that you *really* don't know what's going on ... there could be a situation where two people are having a problem about something, and I won't get involved in a problem that I don't know something about. If there's two people in the room here fighting about something, I'm not going to jump in, because I don't know what it's about. If I'm going to mediate something, I'd be more than happy to sit down and now let's talk about it and let's get witnesses and let's do this. But without knowing about something, it's not wise to jump in a problem.

But without jumping into a problem and taking sides, you can support somebody. You can support your friend. You could support the character of those people. And I've had this happen recently, where somebody was making an attack, a personal attack, to close friends of ours, and I didn't know what the situation was because I wasn't there. But I said, "As far as the character of these people, you're not going to tell me anything about them. Because I know their character. They've been friends of ours for many years and I don't believe it. I don't believe that." And yes, with my friends, that's where my loyalty goes to. Not blind loyalty. If I see a friend in a fault, I want to come up, because I love them, and say, "You're in this fault." or "You're in this sin." But as far as *loving* that person and *working* with that person and being *by* that person, you *never* give up.

And I'm telling you, we're in a johnny-come-lately society here and we see it. The way the Father's blessed our ministry, we get hundreds of letters a month and people ... in one day someone's telling you ... I got a letter a couple of months ago from a guy and he said, I opened it up and it said, "It's official! We are *in love* with your ministry!" And it's like okay, great! They're getting good things. But you've been through it before. And the same person that can say that, a month later can write, "Take me off your mailing list." Because the words are hard. Just like with Yahshua. What happened with Him? When He shared these hard words with the people, it said, *In that day many of them turned back*. And what does He say to the disciples? "Will you turn back too?" He wanted to see where their loyalty was. And what did they say? "Where will we go? You have the words of eternal life."

And I'm *telling* you, friendship means *zero* without loyalty. It means *absolutely nothing*. It's just people are hanging around and hearing words. But like it says, *A brother is born for adversity*. And *that's* where you will know who your friends are. And with the way that Yahweh is blessing us in recent years and the way He's building up His congregations ... and I had a meeting with some of you right here a few days back, and I was saying how things are growing. There's a great opportunity for service for people. But I'll be upfront, I said it to the elders, I will not work with anybody that I don't have their loyalty. If I've got to worry about sending somebody somewhere and that they're going to sabotage a situation, or do something ... I *will not* work with someone that I don't feel is loyal, I *will not*. It's not worth it. And I pray *you* feel the same way; that the reason *why* you're coming to what Yahweh's doing in Congregation of Yahweh is because you see that—you see the love and the loyalty.

And like I said, even some of the people here at Pesach—and some of the ones that left—when we were sharing last week in testimonies, they were *thanking* some of the people right here in this room, and saying, "Thank you for the words of kindness that you've given to us." And I've noticed that ... I tell you, I believe the main reason that our feasts are growing and more people are coming, is because they *see* the core of our congregation are people that love each other.

They're people that love each other, that aren't going to be back biting, they're not going to be fighting over these things. And I don't *see* that in all congregations. We're blessed, we go all over the world. We travel a lot. We go to many congregations that are not the congregation of Yahweh to speak; and many times I *do not* see that love in the congregation. And what did Yahshua say? "*All men will know you're My disciples by this.*" Not if you have the calendar right, not if you know how to count barley, or you know where to count Pentecost. "*All men will know you're My disciples by this: by your love one for another.*" You don't have to sacrifice the Torah for that, because we *already* keep the Torah. Every one of us believes in the Torah. But *where* is our love?

Like I said to the Jewish man the other day, I said, "Is this what the Torah teaches you? To attack people in the street? To curse women in the street? Is *that* what the Torah is teaching? Because if that's what the Torah is teaching, that's not what our Heavenly Father is about." Yahweh *is* love. He's a *spirit* of love. And if we can't amplify that love in our personal

lives and to others then how will we ever bring the truth to people? We *have* to have that. And people have to see that, because I'm telling you, in a world of truce-breakers in a world the way it is, when people see what we have as a congregation, they're going to want it. They're going to want it. When they see, "Wow, these are people that really love each other, these are people that will *help*, these are people that will *serve*."

And it's *not* made up. It's not *love pretended*, like it says in the Bible, it's *real*. I'm telling you, from going all over the world, that is more than anything what people are looking for. They're looking to belong to something that's *real* and that's why they're leaving the churches. Because in these churches they're not getting it, in the Sunday churches. They're not getting it in all these ministers that are selling their wares and all the commercialism and the Hollywood churches, they're not getting it. And when they *see* that and they *see* how real it is, they want to be part of it. They want to be part of something real like that. Let's go to Proverbs 18. Proverbs 18 in verse 24, it says:

Proverbs 18:24 *A man of friends may be broken up, but there is a Lover who sticks closer than a brother.*

And we know that of the agape love—the love from the Father—will never fail. And like I said, *as* we start working on the things we're learning and we're getting *rid* of ourselves and we're letting Yahweh break us and His Spirit is filled with us, *The Spirit testifies against itself but we are the children of Yahweh*. And that Spirit *is* going to testify. Because ... and we're going to realize, if I hurt my brother, I'm hurting *myself*. And there's a bonding that's coming as we're growing in the Spirit. And it's like, wow, we're just loving each other more and more because we're seeing we're of the same Spirit.

But on the other end ... 1st John 2, in verse 15 ... the thing that stops this. The thing why we're seeing so much contention in our ... in *congregations*. Not congregations of Yahweh necessarily, but in many Messianic congregations I see a lot of this. 1st John 2 in verse 15, it says:

1st John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, because **all** which is in the world: The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and its lust. But the one **doing** the will of Yahweh abides forever.*

And *that* is the key. The key why we're not having unity out there in a lot of churches, is because they're too worldly. Because the West *is* the Laodicean church. They're rich and increased with goods in need of nothing. And really they're poor, they're blind, they're miserable and naked. And as long as you're part of the world, you're never going to have unity of the Spirit. You will *never* have the unity of the Spirit if you are making unity with the world.

And actually it says that you're an *enemy* of Yahweh when you make yourself part of the world. And that's a decisions that every believer has to do. You have to see: *where* is your loyalty to? And like I said, just like priorities, your priority is what you get done. You could say Yahweh is your priority, but if the end of the day there was no time for Him, no time for service, no time for your priesthood, He is not your priority. And the same way with your loyalty. *Your loyalty* is by your fruit. What you get done and what you do you'll see where your loyalty is. Whether it's to yourself and the world or whether it's to Yahweh. Go to Proverbs 1. Back to Proverbs. One verse, verse 19. Proverbs 1 in verse 19, it says:

Proverbs 1:19 *So are the ways of **everyone** who gets unjust gain; it takes away its owner's soul.*

And something started in the 1980s, it progressed in the 1990s as globalism came in, and it took about 10 years, I think, till the world *really* understood what's going on. In America ... America is build on a nation that worked in making their own businesses, and people coming over from Europe and other parts of the world and starting businesses and working hard and getting ahead. And all of a sudden in the 1980s going into the 90s, this started

changing and we started to see something come in called *globalism*. I think we all know what it is *now*. At the time nobody knew what it was.

