

No Excuses, You Know Who's Asking, So Just Do It!

“Now ADONAI said to Avram, ‘Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed’”. (Genesis 12:1-3, JNT)

What if Avram's answer to Adonai would have been “Thank you very much G-d, but I do not want to leave my country, in fact I am quite happy and comfortable right here. And my relatives! Well they are all I have in the world. We are a very close family. I would hate to have to leave them. Another thing L-rd! I do not pay any rent living at home, and I do not think I can get a better deal than this. Also my mother and my wife really get along well, so much so that I am treated like a king in my father's house. I think I would like to stay thank you. But can you bless me here instead?” Can you imagine Avram having answered Adonai like this? NEVER, right? Yet thousands, maybe even millions, of believers in Yeshua HaMashiach turn G-d down all the time!

Ok, perhaps not for exactly for the same request like leaving home, country and family, but certainly for similar ones. For instance: Adonai has asked every believer to serve Him; in fact we were created to serve Him. Yet how many believers have dreamed up every excuse possible not to serve G-d and have chosen instead to be content with staying where they are and as they are?

The Lord wants us to get out of our comfort zones and do things for Him that we would have not normally done before we were believers. He tells us to “Fear not,” He says, “I will never leave you or forsake you” (Heb. 13:5), yet we reject His instructions by claiming to be too shy, not a people person, not like getting dirty, to have a germ phobia, not like driving out of my way, not like driving at night, to be too tired from working all day, to have a problem with homeless freeloaders and so on and so on!

Yeshua at one time in His travels encountered a rich ruler. This probably meant that the man was a Pharisee or perhaps a Sadducee, and this is how the conversation went between them: “And a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Yeshua said unto him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good, except, that is, G-d. You know the commandments, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not kill,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honour your father and your mother.’” And he said, “All these have I kept from my youth up.” Now when Yeshua heard these things, He said to him, “Yet you lack one thing: sell all that you have, and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven: and come, follow Me.” And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. Yeshua looked at him and said, “How hard it is for people with wealth to enter the Kingdom of God!” (Luke 18:18-24)

You are probably thinking, “What a foolish man! I would have never turned down Yeshua!” Yet you probably have – many times! Have you ever turned down serving G-d because the timing did not fit into your plans? Have you ever chosen to do something personal on the Shabbat, something that you could have very easily rescheduled for another day, even if rescheduling it would have inconvenienced you? Well then you are as guilty as the foolish man!

Another favorite excuse used by many believers goes like this: “I will start working for the L-rd as soon as....” And then you can add in a myriad of reasons such as: my job allows me the time, I am not so busy, I have a place to live, my business starts doing better, I am not so tired, etc, etc. “To another he said, “Follow me!” but the man replied, “Sir, first let me go away and bury my father.” Yeshua said, “Let the dead bury their own dead; you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God!” Yet another said, “I will follow you, sir, but first let me say good-bye to the people at home.” To him Yeshua said, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and keeps looking back is fit to serve in the Kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:59-62)

You can add in your own “as soon as,” if you know what I mean? It is remarkable how quick we are to justify ourselves and our own actions or inaction. “*He that loves their father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loves their son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he that does not take up his cross, and follows after Me, is not worthy of Me. He that finds his life shall lose it: and he that loses his life for My sake shall find it.*” (Matthew 10:37-39)

We are to be like *Yeshua* HaMashiach. The whole sanctification process we are going through as believers is to make us less like our old selves and more like *Yeshua*. What characteristic of *Yeshua* are we supposed to emulate? Here is a good one: “*Even as the Son of man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many*” (Matthew 20:28)

Avram was asked by *Adonai* to do something that is perhaps much more than you will ever be asked to do. Yet He did it without question and without excuse because he knew who was doing the asking. You also know who is doing the asking, so why all the excuses? Let us pray...