

Transcription – Forgiveness, Guilt, Grudges and Pride

Shabbat Shalom again! I'm going to give a message today that's called, *Forgiveness – Guilt, Grudges and Pride*. And normally I like to give a message *something like this* at Pesach, which wasn't too long ago. We gave some good messages at Pesach on development as a believer and what not. But I think this is good one to **always think about** as it affects us in different ways.

I want to start by saying the **greatest gift Yahweh gives us is His grace**. And one of, if not **the biggest problem** I see in the Messianic, Torah, sacred name, Sabbath keeping, the whole movement of people coming toward Torah - is when you come out of Christianity ... and face it, Christianity is filled with paganism and they do have a lot of things wrong ... but because of the watered down, syrupy **false definition** of grace ... what we get in the Christian world ... that grace almost becomes like a bad word. And people don't even want to look at that.

And you see a lot of people that are just ... want to take the Torah apart and every last thing. And let's sit here for nineteen hours talking about how to make a tassel and all these other ... which again, **everything in the Torah is good if we use it lawfully**. And we should be discussing mixed clothing and tassels and these things. But that's not what our calling is about. And that's not what's going to put you in the Kingdom of Yahweh. As we see, even Yahshua rebuking the scribes and the Pharisees for the length of their tzitziyot, not *using* the tzitziyot.

But I think what happens a lot of times, at least from what I've seen in many years in Sabbath keeping and Torah keeping churches, is I hardly ever hear them talking about the grace of Yahweh anymore. ... ever hear them talking about that only through the blood of Yahshua we enter the Kingdom.

So I want to start here in Ephesians 2 to really lay a foundation because **if you don't understand this ... this is not only the basis for the gateway into your spiritual life in the Kingdom of Yahweh**. But it's the foundation for everything in your life in how you're going to think. Because at the end of the day, every single thing you hear and everything your mind processes is by your power of the modem in your mind. What is the source of the foundation of your knowledge that's equating this in bringing it out?

So if we start in Ephesians 2, he says:

Ephesians 2:1-3 *He has quickened you also who were dead because of your sins and trespasses, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the will of the ruler of the authority of the air, the spirit which is active in the sons of disobedience, in those very deeds in which we were corrupted from the very beginning through the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature** the children of wrath, even as the rest.*

Comment: So he's showing us without the Spirit of Yahweh, without Yahweh's intervention in our life, our human nature is pretty pathetic.

Ephesians 2:4-8 *But Elohim, being rich in mercy, because of His great love in which He loved us, even when we were dead in our sins, He made us alive together with Messiah by whose grace we are saved; and raised us up together and seated us together in heaven through Messiah Yahshua, that in the ages to come, He might demonstrate, the exceedingly great riches of His grace in kindness toward us **in Messiah Yahshua**. For by grace you are saved, **through faith**, and this is not of yourselves; it is the gift of YAHWEH;*

I always find that scripture, number 7, to be pretty interesting ... *that in the ages to come He might demonstrate, the exceedingly great riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Messiah Yahshua*. And I think like a quadrillion years from now, with whatever Yahweh is going to be doing ... because we know that Yahweh is not just going to stop in what He's doing in the world and what He's doing with us. But I'm **certain** that in the next phase of Yahweh's plan, whatever that may be, He's not going to be dealing with evil, wicked, sinful people.

So like I said, a million years from now when there's this other nice society that He's building and they're going to look back at us and the way we were, and say, "Wow!" And that's what he's going to say. He's using **us now** at the **foundation** and **allowing evil to show His mercy and His grace**. That **every generation that will come** that won't be this evil and this sinister will understand. "Wow, well why didn't He just destroy all of us?" Because it's not the way Yahweh is.

And while we were **yet sinners**, He saw something **in us** ... and a lot of it **not good** ... but He still worked with us. And through His mercy and His love and His forgiveness, **that's the only reason we're here**. And like the message I gave at Sukkot, *Is Yahweh Like You?* Somebody wrote me and they said, "At first when I saw that, we thought you made a mistake until we listened to the message." They thought it was going to be like, Are You Like Yahweh? That I ... they put it up on line wrong. And it's like, "No! We know we're not like Yahweh. We're trying to become like Him." But **the problem is that we think Yahweh is like us**.

And we're *thinking* that our way of thinking is normal, when it really isn't normal. And **Yahweh's way is grace and mercy and love and forgiveness**. But **also, it's with justice**. So it's not just a total letting anyone do what they want; the false grace of the world. There's got to be justice there. But in His justice, He has this **un-ending** mercy and love and forgiveness to us.

And clearly, it's **nothing that we did or it's nothing that we earned**. Our deeds have only earned us death. And as we see in **Romans 3:23** ... I won't go there, we all know it ... *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of Yahweh*; so **none of us can say** that we're not all in the same boat. And to ... that's why it says in Corinthians that we should not ... it's not wise to compare oneself to each other, because to look at another person and say, "Oh, I'm a little better than *him* or a little better than the guy out there in the world." it doesn't bring us to the level that Yahweh wants us to be or the level that *He is*. And really all it does is bring us into a state of self-righteousness, which is the total opposite of Yahweh.

Romans 5 ... Romans the 5th chapter ... and really you have to internalize this. And of course you have to do it at your baptism if you're really going to repent. Because you'll never repent unless you understand your evil, wicked human nature. But really, this is something we should be **internalizing every day of our life** because you are **never going to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Master and Savior Yahshua Messiah**, if we're not internalizing this. How are you going to grow in His grace if you're not thinking on His grace?

And it's **His grace** that opens up the fruits of the Spirit; it's His grace that opens up **becoming like Him**. But if we're just holding on to our self-righteousness and thinking how we're better than other people and we're not doing this, then we're never going to grow in the grace of Messiah.

So Romans 5, he says:

Romans 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, ...*

Comment: Right? Why are we justified by faith? Because we're **believing** what I'm saying now. We're believing that we're all sinners. We're believing that we have a fallen nature, but we're **surrendering that nature over** to the nature of the Holy Spirit. And it's **through faith** that when you go under that water and you have the laying on of hands, you're not just getting wet, and you're not going through a ceremony, but we're believing in faith that **Yahweh is literally putting His Spirit in us**. That there's **literally** going to be a change if we allow Him to do it.

Romans 5:1-2 *Therefore being justified by faith, ... being made right before Yahweh, we're justified ... we have peace with Elohim through our Master Yahshua's (should be Yahshua) Messiah, ... So again, growing in the grace and knowledge will bring a great peace to your life that you can't get without this ... through whom also we have had access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we glory on the hope of the glory of Elohim.*

Comment: So yeah, it's not the false grace of the world that Yahshua came to save us **in our sin**, "And He loves me so much that I can go out and keep sinning." No, of course not. It's **faith that we believe He saved us from our sin**. It's faith that we believe **now we can overcome all things** through, not ourselves, but through His Spirit that's living in us.

Romans 5:3 *And not only so, but we glory also in afflictions, knowing that affliction works out patience,*

Comment: So again, we don't lose our faith over trials and troubles because we know that the trials and the troubles are building patience in our life to be overcomers.

Romans 5:4 *and patience works out proven character; ... exactly what we're looking for ... and proven character works out hope ... Hope is the good news, the safartha.*

Romans 5:5-8 *And the hope does not put us to shame, because the love of Elohim has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us; for we yet being without strength, in due time Messiah died for unrighteous ones. For with difficulty one will die for a wicked one, and perhaps one even dares to die for the sake of a good one, but Elohim commends His love to us in that we being yet sinners, Messiah died for us.*

Comment: And I want you to think about this. As I'm going through the sermon, be thinking about this. Because when **we don't show that same love to other people** and **when we hold grudges** toward other people, and we're not forgiving other people, what are we doing? We're doing the opposite of Yahshua did to us.

