

## When He Beholds US

Can you imagine ever beholding the Lord *Yeshua*? He is our Savior, our Passover Lamb, our Lover, our Life, and our everything! What would it be like if He beheld you? What would it be like if you had a vision of *Yeshua* where He looks intently at you and you are able to look intently at Him, at His face, in His eyes? 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.

Have you ever let the Lord down? Someone might say: "I will never let Him down on purpose". But I disagree because I have. You and I have let Him down, big time. Some of us are among those people to whom He said "Go Ye..." But we never went. We are those who know Him, we know His Ways, and we know His Torah. I believe here in *Kol Simcha* we have said "*Hineni*, Lord." The question I want to address today is: have we delivered on what we have said? So what are we, His disciples, who are members of His Bride going to do about it? There may be many disciples of 'Forgetful Jones' among us...



Forgetful Jones

*<sup>60</sup>But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" And immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup>And the Lord **turned and looked straight at (beheld)** 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: 60-62).*

Peter did not totally forget what had been said to him by the Lord just a few hours earlier: *<sup>31</sup>Simon, Simon! Indeed, satan has demanded to sift you all like wheat. <sup>32</sup>But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith will not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." <sup>33</sup>But Simon said to Him, "Master, I am ready to go with You even to prison and to death!" <sup>34</sup>But Yeshua said, "I tell you, Peter, a rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me" (Luke 22:32-34).* But he failed big time. When we fail to be *Pesach* people; when the Blood after applied in the lintels of our hearts 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 who know better go ahead and sin and ruin our lives, the resurrection kicks in, and we are given a *second chance*. You see *Yeshua* is the *Lord of the Second Chance*. This is what Peter and the rest of the disciples experienced. The same power is available to us today. Rabbi, is *Yeshua* really the Lord of a second chance? How often can we sin and be forgiven? Messiah addressed forgiveness earlier: *<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came to Him and said, "Master, how often shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Yeshua said to him, "No, not up to seven times, I tell you, but seventy times seven!" (Matthew 18:21-22).* Seventy times seven, Virginia? Yes, seventy times seven.

We marvel at the possibility of having to forgive someone seventy times seven (although the TLV states that the Greek phrase is literally seventy-seven) times daily! I admit that if someone requires more than two or three instances forgiveness in one day I am ready to discard him or her immediately! *Yeshua* said this applies to the Kingdom of Heaven in which you and I are citizens. How often can the Lord forgive us? A lot more than Satan wants us to be aware of. The guilt caused by unforgiveness is amongst Satan's choicest of weapons against us believers. Are you weary and heavy laden with the burden of certain sin in your life? I think Peter was devastated by his sin and guilt. But notice the first message of the Resurrection: *<sup>7</sup>But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you to the Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you'" (Mark 16: 7-8).* Go tell Peter? Evidently *Yeshua* IS NOT so angry with Peter that he is ready to reject him. In fact, He is not angry at all. Amazing! The Lord sends word to the disciples that He is coming to see them in the Galilee, and singles out Peter the traitor saying in effect "Peter, I want to see you!"

*Yeshua* appears to the disciples at night: *<sup>19</sup>It was evening on that day, the first of the week. When the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Judean leaders, Yeshua came and stood in their midst! And He said to them, "Shalom aleichem!" <sup>20</sup>After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Yeshua said to them again, "Shalom aleichem! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." <sup>22</sup>And*

after He said this, He breathed on them. And He said to them, “Receive the Ruach ha-Kodesh!”<sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; but if you hold back, they are held back” (John 20: 19-23). He is not only anger less with them, but also gives them a very important key to actually living and enjoying the Abundant Life He came to give us. That key is the ability we have to forgive anyone’s sins (but we also have the ability to hold people back, that is, to imprison people via unforgiveness). Do you believe this or are you like Thomas who MUST see in order to believe? “<sup>24</sup> One of the Twelve, Thomas called the Twin, was not with them when Yeshua came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples were saying to him, “We’ve seen the Lord!” But he replied to them, “Unless I see the nail prints in His hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand in His side, I will never believe!” <sup>26</sup> Eight days later the disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Yeshua comes, despite the locked doors. He stood in their midst and said, “Shalom aleichem!” <sup>27</sup> Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe!” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Yeshua said to Him, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed? Blessed are the ones who have not seen and yet have believed!” John 20:24-29

Won’t you resolve today to accept His forgiveness and start over as a solid and model 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**” (<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors... (Matthew 6:11-12) Is there someone who has hurt you and trespassed against you that you have not forgiven yet? The Lord of the Firstfruits of the Resurrection beckons today. He is beholding you. How will you respond to His Look of Unconditional Love? When He beholds us we can lay our burdens down. When He beholds us we can also behold Him, face to face. Today we can choose to forgive our debtors and be ourselves forgiven. That is the Power of the Resurrection – a Second Chance to get it right.

<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 1:8-2:3).

Are you ready to do this? As for me, I am taking full advantage of my second chances. Let us pray... Happy Feast of Unleavened Bread to all of you! *Chag Sameach!*