But globalism came in and what did they do? They *absolutely destroyed* everything of the small businesses in America. Where, if you go back ... I know, when I was a child in our town there's a tailor in the town, and there's a hardware store in the town and there's a ShopRite in the town, and there's a Five and Dine in the town and everyone knew who the owner was and they were friends. When you came in, they knew who you were. And if you didn't have the money, they'd say, "Just take it, bring it back to me tomorrow." And there was a personal relationship there.

And what happened? All of a sudden these stores start going out of business and we're starting to see Walmart, we're starting to see Office Max, we're starting to see corporations that no longer have personal relationship. They have corporate business. And there's only one way that could've happened. That the people stopped supporting the mom-and-pop operations. And they did. And what was the reason? Money. And that's why I say, "Where is your loyalty?" Is your loyalty, "I'm going down to *Walmart* because I can get this 12¢ cheaper ... or a dollar cheaper." Or are you saying, "Hey, you know what? I know it's going to cost me a little bit *more*, but Mr. so-and-so has, been here for *us* for the last 30 years. We don't want to see him go out of business."?

And just last summer I was in the States and I was getting glasses made up. And ... a place that my dad goes to ... we went there and he is one of the last guys I know over there left that has ... it's a mom-and-pop operation for glasses. To the point where he doesn't even check your eyes and stuff, you have to get that done somewhere else. But he'll do your glasses and he really does give a good price. And he's a very friendly guy and you go in there and people *come* to him for that reason. Because they *want* to support him because he's been there for so many years, that they want to give his loyalty to them. And I'm telling you, it's not the mom-and-pop operations that lost out by going out of business. We, the people, have lost out.

Because in the long run, you're not going to gain from Walmart, you're not going to gain from Office Max. Sure it's a little bit of a convenience that you can get everything one-stop shopping, and sure you can get things a little cheaper. But what we've lost out of not knowing our neighbors and losing that personal relationship with the people right around us, I'm telling you, we are the losers. We're the losers.

I look at my brother who lives in Florida and when he lived in his condo complex and nobody knows each other there and that's the reason they're *coming* into a complex like that, because they *don't* want to know their neighbors. That's why they're *in* there. Yeah, you might wave or something, but it's not like it was in olden days where *all* your neighbors ... I know growing up *all* the neighbors around us, we knew *personally*, and they became like family to us. And even today, some of them that are still alive are still friends with my parents.

And *that's* what it was in olden days. *Everyone* that was around you, became like your family. There were things called "block parties" where everybody on the block would come together. And there was a loyalty there that when there was a problem, *all* the people of that community would come together. And it's gone. It's *gone* because we're living in the days of these things being prophesied.

But we *don't* have to lose it in our congregations, we *don't* have to let our congregations go to the size of the Walmarts—and that's what's really happening. What's happening? People are not looking any more to their elders and their pastors and to each other and their congregation. They want to go out to the spiritual Walmart, they want to go out to the internet Walmart and they want to get *all* these wares on the internet and they want to get *all* these things of this. And like it says, *the lust of the eyes*.

And I try to tell people, if you've been immersed in the name of Yahshua, you have eternal life dwelling in you. *All* we have to do is be faithful to the end. And I'm not saying don't grow in the grace and knowledge of Yahshua our Messiah. What I'm saying is, don't always think you have to get the next best thing next to sliced bread.

Because you *already* have it. What we have to do is embrace what we have and build on *that*. We don't *constantly* every day of the week have to be running to the internet or running to this *book* by this wild crazy guy that's writing some kind of wild stuff and bring it in to our congregations. It's destroying our congregations. And like ... what does the Bible say? You look at the fruits. And I say, has the internet—has *all* these things coming into our congregations—has it made our congregations *stronger*? Has it made them more *unified*? Has it brought more *love*? No way! The *total opposite*. There is more *chaos*, there is more *heresy*, there is more *confusion* in ... and I'm not going to even say 'Christianity' but in even *Sabbath keeping* Messianic congregations then there's *ever* been since the 1st century.

So, the results in the fruit are *not* good. And it's time we start taking our congregations back. It's time we start going back to the mom-and-pop operation, back to the home fellowships. And I'm telling the people this in Uganda as ... when I was there, I set up some home fellowships ... I said, "Do you realize the history you're creating here? This is *exactly* how the early believers did it." And I'm telling you, Yahweh is doing it to *protect* us for the days ahead. So that when the system falls apart, and our beliefs are illegal, we already are set up. We're already there. We're already in our homes. We're already underground. He's given us these times to do it. To set ourselves back into mom-and-pop congregations. To set up and *really* where you don't have to have a thousand people there where everyone just comes to see what the other one looks like. And all these things ... the reason, the wrong reason, why people are coming, but people *love* each other, they *love* each other. *Better is a little with righteousness than much with unrighteousness.*

Better is one day in the House of Yahweh than a thousand days without. And you're *much* better with a few people in a living room than a thousand people that don't have dedication to Yahweh. And it proves it. And when you have it, **do not** let somebody break it up. Bond together, let them know. If somebody comes in, they are going to have to fight *every single person* there because you're *one*, you're *unified*. Don't let someone come and start telling you behind "You know, so-and-so, what's the story with her? What's the story with him?" Don't let them do that. Say, "We don't do that here. If we have a problem with somebody we, as a congregation, we talk about it, we work it out. But you're *not* going to come here in our congregation and break us up because you going to have to fight every one of us."

And that's what the other day, when we were out with the Orthodox and before we were coming back, a bus went by with a man called Schneerson. You know him, he's a rabbi that the Jewish people think was the messiah. And he's a Santa Clause looking man ... with the hand. And when the bus went by, the man said "That's the messiah." And I looked at him and I said "He is *dead!*" I said "He's a *dead* man. He's not the messiah." I said "**Yahshua** is the Messiah and **Yahshua** is alive." And he said "Prove to me He's alive." And I looked at everyone that was there and I said, "Because He's in him, in him, in her." And I said "And *you* can't break us up because we're unified." And everyone was kind of smiling and he's looking like, *whoa*. And I said "You've tried for two thousand years but you *can't* break it up. You're *not* going to be able to break up our unity." And I saw the way he was looking was like, *wow*. He didn't *say* anything, but he looked like, *wow*, like he could not understand it. Couldn't understand it.