And **it's not a one-time thing**. It's not like, "You know what? Yeah, back in 1972, I robbed this gas station. Worst mistake in my life ... uh, but Messiah forgave me for it. And yeah, beside that I'm pretty perfect." Of course not! ... that we sin; we're in a defiled state and we continue to sin in thoughts, in actions, in how we look at things. So **we continuously need this grace to cover our life every day**.

And that's why every day before we go to bed ... I know I pray; I hope you do. "Father, forgive me. Because I don't know, there's things I might have did today that I don't even know I did. And if I die in this night, I want to wake up Your Kingdom. I don't want wake up going to the Lake of Fire." So, **we need that every day of our life**.

Romans 5:8-10 *So He commends His love to us in yet being sinners, He died for us. Much more then, being justified now by His blood, we shall be delivered from wrath through Him. For if while being enemies we were reconciled to Elohim through the death of His Son, so much more, being **reconciled**, we shall be saved by His life;*

And that's the point of it that **He's living in us**. And **that life that He lived** to the righteousness of Yahweh should be shown to people every day that we're living.

1st Corinthians 5 ... 1st Corinthians 5 ... now we want to taper this because, like I said, Yahweh is Elohim of Justice and the grace that the Christian world brings out is only part of it. Yes, Yahweh *is love*. Yes, He is all mercy. Yes, He is all forgiveness. But **He's also Elohim of justice**. And that's why I said Yahshua came not to save you **in your sins but from your sins**. **Sin is an evil that will destroy you**. So why would He come to the earth and pay the penalty of those sins to allow us to be destroyed by continuing in those sins? Of course not! That's not justice.

But what His grace is, it's that **He gives time to change** because He doesn't want us to die. Because whether it's the Torah that says - *the soul that sins, it will die*, **Ezekiel 18:4**; or it's the Brit Chadeshah - **Romans 6:23**, *the wages of sin is death*. **Sin still brings death**, anyway you look at it.

And that's why Paul said in **Romans 7**, *the things I want to do, I can't do. The things I don't want to do, I do! Who will save me from this body of death?* And he said, "Praise Yahweh through His Son Yahshua Messiah that we don't have to have a body of death anymore." So, **our life** should be now to glorify Him. But **you got to surrender it ... you got to surrender it!**

If you're going to wake up every day, and you have your planner, and you're going to your work, and you're making all this money, and you're living **for you**, you're never going to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Master Yahshua Messiah. Because **you're not living for Him; you're not becoming His bond servant**. You're still living your life to you. And your life and your human nature in Satan's world is **always going to bring sin and death**. It's that simple. And that's the problem with believers. They got one foot in and one foot out. And then they wonder, "Why am I getting these results?"

But if we go to 1st Corinthians 5 ... so I think we understand the grace of Yahweh that **He has mercy** and He gives us time to change. Because He has all time in the world. And He knows that if we don't change, we're going to the Lake of Fire and He doesn't want any to perish. So He **gives us time**, even sometimes when we're still sinning, but there comes a day that, that time is going to run out because He is Elohim of Justice. And in the end, you are going to reap what you sow. And if you're **not repenting** and you're not changing, the wages of sin are death.

So, 1st Corinthians 5 ... we have a situation here where there's a person in the Congregation who's sinning.

1st Corinthians 5:1 *Everywhere it is heard that fornication is among you, and **such immorality** which is not named even among the heathen, so as one to have his father's wife ...*

Comment: We just went over this. It's a forbidden relationship. Talking about once the spouse is dead, that person is not allowed to marry certain people.

1st Corinthians 5:2 *And you are boasting, and have not rather mourned, that he did this deed might be **removed from among you.***

Comment: See somebody who is committing sin needs to be removed from the Congregation. We're not saying, "Oh well we want to show the grace of Yahweh and we'll just love him!" Is that love? Is that love - allowing somebody who's living in sin to sit among the Congregation? Of course not! Because number one, you're not ... you're certainly not showing love to that person because now they will never change. If you accept their sin and their sinful lifestyle and you say it's okay, what are they going to change for?

And now day will go into day, and month into month, and year into year, and they're going to die and they're going to wake up and go to the Lake of Fire because they never repented. And you're not showing love to the people because that person who's defiled is going to wind up defiling everybody else around them.

So keeping somebody who is living an active sin in your Congregation is not showing love to anybody. And again, we're not putting someone outside the Congregation because we dislike them. We're putting them out because we **love them**. And you put them out because you want them to realize, "I'm doing something that is not right with Yahweh and I'm hurting other people." And then when they realize it, they're going to repent and come back, Yahweh willing.

So this is what's happening here. And look what Paul says, He says:

1st Corinthians 5:2-6 *You are boasting, and have not rather **mourned**, that he that did this thing should be removed among you. For as being **absent in body**, ... Paul's not there. He's writing ... *but being present in spirit, I have already judged the one who worked out this thing, as if I was present: In the name of our Master Yahshua Messiah, you being gathered together with my spirit also, with the power of our Master Yahshua Messiah, to deliver such a one to Satan for destruction of the flesh that the spirit may be saved in the day of our Master. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the lump?**

And then goes into the whole analogy showing leaven, which again, this is the days of Unleavened Bread. These are Gentile believers. It's thirty years after the crucifixion and resurrection. So, if they weren't keeping Unleavened Bread, this would make no sense to them. So we go into it a lot in that aspect, proving the Holy Days are still there. Messiah is our Passover.

But really I'm trying to show here now, as far as the **protocol**. We know the **Matthew 18** protocol. If somebody is caught in a sin, you go to him **privately**. If that person repents, you won your brother. But if he denies it, and he's wrong, you have to bring the witnesses. If he doesn't listen to the witnesses, you bring it before the Congregation. You have to put the person out of your Congregation.

It's not something we enjoy doing it. It's something that **I hate to do**. And praise Yahweh, I haven't had to do it too many times. But there's a few times where I had to do that; **always in the hope and in the prayer** that the person would repent and come back to the truth.

And then he goes down ... he says here ... ah, verse 9:

1st Corinthians 5:9-13 *I wrote to you an epistle not to associate with immoral persons; and not altogether with the fornicators of the world, or with the covetousness, or extortionists, or idolaters, since then you must leave the world. But now I wrote to you not to associate intimately; if anyone is called a brother and is either immoral, or covetousness, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortionist, with such a one do not even break bread to eat with. For what business is it to me to judge the ones outside the congregation? But you may also ... But you may make judgments on those inside the congregation. But Elohim will judge the ones outside. "And you shall put out from yourselves those wicked persons."*

So very, very clear. People that are committing active sins and are not repenting need to be put out of the Congregation. There's no problem with that. But it's not to ... like I said, it's not to get rid of the person. **It's in hope that that person will change. It's in hope that the person is going to repent of what he did and come back into relationship.** That's what it's about. It's not a, "Ooh, I'm glad that guy is gone! Oooh, lock the door! No one ever see him again!" That's not what it's about.

Let's go to Ezekiel 18 in verse 21 ... because that's not the mind of Yahweh, and that's not the grace of Yahweh. The grace of Yahweh is when the person repents, we forgive him. And we allow him back into the fellowship. Ezekiel 18 in verse 21:

Ezekiel 18:21-23 *But the wicked, if he will turn from all his sins which he has done, and keep all My statutes, and do justice and righteousness, living he shall live; he shall not die. All his transgressions that he has done, they shall not be mentioned to him in his righteousness which he has done; he shall live. Do I take pleasure and delight in the death of the wicked? Declares Adonai YAHWEH. Is it not that he should turn from his ways and live?*

So, what is the difference to a person who was committing a sin, got caught and got put out of the Congregation, and repented and is allowed back in the Congregation; to another person who was committing a sin in the Congregation nobody knew about it? And then the person repented and moved on? The only difference is one got caught and one didn't! But it's the same to Yahweh; it's absolutely the same to Yahweh.

