

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

*“Now YHVH 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)*

*“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Come, Adonai Yeshua.” (Rev. 22:20)*

*“The next day he saw Yeshua coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29)*

The theme of our conference is “*Bo, Yeshua, Bo*” which is translated as Come, Yeshua, Come. We find this text in Rev. 22:20. It was John’s response to the recorded words from the Lord himself: ‘Yes, I am coming quickly.’ (Rev. 22:20) I like the KJV rendition of the Scriptural text: “Even so, come Lord Yeshua.” Even so?

What if Avram’s answer to Adonai would have been “Thank you very much God, 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 Lord! 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 God 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 God 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. Rabbi Jason called these things “epic” in his message last night. 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 being a people person, not liking getting dirty, claiming to have a germ phobia, not being comfortable driving out of our way, not liking driving at night, to be too tired from working all day, to have a problem with homeless freeloaders and so forth 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, God. 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 and I probably have – many times! Have you ever turned down serving God because the timing did not fit into your plans or your schedule? 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, if so, 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 Lord 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) Here is another one: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt 11:29-30, KJV)

As I am becoming older, I find that I am a bit hard of hearing and hard of seeing. I must wear reading glasses and people often need to be asked to speak louder. I see family members and friends asking someone to "speak louder so he can hear you." It does not do the ego much good, yet it is absolutely true. I think the Body of Messiah also suffers from the same infirmities as I do: hard of hearing (*shema*) and hard to see (vision). Let me camp on healing for a while (speak about Rabbi Goldstein's healing, teaching and visit). Also speak about the drastically different approach to praying for healing and the fact we/I in Kol Simcha are experiencing many miracles. What is the difference in me personally? I heard what Don Goldstein said and took it straight to my heart and I got the vision about what it means to be healed. I understood that the "price was fully paid" and that healing is a consequence of Calvary, not of my righteousness. There is no merit involved. It was all obtained by *Yeshua* and it is the Father's pleasure to give it to bring glory to His Son. So what if you do not merit anything? The fact is you and I will never merit anything from the Lord. So then, I had to retrain my mind, I had to experience a metamorphosis as is spoken about in Romans 12. If someone asks for prayer, my job is to build the faith in the person so that they are convinced they already have it. When they do, they themselves can do the praying and receiving and I am just a witness. I can pray for their obedience, or for them to be filled with the Spirit or for gratefulness to the Lord. When they leave, I do not have doubts that they will be healed, and if they do not have doubts, guess what, they are healed. It is so much more fun to operate this way.

*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...