But we *need* to keep that. We *need* to keep our loyalty to each other. We need to keep our friendship to each other. And we *can't* let people come in and break it up. We *can't* let world democracy come into our congregations ... and it has. It's come into religion but *don't* let it come into our congregations. And like I said, although world democracy has *destroyed* the small business man, nobody seems to care. Nobody seems to care. The guy's on his own and they don't seem to care. How about your loyalty to Yahweh? Proverbs 18:1 says:

Proverbs 18:1 *He who separates himself seeks his own desire ...*

And what we have now is ... I talk to many people and I say, "So, do you belong to a congregation?" and they'll say "No, not really. We go to many places." The shmorgishborg of religion. And hey, maybe sometimes you have to. Maybe there's not a real congregation there. So, I'm not saying just go to any congregation for the sake of it. But what I'm saying is, I *do* see an *attitude* that's pervasive *in* the messianic movement today of people *not* wanting to be planted.

And when you look at the Psalms and ... what does it say? *He's like a tree planted by a riverside.* Yahweh is looking to plant us. Because if you're not planted somewhere, who are you serving? If you're just "Well, I go here to *get* this. I come to this congregation when *he's* speaking to get this." And it's this 'me' mentality that people are just kind of shmorgishborging the religion and seeing what they can get out of it. But again, if you're not planted, if you don't have somewhere you're going, or you're trying to do something, how are you serving somebody?

So, we *can't* get that shmorgishborg of religion mentality to us. We want to make **sure** ... *he who separates himself seeks his own desire* ... that we're not separating ourselves from the body *purposely*. And again, if you're in an area where there's not people, hey, it happens. We have *many* people. That's one of the reasons we travel around. That we'll travel ... sometimes more than a thousand miles out of our way ... to visit somebody—an elderly, a couple that maybe doesn't have any fellowship. *But* at the same rate, I say ... in the times we living in, fellowshiping being so important ... if I was living somewhere where there *were* no brethren, I'd *seriously* think about moving to a place where there *are* brethren. It's pretty easy to pick up and move. Going *somewhere* where there is *somebody* where you're *not* on your own. Because like it says, *he who separates himself seeks his own desire*.

And *many* of the times it's not because someone's on their own because there's no other choice ... like I said, that happens sometimes ... but they're on their own because they *purposely* have separated themselves. They don't want to be under the headship of a pastor. They don't want to be submissive to each other in a congregation. They want to do their own way. They want to just want pick and choose for themselves. So, we want to see, where is our loyalty? Is it to Yahweh? Proverbs 3 and starting in verse 1 says:

Proverbs 3:1-12 *My son, do not forget my Law, but let your heart keep my commandments, for they shall add life (should be **length**) of days and long life and peace to you. Mercy and truth shall not forsake you, tie them on your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and you shall find favor and good understanding in the sight of Elohim and man. Trust in YAHWEH with all your heart, and lean **not** on your own understanding. In **all** your ways acknowledge Him, and **He** shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; **fear** YAHWEH and depart from evil. **Healing** shall be to your navel and marrow to your bones. Honor YAHWEH with your substance ... your tithe ... and with the first-fruits of **all** your increase, and your barns shall be **filled** with plenty, and your presses shall burst with new wine. My son, do not reject the chastising of YAHWEH, and do not loathe His correction; for whom YAHWEH loves He corrects, even as a father the son he loves.*

And *every one* of these Scriptures is in the New Testament—**Hebrews 12:5-8**, some of the other one about sharing with Yahweh; giving of the substance; acknowledging Him in all of our ways—and this is what we've been talking about. Letting Him break our will and *whatever* He says ... *whatever* it says. "Wow, the Word says that? I'm going to do it because my loyalty is to Yahweh."

And I'm telling you, I see people come here and they *actually* convert to Judaism just to stay in the land. And if you convert to Judaism, you're denying Yahshua one way or another. Sometimes they'll ask you and you actually, physically have to say yes, you deny Him, but other times they don't ask you. But if you're joining the religion of Judaism, you're joining a religion that hates our Messiah. Where is your loyalty in that case? It's like me going to a congregation that totally rejects my message and they curse me and then after I leave that congregation they start saying *lies* about me all over the place. And then all of a sudden, two weeks later I find out my wife is going to that congregation as a member. How would I feel? How would I feel that way? That wouldn't be loyal.

So *how on earth* can believers come here and just to stay in the physical land of Israel now, they're going to *convert* to Judaism? A religion that *actually* each day says prayers *cursing* the believers. Now, no, I'm not against the Jewish brothers and sisters. I pray for them every day, I'll do anything I can to help them. But I'm *certainly* not going to join their religion that's against my Messiah.

We have to think, *where is our loyalty?* Where's our loyalty? When somebody says something against Yahshua, when they say, "He never existed." or they say something bad, does it *anger* us with righteous anger? "How *dare* you say that about my Messiah! How *dare* you! The Person who died for me." Or do we just stay quiet? When someone says something about one of the brethren ... you're standing there or you hear a rumor about somebody that one of your friends ... somebody's saying something that's untrue. Do you kind of like, "Well, I don't want to get involved. It's not up to *me* to get involved. Let *them* work it out."? Take the easy way out.

And I remember a few year ago that there was a man that was over here in the land, a very *evil* man, that actually wound up getting cast out of here and marked. But he started some crazy rumor about me and Petra ... something with *bread*. We're telling the people to buy the bread from the Arab instead of the bread from the Jewish people. It wasn't even *true*. And this starts ... I didn't even know because we're not on the internet. And we come to our friends house and they're showing us this stuff on the internet. We're thinking, "This is crazy! This guy's got to be out of his mind."

And I'm seeing the responses that people are giving. And people, they *don't* want to stand up for truth. But we didn't even know Garry that well then and Garry stood up for us and wrote to this guy and said, "Hey, what are you doing?" And he stood up for the truth and that really impressed us. And they've been very good friends of ours since that time because we *saw* ... and the same in their lives that we stood for them. That there's ... I don't believe there's anything in this world that can break our friendship with them.

Doesn't mean I'm going to support something if Garry's doing something wrong, or he's going to support something if *I'm* doing wrong. What it means is, we have a loyalty to each other ... all four of us—with our wives ... to our *friendship*. And we *know* that if there's a problem or there's anything, we can rely on each other. And I feel that way with most of you in this room. I feel the same way. And that's why I was saying the other day in our meeting, that at feast time, in the different things, the opportunity we *have* if we ban together and we're here at feast time to the other people that are coming in. That they *see* this; that they *see* there's a loyalty to each other that's not going to be quickly broken. It says, *two is better than one and a three cord strand is not easily broken*.

And like I said ... because what does it say? **Resist** the devil ... **submit** to Yahweh, **resist** the devil and he will flee. And that's ... the devil will come to each one of us and try to plant something against another person. But if we resist him and say, "You know something? I don't want to hear that. I don't want to hear gossip about so ... if you have a problem with so-and-so, go to them. Go to them and if there's still a problem, then come to me and I'll talk to the two of you. But don't gossip behind this person's back. Don't say this to me, I don't want to hear it. They're a friend of mine. This is not right, you should do that." or, "You know what, let's talk to them together. If there's problems really *here*, you right, let's go and talk to them." But we *have* to make sure that we're standing for each other. We have to make sure that we're with each other. Hosea 6:6 ... the book of Hosea 6:6 ... it says:

Hosea 6:6 For I desired **faithfulness**, and not sacrifice; and the **knowledge of Yahweh** more than burnt offerings.