So, if somebody sins and is put out of the Congregation and they repent, who are we to start coming back and judging them and making a separation? We're going to see this is something that Yahweh hates. Because **all of us sinned. And all of us every day go on our pillow and pray to Yahweh.** The only difference is everyone doesn't know what all of our sins are.

But as we looked in **Romans 3:23**, *all men are sinners and fall short of the glory of Yahweh.* And one of the greatest gifts ... I said the greatest gift that Yahweh has given human beings is **His grace** because without His grace, we couldn't be in His Kingdom. But the **second greatest gift** that Yahweh has given us is **He allows us to exhibit that grace on other people.**

Because when you really get that grace in your life, when you come to the truth and you understand, "**Wow! I am done! I am done! I committed sins now that bring the death penalty and there's nothing I could do.**" And you know what? Even if Yahweh did forgive me today of all these sins, there's no way I'm going to go from today until the day I die and never sin again. So even though I'm not going to sin every day, I'm still going to sin again which is going to bring death." And that's what Paul is saying, "Who can save me from this body?" And he says, "The grace of Yahweh. Yahshua Messiah will save us."

And now you say, "Wow! I **so much** ... is there something I can do back for Yahweh? What He's given for me, **how could I ever repay You?**" And He says, "You know how you can repay Me? Take that grace, I've given it to you and give it to another person. Give it to another person. **That's the way you can repay Me.** Because I want each of you to have that same love and mercy and spirit of forgiveness in you that I have."

And again, it's not doing away with Yahweh's justice. Because again, a man is going to reap what he sows. But it is giving the benefit of the doubt. The same way I would want someone to give me the benefit of the doubt. And it is when that person **does really repent** and is coming back in the Congregation, and I'm going to be like Yahweh and I'm going to forgive that person for what he does.

If we drop down to verse 30 in Ezekiel 18, he says:

Ezekiel 18:30-32 *I will judge you, each man by his ways, O house of Israel, declares Adonai YAHWEH. Turn and be made to turn from all your transgressions, and iniquity shall not be a stumbling-block to you. Cast away all your transgressions for you by which you have transgressed in them, and **make for yourselves a new heart** ... This is the New Covenant ... **and a new spirit**; why will you die, O house of Israel? For I do not have delight in the death of him who dies, declares Adonai YAHWEH. So turn and live.*

And do we realize **this is not a joke; this is life and death!** And the same way, **none of us would want to go to the Lake of Fire. None of us would want to cease to exist.** And why does it say in that day there'll be weeping and gnashing of

teeth? Because there will be many people being dragged to the Lake of Fire that didn't know they were going to go there.

So here it is **Yahweh is giving us opportunity to be like Him**. And if somebody ... there's more happiness in Heaven from one repentant sinner than ninety-nine righteous, right? So why when we get that repentant sinner, wouldn't we be happy? Why would we be wanting to say, "Oh, no, no, no I remember what he did! Oh he might say he's repentant now, but he wasn't repentant when he was stealing that money! He wasn't repentant when he was doing this." That's not the mind of Yahweh. That Yahweh **wants us** to be like Him.

He wants us to **embrace that person** like the prodigal son. I mean you could look at the story, *The Prodigal Son*, and you could look at it two ways. You could look at it the first way and say, "Man that's not justice! Look at this guy. He used all the father's money. He wasted everything. The brother, who was faithful, now he gets less; and that's justice?" But that's not the way Yahweh wrote it.

Yahweh wrote it in a way to show a father's heart. And a father's heart is, **no matter what a child does, all he wants that child to do is change**. And even if that child cost him every single penny he worked for and in the end changed, and turned his life around, there's no parent in the world that wouldn't be happy at that. And now He's saying, "You are My children and you're brothers and sisters, exhibit that to each person ... exhibit that to one another."

Matthew 9 ... Matthew 9 in verse 9, it says:

Matthew 9:9-11 *And passing from there, Yahshua saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, Follow Me. And rising up, he followed Him. And it happened as He reclined in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners having come, these were reclining with Yahshua and His disciples. And seeing, the Pharisees said to His disciples, Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?*

Comment: So now we're 2,000 years removed. We know the story. We see Matthew wrote a great "good news" for us. But think about it. Put yourself back there 2,000 years. And you really don't know Yahshua too much yet. You heard the stories. You hear He's doing miracles. And here it doesn't make sense though. "Isn't He the son of Joseph and Mary? Let me go. They said there's going to be this message He's giving over here on the Mount of Beatitudes. Let me go hear what He has to say."

Now all of a sudden you come and *"That's Him? He's sitting there with tax collectors and harlots, drinking wine! What on earth is going on? That guy, He can't be righteous. He can't be."* Maybe we would've. Maybe we would've thought that, right? And that's why, don't judge by appearance, **judge by righteous judgment**.

And what does Yahshua say?

Matthew 9:12-13 *But Yahshua hearing, He said to them, The healthy are not in need of a doctor, but rather those sick. But learn ... but going, learn what this is, "I desire **mercy** and not sacrifice." For I did not come to call righteous ones but sinners to repentance.*

So again, how could He heal the person if He's not in their midst? How would Matthew ever become the apostle that he did if Yahshua didn't give him the opportunity? So again, the same way **we don't want Yahweh judging us from our past**, we want to make sure that we don't do that to others the same way. **Yahweh wants repentance, not sacrifice**; what He says in the book of Joel, *"Rend your hearts and not your garments. Rend your hearts and not your garments."*

In Hebrews 9 ... Hebrews 9 in verse 11, it says:

Hebrews 9:11-13 *But Messiah having appeared as a High Priest of the coming good things, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, of this creation, but through the blood of bulls and goats, but through His **own blood**, He entered once for all into the Holy of Holies, having obtained for us everlasting salvation. ... Praise Yahweh ... For if the blood of bulls and goats, and the sprinkling of ashes **of a heifer** on those having been defiled, sanctifies them to the purity of the flesh,*

Comment: So what is he talking about here? He's talking about the mikvah. And he's talking about ceremonial uncleanness. And that if somebody can go out and be unclean or defiled or sin, and now, they're going to go and do the sacrifice and they're going to doing their mikvah and that's going to make them pure ... at least according to Torah ... he says:

Hebrews 9:14-15 *by how much more the blood of Messiah who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to YAHWEH, will purify your conscience from dead works, to serve the living Elohim! And for this reason he became the Mediator of the New Covenant, that He might by his death be redemption, to them who had transgressed the first covenant; so that they, who are called to eternal inheritance, might receive the promise.*

So that's why I say, there is **no sin the world** that Yahweh can't forgive. He didn't come and call the highest people. He didn't call the Pharisees, and He didn't call the best religious ... the ones that look the best like we just saw. He's calling the prostitutes and the tax collectors. And He's calling the lowest people in society.

So shame on somebody that lives in guilt. Because like he says ... how on earth can you live in guilt when **Yahshua willfully came to earth to die for our sins?** And I always say, even if you were the only person on earth that ever sinned, if every single human being was righteous but you, the plan would have been the same.

He wouldn't have said, "Well, you know something? We got a whole bunch of good people. It's only Don! I'm not going to go. I'm not going to waste *My* life on him." Of course not! You really ... you have to take it personal. That He came to earth freely; suffered, lived thirty some odd years in a human body; He went through everything you can imagine; every sickness, every temptation like the Bible says ... without sin of course. But He did it for each of us. He did it for us.

So what ... I always say, when you're feeling guilt ... and it doesn't mean you shouldn't feel guilt when you sin. Guilt is an emotion. And what did we say? **Emotions are trigger points. So that guilt should be leading us to an action of repentance.** But when it's **un-merited guilt**; when it's just ... I've had people that won't be baptized because they said, "You know I just can't believe He could ever forgive what I did."

