Inspection Phase of our Lives Before Passover

...and other Moedim 'Appointed Times'

The inspection phase of our lives should occur every day, but especially prior to partaking in Passover and other appointed times. Passover is our Melchizedek Covenant Confirming meal with our Groom. We come to Yahusha, just as we are, but He refuses to leave us that way. When we approach Him by faith with a sincere and repentant heart, we are immediately 'justified' when we receive Him as Savior and enter His Covenant. Our garments are thereby washed by the blood of the Lamb and we become spotless. Being justified means 'just-as-if' we had never sinned. **Justification** is the first phase in our walk with Him. When we give our life to Yahusha, He removes our sins as far as the east is from the west by His death, burial, and resurrection. In exchange, He cloaks us in His righteousness. No one can come to the Father except through the Son, Yahusha. He is the way, the truth, and the life. Therefore, before participating in the Covenant Confirming Meal at Passover, we must be spiritually washed by Him and be born anew or born again.

Participating in Passover is done in remembrance of Him. It is no longer we that live but it is Messiah that lives in us and through us. Behold all things are made new.

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Only those individuals that have received Yahusha as the Messiah, the spotless Lamb of Elohim, should participate in the Passover elements of Bread and Wine, the Melchizedek Covenant Confirming Meal. Passover is done once a year on the 14th day of the first month (Abib). An alternate day was set-up for those, that due to various circumstances, were not able to observe Passover in the first month. If that was the case, they could observe Passover on the 14th day of the second month.

The next phase in our walk with Him is <u>sanctification</u>. Daily we learn how to live a 'set-apart life' dedicated to Him and live according to covenant Torah. We invest time in building our relationship with our living Savior and with each other. We are <u>daily</u> <u>washed by His Word</u> which cleanses us in His living water and identifies those things in our lives that are not pleasing to Him for removal.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, <u>as Messiah also did love the assembly and gave Himself for it,</u>

Eph 5:26 in order to set it apart and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, footnote: f Rev_19:8-9.

He is the Good Shepherd and the Door of the sheepfold. Daily we interact with the Shepherd as He loves us, and we love Him. The Good Shepherd inspects us for things that can be harmful to us. We are His sheep. He anoints our head with oil and His rod and His staff they comfort us.

How do we inspect our lives before participating in Passover, the Melchizedek Covenant confirming meal? How do we present ourselves at His table?

- 1. We should ask ourselves if our lives are bearing the fruit of the Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit)?
 - a. Love
 - b. Joy
 - c. Peace
 - d. Patience
 - e. Kindness
 - f. Goodness
 - a. Trustworthiness
 - h. Gentleness
 - i. Self-control
- 2. If we are not bearing the fruit of the Ruach HaKodesh; we should seek His help in cleansing our temple of those things that are not pleasing to Him. For instance, if we struggle with anger, then we should pray that Yahusha would help us in that area. Some times we may need healing from broken-heartedness; some of us may have fragmented souls from past trauma; others may need deliverance from strongholds. Only Yahuah can heal us. He is the Potter and we are the clay. Our hope and prayer is that His Ruach HaKodesh will burn brightly in our lives. We receive healing and growth by praying, praising Him, and reading His Word for answers. We should seek other members of His kingdom of priests that can help us grow in weak areas and hold us accountable.
- 3. Our daily goal should be to:
 - a. Do the will of the Father by staying in His Word and keeping His Covenant Torah.
 - b. Have the mind of Yahusha. Follow the example Yahusha gives us in His Word.
 - c. Have our emotions align with actions, words, and deeds that reflect the fruit of the Spirit.
- 4. In Him, we are the temple and we are Israel, born from above. We are made up of spirit, soul, and body. We should inspect our temple, our <u>soul and body</u> for 'leaven'. 'Leaven' is participating in wrongful actions and beliefs that are affiliated with any worldly or false doctrines of men that are contrary to His Word.

The Ruach HaKodesh lives in our <u>spirit man</u>, therefore, that is the only area where we cannot sin. <u>Our soul realm</u> and our actions done in <u>our body</u> most certainly can sin. Removing 'leaven' in our soul and body realm and desiring healing & growth, should be our focus prior to Passover and other appointed times. By meeting every Sabbath and on His moedim (His appointed times), we continue to grow and 'unlearn' things that are false or harmful, as He teaches us

His truth. These appointed times are our wedding rehearsals with our Groom.