He desires *mercy*—or *faithfulness* is in the interlinear. He desires *faithfulness*, and *not* sacrifice. And that's really interesting because faithfulness is a lot different than mercy. He desires mercy, that we have mercy for each other. But what does He say? He desires *faithfulness*. He's not looking for us to start burning offerings again and killing animals. He's looking for *faithfulness*. And how are we faithful to Him? "Father, whatever Your Word says, I'll do. *Whatever* Your Word says, I'll do. I'm not going to rationalize, I'm not going to make things up, I'm not going to say why I believe in this, I'm not going to say this. *Whatever* Your Word says, I'll do. I will be faithful until the end."

And *then* He could see, well if we're faithful now while we have to fight the devil, we have to fight worldliness and we have to fight our own human nature. If we could be faithful now in the flesh, then *certainly* we'll be faithful later when our character's going to be set, when we're going to be spirit beings, when our mind will be full. But if ... *he who is faithful in little is faithful in much* ... and if we can't be faithful *now* in human form, how will we ever be faithful? He doesn't want another Satan, the devil. He's not going to make us spirit and give us immortality if He even has the slightest *think* that we can go against Him. He doesn't want to create another devil. That's not His plan. He's creating

family members, like we were saying. And that's what the Father wants to see. And we show our loyalty to *Him* when we show our loyalty to each other. That's the way we show Him our loyalty—when we stand together as a body of believers.

Cause you know what? We're saying ... what is the definition of grace? It's not just the unmerited pardon, but it's the wanting to *give back*. And what do you give to the Person who owns everything? **Psalm 24**—*The earth is Yahweh's and the fullness thereof, the people and those who dwell in it. You can't give Him something physical. But when you give to a brother or a sister in need, you're giving to Him. Matthew 25*—*When I was hungry, you fed me. When I was in need in a prison, you visited me.*

So, as we give to each other, we're giving to Him because *all* of us are parts of that body. But when we hurt each other, when we put down a member of the body, we're putting *Him* down because it's His body. Are you going to tell Yahshua when He returns that He's got a bad pinky? You don't like the way His pinky looks. You don't like His earlobes; He's got *big* earlobes. Is that what you're going to say? Run up to Him, "Yahshua, You've got big earlobes." Well, somebody out here is the earlobe and somebody out here is the pinky. And when we put *each other* down, that's what we're doing. We're putting down our Master. We're putting down our Creator.

And I'm telling you, more than ever, this is important now. *More* that *ever* because of the chaos out there, because the Father is separating the wheat from the tares. Because there are people out there that are *not* true believers and yet, they're going to be sitting in our midst. And there's people out there that are *only* coming to cause division and trouble and they're going to be there in your congregations. And *unless* you stand up ... you can't have this heart to say "Well, you know, I hate to say anything bad about anybody." Sure, none of us want to say anything bad about anybody, but if somebody comes in to divide your congregation, if somebody comes in with heresy ... cause who is the doctrine? It's not Don's doctrine. It's not your doctrine. It's **Yahshua's** doctrine. And who is our fellowship with? The Father and the Son.

So, I love you and want to fellowship with *you* when you bring Yahweh's doctrine. But if you're going to bring all kinds of heresy, I want nothing to do with you. And I'm not ashamed to say that, because our allegiance's *got* to be to Yahweh first and through *each other* through our allegiance to Yahweh. But *don't* feel if people come into your fellowships that are *not* from the spirit of Yahweh and are bringing this division that you have to put up with it. *Absolutely* not! And that's where you have to ban together as a body of believers—when people are starting to bring this. These heresies: Yahshua didn't exist and *all* these evil things. We've heard everything from Satan and Yahshua are brothers, all this crazy stuff. We don't want that in our congregations. We want to say, "Leave it at the door. If you want to come in here, *these* are the doctrines of Congregation of Yahweh. *These* are the doctrines that we believe. Now, if the Spirit is leading you, please come in. Or even if you don't understand it and you want to learn, please come in. But don't come in with your wares, trying to bring false doctrines in to us."

I want to go in now and show a few examples from Scripture about people that were loyal and people that were disloyal to show you how important it is. Let's go to 1st Samuel 15. And I'm just going to go over a couple, but the Bible is *filled* with this topic. And like I said, more than *anything* else, almost *every* other thing that we're to do is a test of our loyalty. 1st Samuel 15, it says:

1st Samuel 15:1-4 *And Samuel went to Saul, ... this is with Samuel and Saul ... YAHWEH sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. And now listen to the voice of the words of YAHWEH. So says YAHWEH of Hosts, I will visit Amalek with what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go, and you shall strike Amalek and destroy all that he has. And you shall have no pity on him, and you shall put to death **all** from man to woman, from little ones to suckling, from oxen to sheep, from camel to ass. And Saul heard and mustered the people in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand were men of Judah.*

Comment: So, very simply the Father's saying, "Get rid of *all* of them." Because they were so involved in paganistic things, they were *so* involved in evil that if He didn't get rid of all of them, what would have happened? The ones who were left would have corrupted the Israelites. The same thing in our congregations. If we allow *a little* bit of leaven in, what is it going to do eventually? It's going to leaven the whole lump.

1st Samuel 15:5-6a *And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait for the torrent-bed. And Saul said to the Kenite, Go! Depart! Go out from the midst of Amalek, lest I take away with you from him.*

Comment: And I'll drop down to verse 10.

1st Samuel 15:10a *And the Word of YAHWEH came to Samuel, ... because, well ... I'll go back to 8.*

1st Samuel 15:8-13 *And he captured Agag the king of Amalek alive. But he exterminated all the people with the mouth of the sword. And Saul and the people had pity on Agag, and the best of the flock, and the herd, and the seconds, and the lambs, and all that was good, they were **not** willing to exterminate them. But everything that was of no account and feeble, they exterminated. And the Word of YAHWEH came to Samuel, saying, I **repent** that I made Saul reign as king, for he had turned back from following Me, and he has not risen to do My Words. And Samuel was angry, and he cried to YAHWEH all night. And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told to Samuel, saying, Saul has come to Carmel. And behold, he has set up a monument to himself, and has gone around, and has passed over and gone down to Gilgal. And Samuel came to Saul. And Saul said to him, Blessed are you of YAHWEH. I have risen to the Word of YAHWEH.*

Comment: So, here it is. Did *exactly* the opposite of what Yahweh said and then praised himself and said what a great person he is. Where do we see that? Everywhere today with all these guys *selling* the Word of Yahweh. *Selling* these books, *selling* the magazines, *selling* the tapes, \$40 and then telling you how wonderful they are. Out of love, how's the only way we're going to stop it? Cut it off. Don't buy it. Don't buy that tape. Don't buy it. If you buy it, you're actually *partaking* in their evil deed. Same way when someone brings a false gospel, what does he say? Don't even wish him Elohim speed. Because if you do, you're partaking in his deed. If we don't buy it, he can't sell it.