You know maybe somebody had an abortion. Or maybe somebody did something. Who knows what it could be? But I tell them, "You know what you're doing? You're putting your sin above Yahshua's sacrifice." "Oh, no, no, no I'm not!" "Oh yes you are! Oh yes you are! He came to earth and He suffered and died so that your guilt can be gone. And if you're going to raise your guilt above the level of His sacrifice, you're putting your sin above His sacrifice. And that's self-righteousness. That you're saying, '*Well He could ... His sin can cover everyone in the world but me.*' You're making yourself more important than everybody in the world! It may not be your intention, but just pray about it. Just think about it. It's exactly what you're doing."

He came so we would not have to live in this kind of guilt. And think about this, why sometimes do people live in guilt? Sometimes people live in guilt because other people won't let them forget what they did. That's what happens a lot of times. It could be a husband. It could be a wife. It could be a friend. It could be brethren in the Congregation.

In Kenya, they had this crazy thought ... don't ask me how they ever got this ... that the unpardonable sin was adultery. That you cannot be forgiven for that sin. So when I was there one time, there was a guy sitting in the back of the room and they said, "Oooh, you see him? He committed adultery." I said, "Well, if he committed adultery, what is he doing here?" They said, "Oh no, it was like thirty years ago." "Well, did he repent?" "Oh yeah, he repented but he's never going to get salvation. So we make him sit in the back of the room to shame him every week." I think, "Oh wow, what an awful thing." And that guy is probably going to be higher in the Kingdom than just about everybody in that Congregation. The first will be last and the last will be first.

But do we realize that sometimes when someone does something and somebody sins, they got enough guilt on their own. And as brethren, when we don't forgive them **after they repent** ... I'm not saying to be **appeasing the sin**. I'm talking about after the person maybe was put out of the Congregation, or maybe he didn't have to be put out. Maybe they repented and we're still holding that against that person. We're avenging, we're leading into them **living in guilt** because we're not allowing them to be forgiven. And here it is, Yahweh may have forgiven that person and we're holding back the forgiveness that Yahweh has.

If we go to Luke 22 ... because I want to show two of the top leaders in the New Testament, both had **major reasons** to live with guilt. Luke 22 in verse 54 ... Luke 22 in verse 54:

Luke 22:54-61a *And laying hold of Him, they led Him away ... talking about Yahshua ... to the house of the high priest. And Peter followed at a distance. And lighting a fire in the middle of the courtyard, they were sitting down, Peter sat in the midst. And a certain female slave seeing him sitting near the light, and looking intently at him, she said, this one was with Him. But he denied, saying, Woman, I do not know Him. And after a while, another seeing him said, You also are of them. But Peter said, Man, I am not. And about an hour intervening, a certain one ... a certain other one boldly charged, saying, Truly this one also was with Him, for he also is a Galilean. And Peter said, Man, I do not know what you say. And immediately, while he spoke, a cock crowed. And turning, Yahshua looked at Peter.*

Comment: Yahshua ... can you imagine? You've all been to the House of Caiaphas. You've all been in that courtroom. Can you imagine Yahshua already going through that beating, that suffering? They have Him in chains and He's **listening** as Peter is saying, "I don't know Him!" And directly sees Him right there.

Luke 22:61b-62 *And turning, Yahshua looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the Words of our Master, how He told him, Before a cock would crow, you will deny Me three times. And going outside, Peter wept bitterly.*

Remember what the Bible says, Yahshua said, *"If you deny Me, I'll deny you, in the day of the resurrection."* And yet, Yahshua also told Peter though, "You are going to be the leader of this Congregation. Afterward when you repent, and after you receive the Holy Spirit, go out and strengthen the other people!" Do you think there was a reason why He allowed to deny Him three times? Because **if you don't feel the forgiveness of Yahweh in your heart, you are never going to forgive anybody else.**

If you don't understand your nature, if you don't understand what Yahweh did for you and the sacrifice Yahshua did, you're going to live in a world of self-righteousness. You're going to **think** by being a little bit above the world, that somehow by what you are, you're earning your salvation. And it doesn't work that way. The way ... *the first will be last and the last will be first. And he who wants to be greatest among you, let him be your servant.*

And the way you're going to grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Master is **embracing His grace and knowledge and then living that by showing it to other people.** And here it is, Peter ... look at this! And look at what he was able to do. And **that guilt that he had**, he was able to **use that and turn that around** toward what? By living a life toward Yahshua.

But believe me, till the day he died, I'm sure he didn't forget that! And I'm sure when there were situations where he had to make decisions for other people, he thought about the mercy that Yahweh had for him, and that Yahshua had for him.

The other example is the Apostle Paul ... 1st Corinthians 15 ... I mean I'm not going to go to Acts the 8th chapter. We all know what Paul was doing. While Stephen was getting stoned to death, Paul's holding their coats and he's **consenting to it.** 1st Corinthians 15 in verse 6. He's talking about Yahshua appearing to the people after His resurrection, he says:

1st Corinthians 15:6-10 *Then He appeared to over five hundred brothers at once, of whom are still standing until now, but some also fell asleep. Then He was seen by Jacob, then by all the apostles; and last of all, He was also seen by me; ignorant and imperfectly trained as I was. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Congregation of YAHWEH. But by the grace of Elohim I am what I am, and His grace which was toward me has not been without fruit, but I labored **more abundantly than all of them**, yet not I, but the grace of Elohim who is with me.*

And if you read through Paul's epistles, you don't have to put too much together to see that, at least before conversion, Paul definitely had a problem with pride. There's no doubt about it. He was a Pharisee of Pharisees. He likes to tell us, "Let me go off here a minute and tell you what I'm doing."

But let me tell you something, Yahweh and Yahshua worked in his life to take that pride and **turn it into strength.** Because **his pride turned into faith and humility** that he got because he realized what he was doing. He realized all these things that he thought were for a great reason turned out to be for nothing!

But think about how many times he may have went into a place to bring the Word of Yahweh ... Now, we see the Apostle Paul who did what? He raised the dead, he did miracles, he healed people. But that would do you no good if he killed your child. If he might have been consenting to have your child killed. And who knows how many times he walked in a Congregation, and they said, "Yeah! That's easy for you to say! You had my kid killed!"

And he had to live with that guilt. And even if that didn't happen, it's still the fact that it did happen. Even if someone didn't tell him that it happened, He did it. So he had to **live with that guilt** but he turned the guilt around. He overcame it. And it humbled him to help him to be a better person and a better apostle.

Because who knows? If that didn't happen, maybe he wouldn't have been saying he's the least of the apostles. Remember there's a riff there. We see with him and Peter and the other apostles at times. Maybe he would have been saying, "I'm the chief of the apostles!" But no, Yahweh had a way of keeping him humble. And this was part of it.

How many brethren may have held bitterness for Paul because of his persecution? **Guilt should humble us** but sometimes guilt is from our pride and embarrassment. So guilt ... there's like I said, it's not that we don't want guilt at all. You need guilt. It's a **trigger point to change**; like with Peter and with Paul.

But sometimes, **we feel guilt not because we feel we hurt Yahweh**, not because we're repentant. Sometimes, we feel guilt simply because we're embarrassed we got caught. And as I'm going to read here in a second, there's two types of guilt. There's two types of guilt. There's worldly sorrow and there's Elohim sorrow. Sometimes we feel guilt because we're not forgiving other people that we perceived wrong us. There's all different reasons for having guilt. And there's guilt that's justified, and there's guilt that's not justified.