- 5. We should inspect our physical homes as well for 'leaven.' Leaven includes literature such as books written by 'hireling pastors', 'Christian Zionist' pastors, New Age literature including Yoga, and other worldly lustful magazines, CDs, videos, internet sites etc. Any literature or worldly knowledge that is not pleasing to YHWH that invokes the lust of the eyes; the lust of the flesh; and the pride of life should be removed. We should separate ourselves from things that become idolatrous through TV programs, possessions, sports, pagan holidays and festivals. In general, we should ask YHWH to help us identify and rid ourselves of activities, music, and literature that are not pleasing to Him and are not truthful.
- 6. We should inspect and care for our physical bodily temple by making sure we are eating clean foods for optimal health and getting enough exercise and rest. We should be guarding the 'gates' of our bodies our ears in what we hear; our eyes in what we see; our mouths in what we take in; and our reproductive and digestive tracts for purity. We should be free from mind altering substances and use our hands for good and not for evil. The Feast of Unleavened Bread, reminds us of leaven we may have in our lives spiritually or physically.
- 7. We should evaluate 'who' we are listening to and only give ear to Him, our Good Shepherd. There are several voices that speak to our inner man:
 - a. His voice
 - b. The voice of the enemy
 - c. Our own fleshly voice and desires.

We should ask ourselves – What voice are we 'tuned in' to? What voice are we heeding? His sheep know His voice.

I pray this short article was found helpful in pointing the reader to knowing how to begin inspecting one's life inwardly, outwardly and upwardly before Passover or any 'appointed time' with Him. Each day He sees and meets our daily needs, not necessarily our wants. We let go of living life 'our way' and choose to live life 'his way.'

If a gardener doesn't inspect his plants; if a shepherd doesn't inspect his sheep; if we as His kingdom of priests do not inspect our temple; then sinful spots, blemishes, rot, parasites continue. Spots and blemishes can move from plant to plant; sheep to sheep; or our sinful spots can not only affect us but those around us. The answer is our daily washing in His Word; confessing our sins to Yahusha and others; forgiving ourselves and forgiving those that trespass against us; and walking in obedience to our covenant with Him.

Ignoring our issues or making excuses will not heal us or help us grow. If issues are left unaddressed, they can grow bigger and become deeply rooted in our lives. They can even lead to poor health: mentally, physically, psychologically, emotionally, and/or spiritually. Sin and 'leaven' need to be promptly dealt with.

We live in a fallen world full of unclean 'leprosy'. Worldly 'leprosy' is the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit. Worldly 'leprosy' infects lives with sinful spots and blemishes. One doesn't leave a rotting tomato or potato next to other fruit and vegetables. Likewise, as His kingdom of priests, we should be good 'fruit' inspectors in our own lives and in the lives around us. We each are known by the 'fruit' we bear.

A Master Gardener prunes the branches in his vineyard to bear more fruit. The plant is touched by the Gardener and the branches submit to painful pruning. The alternative is a fruitless plant that would be cut down, gathered, and burned. We should willingly submit our lives to Yahusha, the Master Gardener, to remove those things in our lives that do not align with His Word.

We can choose to cover ourselves with the 'fig leaves' of excuses; cover others we love with 'fig leaves' of excuses; or we can choose to expose and treat the sinful spot, blemish, or seek healing for broken heartedness. If a gardener or shepherd makes excuses for a sickly garden or flock, would that be showing His love? No.

Heb 12:5 And you have forgotten the appeal which speaks to you as to sons, "My son, do not despise the discipline of יהוה, nor faint when you are reproved by Him,

Heb 12:6 for whom יהוה loves, He disciplines, and flogs every son whom He receives."

Pro 3:11-12.

The Word is living and breathing and sharper than any two-edged sword. The Word is Truth. The Word is Life. The Word is to be guarded. The Word is to be front and center. The Word is His Living Water. The Word is our Bread. The Word is our Healer. The Word is our Protector. The Word IS Yahusha HaMashiach, our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. One day soon, we will receive the last phase of set-apartness, our bodily **glorification**. Selah.

The Good Shepherd has gone before us to prepare the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.

Psalm 23

יהוה is my shepherd; I do not lack.

2He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters.

3He turns back my being; He leads me in paths of righteousness For His Name's sake.

4When I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil. For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5You spread before me a table in the face of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup runs over.

6Only goodness and kindness follow me All the days of my life; And I shall dwell in the House of יהוה, To the length of days!

Shalom, Libby