1st Samuel 15:14-15a *And Samuel said ... verse 14 ... What then is the bleating of the flock in my ears, and the sound of the herd that I hear? ... Hey, if you did everything Yahweh said, why are we hearing the sheep? They're suppose to be dead ... And Saul said, They have brought them from Amalek, because the people had pity on the best of the flocks, and on the herds, in order to sacrifice to YAHWEH your Elohim.*

Comment: Oh, isn't that so nice of them? They destroyed all the bad stuff, kept all the good stuff and then what they're saying, "Oh, we're doing it to give to Yahweh." How much do we do that? How much do we compromise with the Word of Yahweh and then try to turn it around and say, "Oh, we're doing ... we're helping people by it."? Like the person I told who when I was in Uganda, that was asking about the Sabbath and they said, "But actually, if I open my store on the Sabbath, I'm blessing people because they can buy my fruit and if I close my store on the Sabbath, they won't have any fruit to buy and I'll be doing something bad." How much do we twist the Word of Yahweh, trying to think that we're doing something good and it's actually to our own destruction?

1st Samuel 15:15b-19 *And the rest they have exterminated. ... in verse 16 ... And Samuel said to Saul, **Stop**, and I will declare to you that which YAHWEH spoke to me tonight. And he said to him, Speak. And Samuel said, Were you not, even you, little in your own eyes before becoming leader of the tribes of Israel? And YAHWEH anointed you as king over Israel. And YAHWEH sent you on the way, and said, Go, and exterminate the sinners, Amalek; the fighters and fight against them until they finish them. Then why did you not listen to the voice of YAHWEH? Yeah, you flew on the spoil, and did evil in the eyes of YAHWEH.*

1st Samuel 15:20-23a *And Saul said to Samuel, I **did** obey the voice of YAHWEH, and I **went** in the way which YAHWEH sent me, and brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I exterminated Amalek. And the people took from the spoil of the flock, and the first of the herd, that devoted, to sacrifice to YAHWEH your Elohim in Gilgal. And Samuel says, Does YAHWEH delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of YAHWEH? Behold! To **obey** is better than sacrifice; to give attention is better than the fat of rams. For the sin of divination is rebellion; ... the sin of witchcraft is **rebellion** ... insolence is both iniquity and idolatry.*

Comment: So, it's idolatry when we take things into our own hands and Yahweh clearly says, "Don't do this!" and we twist it and say, "Well, we're doing it for the good of something else." We have made a god out of that—false one; false deity.

1st Samuel 15:23b *Because you have rejected the Word of YAHWEH, so He has rejected you from being king.*

Really, really important. How important is total obedience to our Father? It's everything. *All* of this is about loyalty. And you look at someone like David, right? David committed some of the worst sins in the world and why was he forgiven? Because he had loyalty. He was human—we're all human. We're going falter. We're going to make mistakes. The disciples fled from Yahshua on the night that He needed them the most and that is weakness of flesh. But it wasn't so much a character flaw that couldn't be changed like with Saul.

With Saul there was no way to work around. This guy did *not* have loyalty. And David ... who he *knew* was set up by Yahweh, he *knew* it ... he followed him for thirteen year and tried to *kill* him so he could stay king. No loyalty what so ever. And look at David on the other side. On the other side, David is chased by Saul all these years and then the Father *puts* Saul right into his lap. They're in the cave down in Ein Gedi and David even comes and even *cuts* the robe off from Saul and could've killed him, and what does David say? "No way! No way that *I'm* going to touch Yahweh's anointed. As long as he's king, I am not going to put my hand to him. Because if Yahweh wants me to be king, Yahweh can kill him." Look at that loyalty. Did David know judicial order? Man, absolutely. Absolutely and this is what it comes down to, judicial order.

When we go out of judicial order, *when* we go out ... and I ... somebody going out, that's never had hands laid on them and they're going to anoint somebody else ... how can you anoint somebody else and make them an elder when *you're* not an elder? Going against the judicial order of Scripture and saying "Well, I want to do it my way." There is a judicial order that Scripture says and if we don't follow it, what are we doing? We're not being loyal to Yahweh. It's not man. It's not man that we're not being loyal to, it's Yahweh. *Yahweh* has told us a judicial order to follow and when we follow it, we're showing Him our loyalty. To me, it doesn't matter what way you do it, you've got to *something* everyday, right? Why not do it the way He says it? But when we go against that judicial order, we're actually going against Him.

Let's go to 2nd Samuel 12. And I'm just going to read, not a long account here, but I want to read about Joab. Because, Joab ended in a bad way and Joab had some problems ... Joab had a spirit of anger, Joab did *not* have a lot of love ... but **Joab had loyalty**. Joab had loyalty. And when you look in 2nd Samuel 12 how many times, because of Joab, did he save the kingdom for David? That if Joab wasn't there, David *several* times would have lost his kingdom? And no matter what, Joab's loyalty was to David. 2nd Samuel 12, starting in verse 26.

2 Samuel 12:26-29 *And Joab fought against Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, and captured the royal city. And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and I have captured the city of waters. And now gather the rest of the people, and encamp against the city, and take it; that I not take the city, and **my** name be called over it. And David gathered all the people and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and captured it.*

So, here's Joab, the king of the army—the head of the army—and *many* battles he fought *for* David ... and there's times where these people would have made Joab *king* when David was faltering. And did he use that situation when David was down to say, "Let me get rid of this guy and I'll lift myself up."? No. *Even* when he won the battle, what does he say to David? "*You* go out there in front of them. *You* are the king. *You* take the glory because I don't want them giving it to me."

Now look at Saul—the opposite. "Saul, when you were small in your own eyes, Yahweh lifted you up to be king. But the minute you were filled with pride, He had nothing to do with you." Remember what we said? *Yahweh resist the proud, He gives grace to the humble*. And as long as we are walking in pride, as long as we lift ourselves up, we have *nothing* that Yahweh can do with us. We *have* to keep that humble spirit. We have to make sure we

keep things in proper perspective. 2nd Samuel 19, one other situation with Joab. 2nd Samuel 19, 1 through 8. It says:

2 Samuel 19:1-2a *And it was told to Joab, Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom. And the deliverance on that day became mourning for all the people, ...*

Comment: And this is right after ... remember Absalom was coming to kill David? His own son, trying to kill him. And what happens? David flees and then Absalom gets killed. He has ... his head got stuck in the tree and Joab came and chopped his head off and now it was *victory*. David was coming back and all the people were happy. But now what[']s happening? David is mourning over his son. He's mourning that Absalom is dead and the people are getting upset. And look at Joab, how he saves again the kingdom for David.