2nd Corinthians 7 ... 2nd Corinthians 7 in verse 8, he says:

2nd Corinthians 7:8-9a *For even if I made you feel sorry in the epistle, I do not regret, even though it caused sorrow, for I see that although the letter grieved you, it was only for an hour. Now I rejoice, not that you were grieved, but that your sorrow led to repentance.*

Comment: Now we're going to get into this in the next Scripture, how this same person in **1st Corinthians 5** that Paul is saying, "Put him out of the Congregation. Give him over to Satan! Not because we don't like him because we want him to repent." And that's what he's talking about here. We're going to see the person actually did repent. He says, so if he makes him feel sorry he's not sad about that if it turned him toward repentance.

2 Corinthians 7:9b-10 *Now I rejoice ... verse 9 ... not that you were grieved, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were grieved over the things of Elohim, so that you lack nothing from us. For sorrow over the things of Elohim works enduring repentance of the soul, that brings one to life. But the sorrow over the things of the world cause death.*

This is profound; and this is big! Because **all of us when we get caught feel guilt**. But like I say, the person who's before the judge and he's reading, "I am so ... what's that word?" "Sorry ... sorry!" "Sorry that I did this." No, they're not sorry that they did the sin. They're sorry they got caught.

So we don't want to mix up Elohim guided guilt, that is there as a trigger point that we're doing something wrong, to change, to worldly sorrow. Worldly sorrow that we got caught; and how do we get around this now, to the next situation? **Worldly sorrow feels sorry for what we lost, not what we did**. Worldly sorrow feels sorry for what we lost, not what we did.

Many times, worldly sorrow will bring pride and bitterness. Because we start blaming other people. Because we don't want to look at ourself. We don't want to repent. We want to blame somebody else. It's their fault that this happened or that's happened. Worldly sorrow feels sorry for what we lost, not what we did. It has pride and it has bitterness.

So again, we want to make sure that when we do something wrong and there's guilt there, we rectify it. We fix it. That's what repentance is all about. It's not just saying 'I'm sorry'. It's about rectifying the situation. And people that have repented of their sins, we want to make sure we're forgiving them. We want to make sure we're not just holding people in guilt because we perceive that they wronged us. Because then what are we going to do? We're going to build a root of bitterness as we're going to see. And in the end, we're only going to hurt ourself more than the others.

So let's go to 2nd Corinthians 2 and let's see this very person that was talked about in **1st Corinthians 5**, what happens here. 2nd Corinthians 2 in verse 4, he says:

2nd Corinthians 2:4 *For out of much trouble and agony of heart I wrote to you, through many tears, not that you be grieved, but that you know the love of which I had abundantly toward you.*

Comment: So this is where he was talking about in **1st Corinthians 5** where he's writing to them, like he says, with tears. He says:

2nd Corinthians 2:5-7 *But if anyone has grieved, he has not grieved me, but from in part, that I not overbear all of you. The rebuke of many persons is sufficient for such a man. So that on the contrary, you should rather forgive and comfort him, that he not be overcome by excessive grief (or guilt).*

Comment: Now Paul's saying, "Look, the guy's already repented. You know I'm going to come and beat him over the head some more if he repented of the sin, now's the time to embrace the person.

2nd Corinthians 2:8-11 *So I beseech you to confirm your love to him. For to this end I also wrote that I might know the proof of you, if you are obedient in all things. But to whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For also if I have forgiven anything, of whom I have forgiven, it is for you, in Messiah's person, so that Satan does not take advantage of us, for we know his devices.*

And how does he work? He works with our pride. He works with building a root of bitterness. He works with, "Yeah, but remember what they said about you? Oh yeah, but he didn't really do this." And somehow, we want that person, even though maybe he's been forgiven by Yahweh and forgiven by the Congregation, **we want them to live up to our standard!** "But he still did this to me! But he still hurt me there!" And what are we doing? We're playing right into Satan's devices.

And I'll tell you something ... and I'm going to get into it later when we get into the prayer, the Father's prayer that Yahshua gave ... I know for me it's a real easy subject because I know two things. I know, number one; that every day of my life I need Yahweh's grace and forgiveness. And if I don't give it to somebody else, I'm not going to get it.

But number two; I know what that's going to do for me. And I don't know if everybody thinks this way, but I'm a very focused person. When somethings on my mind, I can't think of other things. And that's why I want to get it done and now I can do this.

And when there's a problem ... that's why the Bible says, "*Don't let the sun go down on your wrath.*" When there's a problem with someone, if I don't deal with it **then**, now all night I'm going to be thinking about this. And then the next day, I'm going to be thinking about it. So what I want to do is, I want to deal with it. "Ah, now I can go to bed in peace."

And what will happen is, if you **don't deal** with this kind of thing, if you're feeling wronged, you're going to build a root of bitterness. And then as time goes on, you may not even say anything to the other person, right? And they might not even know that you're bitter, but you know it. And it eats inside of you and it's going to destroy you.

So now you're a third party. You had nothing to do with the person that sinned or whatever that was put out. Now he's back in the Congregation, repented, doing great and everything else, and you're building a root of bitterness to yourself. So this is the thing you want to deal ... you don't want to deal with.

1st Peter 2 ... 1st Peter 2 in verse 18, he says:

1st Peter 2:18 *Servants, be obedient to your masters in all fear, not only to those good and forbearing, but also to perverse ones.*

Comment: So it's good. It's not, like we said, Yahweh's way ... Yahweh has a character that's the same. It doesn't change. So we're not only good to people that are good to us. No, we follow the mandates of Yahweh no matter what. It's not that, "Oooh, this guy's evil! Now I can go and be evil back to him." He says:

1st Peter 2:19-20 *For this is favor before Elohim, if because of conscience, anyone bears grief, suffering unjustly. For what glory is it if you patiently endure suffering because of your sinning? But if you are suffering while doing good, and patiently endure, then your glory is great before Elohim.*

Comment: So even if you feel you were wronged. Even if you feel you never got justice in your life, you know what? You were just blessed by Yahweh for that then. That he says that! If you suffer for something you didn't do, this is glory. And why is it glory?

1st Peter 2:20-23a *For what glory is it if you patiently endure suffering because of your sinning? But if you are suffering while doing good, and patiently endure, then your glory is **greater from Elohim**. For **you were called to this**, for even Messiah suffered on our behalf, leaving behind an example for us, that you should follow in His footsteps; "Who did not sin, nor was guile in His mouth;" was reviled, He didn't revile back;*

So when you have the ability to do this, when actually ... maybe it's even that way ... maybe somebody did something, right, and you got put out of the Congregation. Somebody said, "You stole the money!" And it wasn't you. And now the other person is there. And then later, maybe it's two years later ... you see this sometimes happen with prison. A guy will be in prison for thirty-five years and they find he didn't really do it. Well, what do you do from that point? Yeah, you can have bitterness and anger and, "I lost thirty-five years of my life" or you could say, "Praise Yahweh I still ... I'm still alive. I have a day to move on."

But one thing he tells us here is that when we suffer for something we didn't do, we're clothing ourself with the Spirit of Messiah. **He's allowing us to experience exactly what He went through** and way worse than we'll ever go through. But when we do the opposite, when we're holding a root of bitterness, when we're thinking we were wronged in some way, when we're not forgiving another person, you're destroying yourself. You're destroying yourself.

Not only you're (*should be* not) being like Messiah, you're being like Satan! You're definitely ... you're destroying the Holy Spirit and quenching it within you. And that's what he says. One of the greatest gifts He gives us is to allow us to suffer like He did.

