

## When He Beholds Us

Perhaps of the greatest renditions of a superb song is Sandi Patti singing Dottie Rambo's song "We Shall Behold Him." If you have not ever heard it or experienced it, fortunately for us it is preserved for us in YouTube: see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZ3H3lg9NZM>. Amazing isn't it? Can you imagine beholding the Lord, our Savior, our Passover, our Lover, and our Life, our everything! What would it be like if He beheld you? There are at least three occasions where it is recorded for us that He did. Today as we celebrate His Ultimate Gift to us, I thought it would be good to remember, review and reconsider.

### ***When the world and its possessions have a great hold on my life...***

The first instance I want to consider is recorded in Mark 10:17-23 and in Matt 19:20-22. I love the KJV rendition of Mark 10:21: "*Yeshua beholding him loved him...*" Can you imagine such a moment? The Lord of Glory is looking into the eyes of your soul and He is loving on you, even now. How will you (I) respond? Will you (I) love Him back? Will you (I) upon opening the deepest area of our being return to Him something beautiful, something good?

<sup>17</sup> *As Yeshua was setting out on His way, a man ran up to Him, fell on his knees before Him, and asked, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"* <sup>18</sup> *"Why do you call Me good?" Yeshua said to him. "No one is good except One—that is God.* <sup>19</sup> *You know the commandments, 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony,' do not cheat, 'honor your father and mother.'*" <sup>20</sup> *The man responded, "Teacher, all these I have kept since my youth!"* <sup>21</sup> *Looking at him, Yeshua loved him and said, "One thing you lack. Go, sell as much as you have, and give to the poor; and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me."* <sup>22</sup> *But at this statement, the man became sad and went away grieving, for he had much property.* <sup>23</sup> *Then looking around, Yeshua says to His disciples, "How hard it will be for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"* <sup>24</sup> *The disciples were amazed at His words. But Yeshua answers again and says to them, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!"* <sup>25</sup> *It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."* (Mark 10:17-23)

<sup>20</sup> *"All these I've kept," the young man said to Him. "What do I still lack?"* <sup>21</sup> *Yeshua said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you own, and give to the poor; and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me."* <sup>22</sup> *But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving, for he had much property".* (Matt 19:20-22)

If the world and its possessions have a great hold on my life, will I be able to respond to Him like I want to? Will I respond like I should? The problem is that He himself said: "*How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!*" We excuse this passage by saying to ourselves that we are not wealthy; therefore we will not have that problem. But there have always been times in my life when possessions and material things have exerted tremendous pressure in my life and I know that I have been tempted to yield. Will you today search deeply in your soul and see if you are not also tempted to hang on to material things over *Yeshua*.

### ***When we are determined to sin and follow through with our selfish motives ...***

Why do I say, "when we are determined to sin?" You might say "I am never determined to sin". I disagree. It reminds me of the silliness of keeping the clothes that do not fit me when I have lost weight. I reason "I might need them if I slip up." Really? If you are dieting, why go to the Uppercrust Bakery? If you are short in money, why go to the mall? If you do not want to drink, why go to the bar? The reality is that sometimes in our lives we make decisions that will gratify our flesh and often we are confronted with the multiple-choice test. For example, I may have decided to do this and that, fully knowing that I may be choosing my values, my agenda, and my choices over His (e.g., His Shabbat, or His Feast, or His Way). But then something else comes along and all of a sudden He is there confronting me with my choice(s). What will I do when instead of condemning me (which is what I expect) He loves me instead?

<sup>47</sup> While Yeshua was speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judah, one of the Twelve, approached Yeshua to kiss Him. <sup>48</sup> But Yeshua said to him, “Judah, with a kiss you betray the Son of Man?” (Luke 22:47-48)

<sup>48</sup> Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, ‘The One I kiss, He’s the One—seize Him!’ <sup>49</sup> And immediately Judah drew near to Yeshua and said, “Shalom, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. <sup>50</sup> “Friend,” Yeshua said to him, “do what you’ve come to do.” Then they came up and threw their hands on Yeshua and seized Him. (Matt. 26:48-50)

How often have you (I) betrayed Him? We would like to say never when we should say just a little while ago. We know to do good, we know the correct behavior, but we turn away. Often it is because we had arranged for a reward. Do not kid yourself, Scripture says there is a reward for sinning, and the enemy convinces us that it is not death, but it is. Unless we can behold Him and His Love in the time of great sin, we will receive the agreed upon reward and then despair. When we follow our plan even when *Yeshua* in Love intercepts us and beholds us, will we respond in humility, fall on our knees and ask Him to forgive us or will we follow through with our fleshly plans and reject Him?

**When we have really let Him down and betrayed Him, but in response to His Eyes we repent ...**

Why do I say, “when we have really let Him down?” You might say “I will never consciously let Him down”. I disagree. You and I have let Him down, big time. We are those people to whom He said “Go Ye...” But we never went. We know Him. We know His Ways. We know His Torah. We have said “*Hineni*, Lord.” Have we delivered on what we have said? So how will we, His disciples, members of His Bride respond today?

<sup>61</sup> And the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, ‘Before the rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.’ <sup>62</sup> And Peter went out and wept bitterly. (Luke 22:62)

So what response are we prepared to give today? When we fail to be Pesach people; when the Blood after applied is ignored; when we leave the safety of the blood-stained lintels of His love and wander into the night of horrors and the world; when we mess up; and when we “knowing better” go ahead and sin and ruin our lives, the resurrection kicks in, and we are given a *second chance*. This is what Peter and the rest of the disciples experienced. The same power is available to us today. Is *Yeshua* really the Lord of a second chance? How often can we sin and be forgiven? Messiah addressed forgiveness in Matthew 18. It is seventy times seven!

We marvel at the possibility of having to forgive someone 490 times daily! Yet according to *Yeshua*, this applies to the Kingdom of Heaven of which you and I are citizens. How often can the L-rd forgive us? A lot more than Satan wants us to be aware of. The guilt of unforgiveness is among his choicest of weapons against believers. Are you weary and heavy laden with the burden of sin in your life? Won’t you resolve today to accept His forgiveness and start over as a solid citizen of the Kingdom, a child of the King? We also note that our release is conditional—it is entirely based upon our “*forgiving our brother from our hearts*.” Is there someone who has hurt you and trespassed against you that you have not forgiven? The Feast of Firstfruits beckons tonight. It is time to lay those burdens down. Choose to forgive and be yourself forgiven!

<sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. <sup>1</sup> My children, I am writing these things to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Intercessor with the Father—the righteous Messiah *Yeshua*. <sup>2</sup> He is the atonement for our sins, and not only for our sins but also for the whole world. (1 John 1:8-2:2)