2 Samuel 19:2-3 *And the deliverance on that day became mourning for the people, for the people had heard on that day, saying, The king is grieving for his son. And the people stole away on that day to go into the city, as people steal away who are ashamed as they flee in battle.*

Comment: So, here it is. These people that *just* won the battle that were supposed to be victorious, were going away as ashamed. And it would have been the end of David. Because these people that were giving their lives for David ... David should not have been acting that way. He's not showing them the appreciation. Look what Joab does.

2 Samuel 19:4-8 *And the king had covered his face. Yea, the king cried with a loud voice, My son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! And Joab came to the king of the house, and said, You have **shamed** the faces of all your servants today, those saving your life today, and the life of your sons, and of your daughters, and the life of your wives, and the life of your concubines, by loving those who hate you, and hating those who love you, you have today declared that there are neither commanders nor servants to you. For I know today that if Absalom were alive and all of us dead, then it would be right in your eyes. And now rise up; go out and speak to the heart of your servants. For I have sworn by YAHWEH if you do not go out, not a man shall stay with you tonight. And this would be worse for you than all the evil that has come on you from your youth until now. And the king rose up and sat in the gate. And they told all the people, saying, Behold, the king is sitting in the gate. And the people came in before the king. And Israel had fled, each to his tents.*

So, what so we see here? We *see* that Joab again—Joab *again*—had to set David right. And if it wasn't for that, if he didn't set David right, and the people saw that when they *fought* against Absalom for David, that David mourned more for his son than for the people, he wouldn't have had any followers. So, he went out in the gate and he was there and again Joab saved the kingdom for him. And like I said, it doesn't mean Joab didn't have other problems, but Joab had loyalty.

And one thing that David never had to worry about with Joab, the sons of Zeruiah, his nephews, was their loyalty. And if you think the battles that David fought ... four hundred men were able to kill thousands and thousands ... it's because of loyalty. When you're out there in a battle ground, when you're in the fox hole and you're fighting, you certainly don't want somebody next to you that is not loyal. You don't want somebody that maybe can save your life or *not* save your life. You don't want somebody there who's not loyal. You don't want somebody when you're surrounded by six soldiers, that's going to run in the other direction to save their life. You want soldiers that are loyal to the cause—and that's what David had. He had through Joab and Abishai and the other people there ... they had the mighty three ... he had people that had *such* character and *such* loyalty that a couple of hundred people can kill twenty thousand people.

And sometimes historians say, "How can that be? That's not true." And I say, "Give me it today. Give me two hundred loyal people and we'll turn this city up side down." Because it's *synergy*. That maybe for me, I can't lift this table by myself, but for *two* people, we can lift three of these tables. It's synergy when you *put* the energy

together of a number of people, you can't just do *double* it, you can do *triple* it, or five times it. Same way the body of Messiah. When we put our energy together to build the body of Messiah, how much more can we accomplish?

Let's go to Ruth. Another wonderful story here of somebody who had loyalty. And when you look at the rewards, a lot of times what comes out of that loyalty, like with someone like David. Ruth 1, starting in verse 8. I'll go down to verse 17. It says:

Ruth 1:8a *And Naomi ...*

Comment: And we know the story. Ruth is here. The mother-in-law, Naomi, had two sons. Her sons married Ruth and the other daughter and the two husbands died. So, now these Moabites who were of the nations are told, "Go back to where you came from. Because, you're going to come over here, Bethlehem, there are no husbands." But yet, Ruth had *loyalty* to her mother-in-law. Now here's a young woman. She's got her whole life ahead of her and yet, what was her focus? *One* focus. She wanted to make sure that her mother-in-law was cared for and her dead husband had seed raised to him. She had *no* personal agenda in her life. She just *wanted* to follow the Elohim of Israel. And look, this is such a beautiful story.

Ruth 1:8-17 *And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, Go, each return to the house of her mother. May YAHWEH deal kindly with you, as you have done with the dead, and with me. May YAHWEH grant to you that you find rest, each in the house of her husband. And she kissed them, and they lifted up their voice and wept. And they said to her, Surely, we will go back with you to your people. And Naomi said, Turn back, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Are there yet sons to me in my belly that they should be husbands to you? Turn back, my daughters, go. For I am too old to belong to a husband. Though I should say, There is hope for me, and I should be tonight with a husband, and also I should bear sons; will you wait for them, that they may grow up? Will you shut yourselves up for them, not to belong to a husband? No, my daughters, for it is much more bitter for me than for you, for the hand of YAHWEH has gone out against me. And they lifted up their voice and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother in law, and Ruth clung to her. And said, See, your sister-in-law has turned back to her people, and to her gods. You turn back also as your sister-in-law. And Ruth said, Do not beg me to leave you, to turn back from following you. For where you go, I will go. And where you stay, I will stay. Your people shall be my people, and your Elohim my Elohim. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May YAHWEH do to me, and more so, if anything but death depart you and me.*

Wow! *What* loyalty. And how was she rewarded? She winds up being the great grandmother of king David. The loyalty that ... for her loyalty that she was rewarded with such a thing, it was awesome. And *no* preconceived ideas, just that this was the mother-in-law that cared for her and she wanted to make sure that she took care of her and that she raised up seed for her husband. Loyalty.

Let's go to Jeremiah 35. Which is ... always loved this story ... of the Rechabites. Do you remember who the Rechabites are? If not, we'll read about them here. Jeremiah 35 and starting in verse 11. These were people who made certain vows of not drinking wine and not living in certain places *only* because their father told them to. Because their fathers told them these things, they followed it and their sons followed it, and their sons followed it. And they never questioned because the loyalty they had to their fathers. Jeremiah 35 in verse 11.

Jeremiah 35:11-14 *But it happened when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against the land, then we said, Come, and let us go to Jerusalem, ... this is the Rechabites talking now ... because of the army of the Chaldeans and because of the army of the Syrians. And we live in Jerusalem. Then the Word of YAHWEH was to Jeremiah, saying, So says YAHWEH of Hosts, the Elohim of Israel: Go and tell the men of Judah and the people of Jerusalem, Will you not receive instruction, to listen to My Words? says YAHWEH. The words of Jonadab, the son of Rechab, in which he commanded his sons not to drink wine are done. And to this day they do not drink, but obey their father's command. But I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking; and you did not listen to Me.*

Jeremiah 35:15-19 *I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising early and sending, saying, Each man now return from his evil way, and amend your doings, and do not go after other elohim to serve them, and you shall live in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers. But you have not bowed your ear, nor listened to Me. Because the sons of Jonadab, the son of Rechab, have stood on the command of their father which he gave them, but this people has not listened to Me, so YAHWEH, Elohim of Hosts, the Elohim of Israel, says this, Behold, I will bring on Judah and all the people of Jerusalem all the evil that I have spoken against them because I have spoken to them, but they did not listen. Yea, I have called to them, but they did not answer. And Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites, So says YAHWEH of Hosts, the Elohim of Israel: Because you have obeyed your father Jonadab's command, and have kept all his commands, and have done according to all that he has commanded you, so YAHWEH of Hosts, the Elohim of Israel, says this: Jonadab, the son of Rechab, shall not have a man cut off from standing before Me all the days.*

Now, again, what is he telling them? Not to drink wine. We know in the Bible drinking wine is fine, it's drunkenness that's commanded against. There's many situations where we're even *commanded* to drink a little bit of wine. So, it wasn't the wine that was the thing here, it was the fact that they were loyal to the words of their father. And He's saying here, "They're loyal to something that's not even a *commandment* and My people are not loyal to Me when I'm telling them My words."