If we go to Hebrews 10 ... Hebrews the 10th chapter starting in verse 11 (*should be* 10) ... very interesting chapter ... he says:

Hebrews 10:10-13 *by which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Yahshua once and for all. And indeed every priest stands day by day ministering, and offering the same sacrifices, which can never take away (the penalty of) sins. But He Yahshua sat ... He Yahshua offering but one sacrifice for sins, "sat down" in perpetuity "at the right hand" of YAHWEH, from then on expecting "until His enemies are placed as a footstool" under His feet.*

Hebrews 10:14-18 *For by one offering He has perfected in perpetuity the ones being sanctified. And the Holy Spirit witnesses to us also. For after having said before, "This is the covenant which I was covenant with them after those days, says YAHWEH: Giving My Torah on their heart, and I'll write it on their minds;" and He adds, "I will not at all still remember their sins and their lawless deeds." But where remission of these is, there is no longer offering concerning sins.*

Comment: So again, the same way that our sins are forgiven and Yahweh forgives, we have to do the same with the others. We have to do the same. Because it's an ongoing offering in perpetuity, and once the sins are forgiven, they're gone. He says:

Hebrews 10:19-22a *Therefore, brothers, having **confidence** for the entering of the Holy of Holies by the blood of Yahshua, which He consecrated for us, a new and living way through the veil; that is, His flesh; and having a Great Priest over the house of YAHWEH, let us draw near with a **true heart** in full assurance of faith, our hearts having been **sprinkled from an evil conscience**,*

Comment: And this is what I say. When we're not forgiving somebody, we're holding an evil conscience because we're holding back our forgiveness.

Hebrews 10:22b-25 *and our body having been washed in pure water; ... our baptism ... let us hold fast the confession of the hope un-lying (should be unyielding), for He who has promised is faithful. And let us consider one another, the*

*incitement of love and of good works, **not forsaking the assembly of ourself together**, as the custom of some, but exhorting, and by how much more when you see the Day draw.*

Comment: Now it's very interesting in that ... in this, ... is when you contrast this to what we're reading here, as far as forgiveness, there were actually brethren who were not forgiving other people. And they wouldn't meet with them. They were saying, "No, we're not going to meet with him. And this person, we won't meet here." What does he say here? He says, "*Not forsaking the **assembly together of ourself**, as the custom of some, but **exhorting**, and by how much more when you see the Day approaching.*" And now here's the interesting part, he says:

Hebrews 10:26 *For if we are **willfully sinning** after receiving the full knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice concerning sins,*

Comment: So if somebody that Yahweh's forgiven ... and Yahweh has given this person repentance ... and we don't give the hand of fellowship and we won't even ... "I'm not coming to services if that person is there!" He says we're sinning against Yahweh then. Because you know what we're doing? Let me read on ...

Hebrews 10:27-29 *for he is ready for the fearful judgment and "zealous fire being about to consume the adversary. He says " For if he, who transgressed the **law of Moses**, died without mercy, at the mouth of two or three witnesses; how much more punishment do you **think** will be thought worthy to receive, the one **trampling the Son of YAHWEH**, and counted the blood of the covenant **as common** in which he was sanctified, and having insulted the Spirit of grace?*

Comment: Do you realize when Yahweh forgives somebody and we don't forgive him and hold something against him, we are insulting the Spirit of grace! So yeah, you can equate this to somebody who is *willfully* sinning against the Torah, without a doubt. But without a doubt, you could also equate this to people that are not showing forgiveness towards somebody else because it's the same grace. There's only one Master! There's only one grace!

And **grace is unmerited pardon for something we don't deserve**. So whether that's in **our life** by going out and continuing to sin and making Yahshua's sacrifice common; or it's not by not forgiving somebody else that Yahweh's already forgiven! And we're holding a grudge against that person, we're doing the same thing because **we're saying** in our mind, we're not allowing Yahshua's grace to cover that person's sin and why?

"Because they did something to me!" If it wasn't you, you could easily forgive it, right? We're not going to hold it against ... if this person sinned against somebody back here in Oklahoma. "But if he sinned against me. I'm going to hold a grudge." And by holding that grudge, you are **literally** denying the Spirit of grace. You're denying the sacrifice Yahshua made in that person's life. He says:

Hebrews 10:31 *It's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living Elohim ... Then he says:*

Hebrews 10:32a *Therefore, remember the former days, those in which you received baptism,*

Comment: Right? Because at baptism we know these things; at baptism, we **think about the grace**. At baptism **we're willing to forgive everybody** because we know we're being forgiven. And he's equating this back to the people's baptism saying, "Don't forget that. If you're holding a grudge, don't forget it."

Hebrews 10:32b *for you endured much tribulation; indeed being exposed both to trouble and reproach you became an object of ridicule; and you'll become companions of those men who have endured these things.*

Comment: So he's saying at your baptism you didn't have pride. At your baptism you were willing to forgive. So why now are you holding up so much grudge in these things? He says:

Hebrews 10:34 *For also you had **pity** on those in prison; and you accepted the seizure of your possessions with joy, knowing yourselves to have a better and abiding possession in Heaven.*

Comment: So he's equating back in the time when people were first repentance (*should be* repentant) when they had more mercy and they had more grace in their life. He says:

Hebrews 10:35 *Then do not throw away your confidence, which had great reward ... But you need patience... you need patience, that having done the will of Elohim you may obtain the promise.*

Comment: Like I was saying, self-control and patience, so important. Because the **only thing** that keeps us from Yahweh destroying all of us is His patience. If He didn't have patience, none of us would be here because it's very easy for Him to get sick of us. Just look at Mount Sinai, what did He say to Moses? "I'll get rid of all of them!" But praise Yahweh for His patience. And then he talks about:

Hebrews 10:37a-39 *The time is short ... "But the righteous shall not ... The righteous live by faith;" "but if he draws back," "My soul is not pleased with him." But, we do not belong to those drawing back, which leads to perdition; but to the faith which restores our soul.*

So this is what we want to do. We don't want to move back. We want to move ahead. And I'm telling you, if you're holding a grudge, if you have bitterness in your heart, you will never do it. You will never do it. It will get worse and worse and worse.

Luke 14 ... Luke 14 ... you know I say, it's really interesting ... because if you look in Scripture, Scripture never says you have to like your neighbor or your brother. I don't know one Scripture that says it. It does say you have to love your neighbor or your brother, and there's a big difference. Because how do you love somebody?

You love somebody by exhibiting this in your life. You love someone from not stealing from them, for not lying to them, from keeping all the Commandments; of not giving back evil or evil. You show love to somebody that if they're ... if they need something you give to him. And it's the same way in the body of Messiah. As human beings, we're not going to like everybody. At least not to the same degree, but we do have to love everybody. And you can't let personal feelings of maybe you don't like somebody, for whatever reason, affect you from loving them.

And it's really interesting when we look here at Luke 14 verse 11, He says:

Luke 14:11 *For everyone exalting himself will be humbled, and the one humbling himself will be exalted.*

Comment: So again, it all gets back to pride. The reason why we want to hold a grudge or hold something against somebody else, it's pride.

Luke 14:12-14 *And He also said to him who had invited Him, When you make a dinner or supper, do not call your friends, or your brothers, nor your relatives, nor your rich neighbors, lest they also should invite you in return, and it become a repayment for you. But when you make a banquet, call the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind; and then you will be blessed, for they have nothing to repay you. For it will be repaid for you in the resurrection of the just.*

So my question is, would you invite someone in your home who offended you? If Yahshua's saying you should be going out and calling the blind and the lame (*should be lame*), shouldn't it be to our own people? Shouldn't it be to our own brethren? Like He said, "*When you make a dinner, do not call your friends, or your brothers, or your relatives, or your rich neighbors, lest they also should invite you, and it become a repayment for you. But invite the ones who cannot repay.*"

Matthew 5 in verse 38 ... one of the most amazing Scriptures because it really ... Yahshua brings His disciples to almost an un-human level ... Matthew 5:38, He says:

Matthew 5:38-39 *You heard that it was said "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth;" but I say to you, Do not stand against the evil; but whoever strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.*

Comment: People have asked me about this. Does it mean if somebody is attacking you and they punch you that you should ... it's not talking about that. It's a Jewish idiom. And what it means is, that if somebody hits you on one cheek, turn to him the other. What it means is, if somebody hurts you ... maybe you lent somebody money, right? And they don't pay you the money back. And you say, "Oh, I learned my lesson! I will **never lend anybody money until the day I die!**" But what happens?