So, how important is our loyalty to Yahweh? It's absolutely everything. It's absolutely everything especially in the time we're living in. Because know, before the end, what's going to happen? Every single person who's alive at the time is going to have to choose their loyalty. Are you going to choose it to the beast power or are you going to choose it to Yahweh? Many people, "Oh, I'll never take the mark of the beast. Oh no, I'll never let them put this chip in me." The chip is the icing on the cake. The chip is *not* the mark of the beast. The mark of the beast is giving your *allegiance*, your heart, to that system of world democracy. And believe me, if you're already doing it, if you're already living in Satan's society, working in Satan's society and *everything* in his society you love, and you're not obeying the Father's Torah, when that chip comes, you'll figure out a way why it's no bad ... why it's okay to take it anyway.

But it's your *allegiance* to either Yahweh or Satan in the end time. And sorry to say, many people are already doing it. They're giving their allegiance to the devil. And they love the ways of the world and they don't love the ways of Yahweh. They don't love the ways of Yahweh. People, they feel *bored* reading their bible. They feel *bored* studying or praying. It's like, wow, how can you do this for *eternity* if you can't even do it for half an hour? Where is our allegiance?

And I say, I could read this Bible a thousand, ten thousand, a hundred thousand times, it's never old to me. Because every time I read it, He talks to me in a different way. It's almost like telling your husband or your wife one day, you get up and you say, "You know something? Please don't talk to me anymore. We've been married for twenty-five years. I've heard everything you had to say. Don't talk to me any more, I don't want to hear it." That's what you're saying to Yahweh if you're not reading His Word. You're saying, "I've already read it. Don't talk to me any more, Yahweh." We're talking about living for, eternal life—for *zillions* and *trillions* and *billions* of years—and if *now*, if we can't show Him our loyalty, how will He ever bless us with that?

Lets go to Psalm 15 ... we'll be done here in a couple of minutes ... Psalm 15, which is one of my favorite. I just *love* this Psalm. I love this Psalm. It says:

Psalm 15:1-5 *O YAHWEH, ... starting in verse 1, going down to verse 5 ... who shall dwell in Your tabernacle? ... who shall dwell in Your tabernacle? ... Who shall live in **Your** holy mountain? He who walks uprightly and works righteousness, and speaks the **truth** in his heart. He does not backbite with his tongue, nor do evil to his friend, nor lift up a reproach against his neighbor. In his eyes, the reprobate has been despised, but he honors those who fear YAHWEH: He has **sworn** to his hurt, and will not change it. He has not put out his silver at interest; nor has he taken a bribe against the innocent; he who does these things shall never be moved.*

And I want to focus on that one point that says, “He has sworn to his hurt, and he will not change it.” When we give our word, is our word our bond? Do we swear to our hurt? If you went out here today and there was a taxi man there and he was going to drive you somewhere to the north, and you gave him your commitment, you said, “Okay, you give me two hundred shekels and I’ll drive you up here.” And you give him your commitment and you say, “I’m going to meet you tomorrow morning ... *and da da da.*” And then all of a sudden, you come out in the morning and there’s another taxi and the taxi says, “Hey, I’ll take you for a hundred and eighty shekels.” Would you hop in that taxi and just drive off and say, “Wow, we just save twenty shekels!” or would you say, “No, I made a commitment to a man. I made a commitment to a man and for twenty shekels, I do not want to lose out on the kingdom. I don’t want to lose out on my character, I don’t want to give up in my character for twenty shekels.”?

And I’ve spoken to some of you even over here at the complex here, that, this is the first time we’ve done Pesach like this. And we know, at Sukkot we normally have at least double or triple the size of the people and for different reasons we actually were happy to have a smaller group. But there was another group that was supposed to be in here. And they actually *cancelled* that group out to allow us in here. Which shows *their* confidence in *me* and in *you*—in the group. And they love our group, they say it all the time.

But now what happens? When I committed to them that a certain amount of people would be here, do I go back to them and say, “Sorry, we don’t have enough people.”? *No*, I give my word and I said to them ... because they seemed a little angry a few weeks back and I said to her, I said, “Look, whatever I told you I would perform, I will do.” And they were happy at that. And I’ve *seen* how people are amazed that when you say, “Don’t worry about it. I told you my word, I will keep my word.” Because most people don’t see that kind of attitude.

And when we keep our word like that, when we say our word is our bond *and to my own hurt*. Keeping your word isn’t just when it’s *convenient*, it’s to your hurt. When you’ve work a week and you’re tired and you say, “Oh, why did I tell him I’d help him to move that refrigerator on Sunday?” Doesn’t matter how tired you are, *you gave your word*. You have to be there. And not *only* will it make you many friends ... a man that has many friends, must show himself friendly ... I’m telling you, people will *attract* to you if they know you’re a man of your word. But to Yahweh—Yahweh will be able to use you in a greater way.

Because face it, we said this, one of the reasons why we’re not seeing so many manifestations of the Holy Spirit today is we’re not ready for it yet. Because if we *did* great powers, we’d get prideful. He’s *got* to work on our character first. He’s got to work on our nature. He’s got to make sure that we are *totally* humble and that we went through things, that we’re not going to be lifted up, then He could work with us. And that’s why it takes time. That’s why in the priesthood you started preparing to be a priest at twenty but you didn’t actually *enter* the priesthood till thirty. Because there’s this time period where you *mature* into your ministry. You *mature* into your faith. You *mature* into the work you’re doing.

And Yahweh is testing us, each way along the way. He’s testing us. And I see our steps out of the States. I see *each* way along the way—especially the first three, four years—how it was a test to see our faithfulness to Him. And then when we would prove something, He would elevate us a little more. He’d build a little more. He’d give us a little more work. It’s just like at a job. You don’t walk in the first day and say, “I’m going to be the boss.” No, you start out as an apprentice, you learn and you build yourself up. And the more that you’re showed faithful to your boss, the more he’ll elevate you.

And it’s so important. I’m telling you, you may not think it, but it’s a witness. There’s a few years back, when we first left America, that we came back to the States, and me and Petra, we needed some money and we said, “You know something? If we work for six weeks in the States we can get enough money for a whole year outside.” The cost of living was virtually nothing. So, we got a job at RGIS ... R-G-I-S ... they do inventory. Some of you may have heard of it. And it was eight bucks an hour, not too bad but two is better than one, that’s \$16 an hour and that’s pretty good.