By doing that, now you just cut yourself off from maybe helping hundreds of people. It's happened to me many, many times. You don't know how many times that we've helped and we've lent and people made commitments and they never did it. But if I let that affect my mindset, I wouldn't help anybody else out. So like He says here, you turn the other cheek. What it means is, **you forgive**. But if you forgive, you're opening up that you could be hurt again. You're opening up that you could be hurt again.

So whenever you do that – to love, there has to be someone you're loving. And you know what that means? **When you turn and you love somebody, that means you might get hurt**. And yeah, there's people who don't want to get hurt so they don't love. But if you don't love, who are you hurting? Only yourself. Only yourself. Because Yahweh is love and you'll never be like Yahweh then.

So I would **rather be hurt by ninety-nine people** to have the one that I could really love and be like Yahweh ... much rather. But again, when we hold grudges, we hold that back. We hold it back. Because now all of a sudden we're not going to help people. We're not going to do it. So like He says, turn the other cheek.

Matthew 5:40-45 *And him desiring to sue you, to take your coat, allow him to have your cloak. And whoever will compel you to go one mile, go with him two. He asking you to give, and wishing to borrow from you, do not turn away. You have heard that it was said, "You will love your neighbor" and hate your enemy; but I say, Love your enemies; bless those cursing you, do well to those hating you; and pray for those who take you by force and persecute you, so that you may become sons of your Father in Heaven. Because He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and unjust.*

Matthew 5:46-48 *And if you love those loving you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you only greet your brothers, what exceptional thing do you do? Do not the tax-collectors do the same? Therefore, become perfect (or complete), as your Father in Heaven is perfect.*

So wow, I'm not even talking about loving the evil person out there, although we're commanded to do it. I'm talking about loving each other. I'm talking about in the Congregation, holding grudges against each other. Of people that won't meet with each other; people that won't see each other. Of brethren that are sisters, brothers in the Congregation! That ... that's a given when you're one family.

This is talking about the outside people! But he who is faithful in little is faithful in much. And if you can't even love each other as brothers and sisters, how will you ever get to this point and become like Yahweh? But like I said, it's a risk we have to take. It's a risk we have to take. To me, it doesn't make a difference because **ultimately I want the love of Yahweh**. And like I said, I'll risk that time after time, after time, even if I lose. Because I know in the end, the love of Yahweh, if you're chasing that, you're going to get it. But I know that grudges, guilt, bitterness, pride – that's not going to get me to the love of Yahweh.

Ephesians 4 ... Ephesians 4 verse 22, he says:

Ephesians 4:22-23 *Lay aside all former practices and put off the old man, having been degenerated with deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,*

Comment: Great Scripture! Because we all want that; we know where we were before and we want to become that new person. Nobody wants to live that way but you got to do something about it. We each have free will. You have to surrender to Yahweh and His Spirit.

Ephesians 4:24-28 *and be ... and put the new man, who is created by Elohim in righteousness and true holiness. Therefore, put away from you lying, and speak the truth each with his neighbor; for we are members one of another. "Be angry but do not sin;" do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the Devil a chance. The one stealing, let him steal no more, but rather let him **labor**, working what is good with the hands, that he may have something to give to the one who has sinned.*

Ephesians 4:29-30 *Let not any evil word go out from your mouth, but the words that are good and useful for edification that it may impart a blessing to those who hear ... Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks ... And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of Elohim, by whom you were **sealed** to the day of redemption.*

Comment: And that's what we're doing when we're holding bitterness. We're quenching the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:31-32 *Let all bitterness, and anger, and wrath, and tumult, and evil speaking be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind toward one another, **tenderhearted**, forgiving one another, even as Elohim has forgiven us through Yahshua Messiah.*

Just where we started, we're coming full circle here; that the grace that Yahweh gives us, the most impassionate thing in our life. Unless we share it with other people we'll never get the one that we want from Him.

Jacob 3 in verse 13 ... Jacob 3 in verse 13, he says:

Jacob 3:13 *Who is wise and knowing among you? Let him **prove his works** by his good behavior, in meekness and wisdom.*

Comment: So again, many times people will say, "Oh I've forgiven him." But **it's by your works you'll be known**. It's by your works you'll be known. So it's the same like the scripture that says if your brother comes to your house in the middle of the night and he's hungry and you say, "Hey, we'll pray for you" and you don't give him food you're not living by the Commandments.

So the same way, we can't just say the words 'I forgive the person'. And then our actions show the opposite! "Oh, I forgive him. I just don't want to meet with him. I forgive him but I won't sit next to *him*." That's not forgiveness. **Psalms 103** – Yahweh says **He puts our sins from the east to the west! And praise Him for that!**

And the same way, we don't want Yahweh remembering the things **we did in our past**. And that's why, shame on sometimes new believers that want to talk about their sins of the past. You want to forget them. Praise Yahweh, He forgot them. I don't want to bring up to Him things that I'm glad He forgot. But we need to be the same way. If we're going to forgive somebody, **we have to forget**. We have to forget. And we have to give somebody the opportunity again.

Does it mean that we might get hurt like I said? Yeah, you might get hurt. They may burn you again but **in the long run you will get so much more from the Spirit of Yahweh** than the little bit more hurt you might get in your life. And the hurt we get, like we saw, it's only going to humble us anyway and bring us closer to Yahweh. So continuing here in verse 14, he says:

Jacob 3:14-18 *But if you have bitter jealousy and contention in your heart, do not boast and lie against the truth. This is **not the wisdom** coming down from above, but this is **earthly, sensual, devilish**. For where jealousy and contention are, there is confusion and every foul deed. But the wisdom from above is first truly perfect, then peaceable, gentle, **obedient, full of mercy** and good fruits, **not partial** and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for the ones making peace.*

Our greatest job as an ambassador is a peacemaker. And like I have here in the note, it says: *Peace doesn't just happen. It has to be made.* And I go into this at the school. Is there peace in your marriage? Is there peace in your family? Is there peace in your job? Everywhere you go you should bring peace because that's what our job is.

And if there's not, we have to start questioning. "Why isn't there peace in my life?" Because over here like he says, "*The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for the ones making peace.*" Peace is something you have to **strive for**. And it's something you have to create. You create an environment for it. And then **sometimes when there isn't peace you have to be a peacemaker** and try to bring people together and make the peace. And that's our job.

Hebrews 12 in verse 14 ... Hebrews 12 in verse 14, he says:

Hebrews 12:14-17 *Eagerly **pursue peace** ... same thing ... **and holiness** ... sanctification ... **with all**, without no one will see YAHWEH. Watching **diligently** that not any lack from the grace of YAHWEH, that "**no root of bitterness** growing up" may crowd "in on you", and through this many are defiled; ... So again, a root of bitterness is going to defile you ... *That not any fornicator, or profane one, as Esau, who for one meal gave up his birthright; for you know that afterward desiring to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place of repentance, although seeking it out with tears.**

And that's what we said. Is it the repentance of the world that's just sorry you got caught? Or is it the real repentance of Yahweh that we're pricked in our heart because we did something that violated His character or violated His Law? And it's important here because I don't want a root of bitterness growing up in my life. I don't want it. Because I know what it will do. It will destroy the Holy Spirit.

And this is where faith comes. **And remember you're saved with grace through faith.** And faith to me is, "You know what? I'll give you the benefit of the doubt. You say you repented. I'll believe you because I trust in Yahweh and I know you can't kid Yahweh. I'm only a human. You could lie to me. You could deceive me but you can't deceive Yahweh." And in the end of the day ... that's what I say with forgiveness ... you're not letting the person off the hook. **You're giving the judgment to Yahweh.**

And if the person really repented then everything's great. And if they didn't repent, on Judgment Day that sin is still up for them. But when we hold grudges, what we're doing is, we're saying, "**I am** the lawmaker and **I'm** the lawgiver. And no, I'm not giving it over to Yahweh! I want to handle it myself." And that's where the root of bitterness comes. And then what happens?

You get to the point that if you go too far in this, you become like Esau. You become defiled. We're defiling our birthright. And you become so perverted in your mind, we become like Satan. That somehow Satan **really believes** if he took a lie detector test, he thinks he's right! He thinks Yahweh wronged him. And that's what happens when you build a root of bitterness. And you can't let it. You can't let it. It will destroy you.

So I would **much rather let ninety-nine people wrong me** than build a root of bitterness. Because I don't want to be destroyed. And I know whatever happens in *this life* it's only to the destruction of the flesh. But I don't want my spirit to be destroyed. And if you allow grudges or guilt it's going to destroy your spirit. It's going to build that root of bitterness against you.

Satan is the king of pride and bitterness. And he accuses us day and night before Yahweh, **Revelation 12** because of **jealousy**. That he thinks we took his job. He looks at us as nothing. These creatures down there. These humans that are defiled, and they took my job.

And sometimes we're thinking that. Sometimes we're thinking, "This person wronged me! I'll never forgive them!" And a lot of times it is only pride because you were embarrassed. Maybe you we're feeling hurt, whatever the feelings are. But it's not the love of Yahweh. We have to let it go. **Pride is the root of all bitterness; unmerited guilt, grudges against others.** It all comes from pride some way or another but it's not outgoing concern.

Matthew 18 ... two more scriptures and we'll end up here ... Matthew 18 in verse 21. Like I was saying before, and at the end of the day, no matter even if we are somewhat justified in the wrong that somebody did to us, unless we forgive others, we will not be forgiven.

And I know in the end of the day when Judgment Day comes ... like I said, **all of us** when the blinders come off we see through a glass half darkened ... **all of us are going to be shocked** at the things that we **thought** that weren't. And that's why I say, the one thing I know for certain that can't change though is, that **if I show love and mercy and kindness I can never go wrong.** I might find out something that I thought on a certain doctrine wasn't exactly like I thought it was. I might find out that on one of the letters in Yahweh's name was a little different. I might find out a lot of things. But I know I will never find out that showing love and mercy and kindness and forgiveness was not the right way to go.

So we see it here in Matthew 18 in verse 21:

Matthew 18:21-22 *Then, Peter drew near to him and said, My Master, how many times should I forgive my brother with who is at fault? Should I forgive him up to seven times? ... we know seven; the number of completion. And here's what Yahshua said ... Yahshua said to him, I do not say, until seven times, but rather till **seventy times seventy seven** ... that's the way it is in the Aramaic ... *seventy times seventy seven.**

Matthew 18:23-27 *Because of this the kingdom of Heaven has been compared to a man, a king, who desired to take account of his slaves. And having begun to reckon, one debtor of ten thousand talents was brought near to him. But he not having any to repay, his master commanded him to be sold, also his wife and children, and all things, as much as he*

had, even to pay back. Then falling down, the slave bowed the knee, and said, Master, have patience with me, and I will pay all to you. And being filled with pity, The Master of that slave released him and forgave the loan.

Matthew 18:28-30 But having gone out, that slave found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii. And seized him, **he choked him**, saying, **Pay me what you owe me**. Then having fallen down at his feet, his fellow slave **begged him**, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay all to you. But he did not, having gone away he threw him into prison until he should pay back the amount owed.

Matthew 18:31-35 But his fellow slaves, seeing the things happening, they were **greatly grieved**. And having come they reported to their Master all the things happening. Then having called him near, his Master said to him, Wicked slave! **I forgave you all that debt**, since you begged me. Ought you not to have mercy on your fellow slave, as I had on you? And being angry, his Master delivered him up to the tormentors until he pay back all that debt to him. So also My heavenly Father will do to you unless **each of you from your heart** forgives his brother for their offenses.

So it's not just saying the words. It's truly **forgiving from the heart**. And it's **understanding why you have to forgive because you need forgiveness!** And if you're holding a grudge and you're not forgiving someone, you know what that means? **It means that you're not understanding Yahweh's forgiveness to you.** It means you're filled with self-righteousness and pride. It's that simple.

Because **if you understand Yahweh's forgiveness in your life, there's no way that you would go out** and you would put somebody in prison who owed you a dollar when you owed a million dollars. No, it's only because of somehow not realizing or not coming to grips with what each of us owe Yahweh. And we owe Him **way more** than anything that somebody owes us.

Matthew 6 ... the last chapter I'm going to go here. Yahweh's mercy is forgiveness. Yahweh's mercy and His forgiveness is endless. We have to have the same mindset. Matthew 6 in verse 9 ... Matthew 6 in verse 9, He says:

Matthew 6:9 So, then, when you pray, pray this way, Our Father who is in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.

Comment: How important is the Father's name? Every prayer starts with giving glory to the name of the Father; the name above all names. The family name of Yahweh.

Matthew 6:10-12 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as it is in Heaven, also on the earth. Give us the bread of our need this day, and forgive us our **offenses** as we also have forgiven those who have offended us.

Comment: So this a prayer we say every day. Like I said before you go to bed every night you should be saying this, "Forgive me Father for things I did **as I forgive others** who have offended me."

Matthew 6:13-15 And do not lead us into trial, but deliver us from the evil one, for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. For if you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their transgressions, neither will your Father forgive you your transgressions.

So it's very clear. It's a very clear precedent here. That we need to forgive others or Yahweh is not going to forgive us. We must pray every day and ask for forgiveness. How can we do this if we're not forgiving others **from our heart?** Which means we put it to the east to the west. We're not just saying it. I've seen sometimes even with brethren, you get together, you go over something, people kind of give this half hug and then they walk out of there offended. And some of them will even leave the Congregation over offense.

Leave Yahweh's Congregation over what? Pride ... it's pride. And like I said it shows a person like that can't understand what they need from Yahweh every day of their life. Because **it's not something you just get the day you go into baptism.** It's something we have to "live in a constant state of His grace" that we need all the time. And there's **no way** we can live in that state if we're holding grudges against other people.

Yahweh's greatest gift He gives us is **His grace** and His forgiveness to us by His Son Yahshua paying the penalty of our sins by His shed blood. But like I said, the second greatest gift He gives us is the **opportunity to share this grace with others and forgive them and reconcile when they repent.**

So, again, I'm not saying to allow sin in your Congregation. I'm not saying to compromise with Yahweh's morality. I'm talking about **after repentance** is made. And even like we said in the beginning, when someone does have to be put out, it's an act of love. Not we're putting someone out because we don't like them. We want them to repent, that's what is the goal; **repentance and reconciliation**.

If we harbor resentment and bitterness to others, we risk building a root of bitterness and may be missing out on the Kingdom. When one sins and is put out of the Congregation, if they repent we must welcome with open arms. And thank Yahweh who **granted them the repentance** and not judge our **own standards** or our own self-righteousness. But show mercy, love and forgiveness as Yahweh does with us.

So like I said when Yahweh grants a person forgiveness and they repent and they come back in the Congregation, if we're holding a grudge what we're doing is, we're denying that grace that He gave. Like I said in **Hebrews 10**, when we're denying the grace in somebody else's life, then we're denying it in our life.

So, *Forgiveness, Guilt, Grudges, and Pride* – the greatest gift that Yahweh gives us is His grace. Yahweh bless. Shabbat Shalom.