And we said, “Okay we’ll work for six weeks.” We worked day and night. We did absolutely everything. And we didn’t think we were working any different than anybody else. But, whatever they asked us, we just did. And we noticed a lot of the people there ... some of them even career people ... it’s not the greatest job. It’s not the most exciting job—taking inventory and just counting things. And a lot of people were complaining and we never did. And the boss we had there, Ben Solomon was his name, and he was a real, real serious guy, yeah, I mean, to get a smile out of this guy was *hard*.

And we were doing a Home Depot and all of a sudden ... we were there all day and like I said, not really working any different than anybody else ... and he called me and Petra in the back room. We were wondering, "Are we going to get fired? What's going on?" And he said the head of all the Home Depots, that owned every Home Depot in that whole area there. He said, "He came up to me and said, 'There's a husband and wife team here that has impressed me more than anything, that I wish every one of my workers worked like they did.'" And he said, "As soon as he said that, I knew without a doubt, it was you and your wife."

And now, here's a place that you're only a *number*. There's two hundred others, we come in, we're all wearing the same red shirt and they only know you as number 412. It's *so* impersonal. And we saw *because* of the way that we portrayed ourself and the way that we're just always happy and always smiling and any time they asked you to do something, we would do it. And most people didn't want to drive the people back and forth, cause they didn't want to use their car. We said, "Hey, we'll use our car." Because every time we got five people in the car that we could witness about Yahshua to. Couldn't do it while we were working, we're on their time. But going back and forth, yeah, we can witness. And they said to us when we left, they said, "Any time you ever come back to the Sates, even if it's just for a few weeks, you come here, you got a job." And they'll see it, something as simple as that. And honestly I still don't think we worked any better than anybody. I *do* feel whatever your hand puts to do, do with all your might. But you *never* know who's watching.

Years back, I told the story, when I did landscaping, and a friend of mine in Canada, I used to go see him in the winters. And I didn't want to just go there and sit around the apartment all day long while he was working. And I said, "Yeah, ask your boss if there's any job." Now I didn't know anything about building of furniture or nothing. So, it's a furniture factory and he said, "Well, there's not a lot of job, but if you don't mind cleaning up?" I said, "No problem." And he said this boss couldn't believe it, that I'm owning a business, I have fifteen, twenty employees and I'm coming there sweeping the floors with a smile on my face. And working hard and I told him, "Hey, when I'm on your clock, whatever you tell me to do, I'll do." And people will see it. And we're living in a world where what? People are ... *nobody's* happy with their jobs. In America almost every two, three years someone goes to another job. People keep moving. People keep doing things.

So, the wealth and the money is it making us happier? No, it's not. It's making people more discontent because the *relationships* are not getting stronger. And *that's* the key to life. And I say this when I teach success seminars. I say, "It doesn't matter how much money you have, if you don't have good relationships, you are unsuccessful in life." Person like Donald Trump, he's not successful in my eyes. Because he's had unsuccessful marriages, unsuccessful children ... with relationships with his children. And if *you* don't have successful relationships, you don't have anything. And that's the key to life. The key ... how do you get successful relationships? By loyalty. And *that's* the way.

It says, *Don't let praise come out of your own mouth. Let it come from somebody else.* And sometimes in the past, here or there, where someone has come up to us and said, "Oh, so-and-so said this rumor about you." or "We heard this rumor about you." We just say, "You know something? Just let it be." You know why? Because people that *know* you, if there's a rumor about you, there's no *way* that people would believe that rumor if they know your character. That they'll say, just like I said what happened recently with a couple of different brethren. If somebody comes and says, "So-and-so did this or so ..." It's like, no way, I *know* that person. I'm not saying this person's perfect, but I *know* their character, I *know* they're not like that.

So, if someone would come up to you and say something like, "Oh, that Don Esposito, he's only out for money." You'd *know* it. When you know him, "Well how could he be out for money? He gives everything away for free." You would *know* something that would be a lie. You would *know* it. Because of the character of somebody. But again, all it takes is one time to lose that. And that's what we have to think in every situation. When that trust is being built and you build it to this plateau, do you want to lose that trust over one time?

And you see it in marriages all the time. One thing that happens in a marriage, boom, one bad mistake, one bad judgement and trust is gone. And it takes a long time. And sometimes you can rebuild trust, but boy, it sure takes a long time. But you'd much rather get in a situation where you never have to do that. And again, doesn't mean that we're not going to make mistakes, but is it a *character flaw*? Do we have a *character* flaw of being unfaithful? Because if we do, we

got a long way to go. Because if we *are* unfaithful, if we are un-loyal, we're not going to be in the kingdom. The last Scripture, Romans 6. One Scripture, verse 16, we'll end on this. Romans 6 in verse 16. It says:

Romans 6:16 *Know you not that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey, whether of sin unto death, or obedience unto righteousness?*

Know you not to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey. And that's what I want to leave you with. Who are you being the servant to? Are you being the servant to the world and to sin? Because the end result is death. Or are you the servant of Yahweh and righteousness? Because whatever you're obeying, and I said this before, if you're out there and working a fifty hours a job for the world. *Only* for yourself just to get money for a big house, a car, for this, for that and there's no time for Yahweh, there's no time for your Melchizedek priesthood, there's no time for serving others, then where's your loyalty? Where's your loyalty?

As you start traveling around outside the States, you find out real quick that 75% of the world is living on \$5 a day or less ... 75% of the world lives on \$5 a day or less. Today, in a world where you ... a gallon of gasoline is \$5, right? And that's ... go to China, go to India, go to Pakistan, go to anywhere in these Middle Eastern Arab countries. Go to South America and Central America. Go to these places. People are living on *\$5 a day or less*. A lot of places \$1 a day. So, it's being done somewhere. And *somehow* in the West we think we have to make 50, 60, 70 or \$100,000 a year, or we won't be happy. And again, is America breeding happy families? I don't think so. Are the children growing up more ... better relationship with Yahweh? Are they growing up with better character? Are they growing up with better morals? I don't think so.

So, world democracy has not been successful in the eyes of Yahweh. World democracy is something that Yahweh is coming to destroy. And what Yahweh wants to find out is, where do you stand? Where's your loyalty? Is it to the little guy in your town that may go out of business unless you support him even though it's going to be 15% higher because *he* can't compete with Walmart? But in the end, what happened with Satan? It's all just a carrot, because remember, once that Walmart puts everybody out of business, you better believe, he'll jack the prices up. Because world democracy isn't there to get you the best price. World democracy is there to control you. And it's the same with Satan. Satan will put out carrots, making you think, "Wow, this is wonderful." But the end result is death. What does it say with like sin? *It's sweet in the mouth and it's gravel in your belly.* And that's the way it is.

So, think about it tonight; pray about it. But in the days ahead, with the things that are here with the heresies that are out there, please, please, please, please, please, think about where your loyalty is to. And in the end, remember our loyalty, above all, has to be to Yahweh.