HOW DOES A MASTER SHOW HIS GRATITUDE TO HIS SERVANT?

A Revelation of Luke 17:7-10

 Before I went to bed, I listened to Steven ben Nun’s You Tube broadcast for April 1st. He read from **Luke 17** the words of our Messiah, that His Kingdom would not come by preparing for him as the rabbis are doing now. In looking that up in **Luke 17**, I began with verse 1. When I got to verse 7, I read something I did not understand. Why would a kind master not thank his servant for a job well done? I went to sleep pondering that. When I woke up at around 1:30, the answers came flooding in.

 **Luke 17:7-10**: “But who of you, having a servant ploughing or shepherding, would say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come immediately and sit down to eat’? But would he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare somewhat for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you shall eat and drink’? **Would he thank that servant because he did what he was commanded? I think not.** So also you, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants, we have done what was our duty to do.’ ”

 That shocked me. It seemed out of character for the awesome Yahushua that I know to say what appeared to be cold and callused. I have been a faithful servant to Him and I’ve loved it, yet He has never said “thank you” to me. However, I had been on the Isle of Patmos doing an assignment for Him in May of 2001, over the 50th anniversary of my new birth, May 13, 1951. I took a boat from Patmos to Samos. I flew from Samos to Athens to get a plane back to Jordan.

 On the day I was to leave, there was a national strike, so airplanes were not flying. All transportation was shut down, accept flights that were only scheduled every 3-4 days, like mine back to Jordan. Abba led me to a travel agent who led me to another travel agent where I hired a personal driver to take me to the airport in Athens. How I even got Jordanian dinar changed into US dollars to pay him is a miracle story, for exchange places were closed – accept the one I needed. The driver insisted on US dollars. As I sat in the airplane ready for it to take off with its very few passengers, I heard His sweet baritone voice say: “Well done, good and faithful servant.” I cried.

 In pondering **Luke 17:7-10**, I thought, “no thank you when a servant does as he’s told. That sounds like a hard-hearted task master.” I went on to think how people need encouragement, they need to know if their work is acceptable or not in their workplace.

 Then I thought of a boss over employees in a company. He might note a good worker and keep watch on him, but for doing his job well he probably would not say, “Harry I thank you for doing such a good job.” However, he might give the worker’s name to his boss and request that he review the man’s work and give a raise to the diligent worker. A worker does what he does to please the boss in order to assure his job is secure. Most workers don’t go to work because they want to get a “thank you” from the boss. They want a pay check. They want advancement in the company.

 However, in ancient times, a household or in-the-field worker would be housed by the Master along with his family who also served him. Working hard for a good master would show appreciation for what the master had done for he and his family. Thus, we see the reaction of such a good servant in **Deuteronomy 15:16-17**, where it is so good for them to be with a good master that they do not want to ever leave. So, the master marks them as his life-time servants by hammering an awl (like an ice pick) through the ear of the servant to a door – thus marking them.

 In **Isaiah 50**, Yahushua prophesies about Himself that His Father had “pierced His ear,” and He would go to the stake to pay our sin-debt.

 Being the ultimate example of a servant, the right arm and the right hand of Yahuwah throughout the Word, Yahushua is our Master. He was King David’s Master, as we read in *Psalm 110*. Refer to the article “King David’s Messiah -King David’s Master”/Mikvah of Israel, Our Eternal Inheritance.

 Yahushua said, “I am the door.” In the true new birth, we leave the old master of the dark kingdom, our carnality, our sins, and we become the servants of the Master Yahushua. We served the kingdom of darkness with all our heart, mind, soul, strength, so we must serve our deliverer/savior with even more zeal. He does not have to say “thank you.” We live in peace, joy, and thanksgiving that we have eternal life because of Him. Who needs a “thank you?” It is our life’s joy to serve Him, obey Him, and love Him. We ask with great gratitude for Him to pierce our ear to the door, marking us as one of His!

 In **Luke 17:7-10**, Messiah makes His point. We know He loves and appreciates us. So, how does He show appreciation for a good and obedient servant? In the business world an increase in responsibility and salary is the norm. In Messiah’s realm, an increase in responsibility based on obedience, discipline, hard-work, and trustworthiness requires a different approach.

 We serve our Master because we love Him, for “He first loved us.” We choose to serve Him because we don’t want to be away from Him. He is good to us, and we feel secure working for Him. He paid for our eternal life with His own life. We serve because we owe it to Him - we are eternally appreciative for what He did to save us. We serve because He loves us and we love Him. It is our privilege to serve Him faithfully and to get to know Him.

 What “raise” does Yahushua give us for our loving service to Him? That night in pondering these things, my first response of how He shows His gratitude is by His giving us His smile. His smile is worth all the money or honor in this world. He offers us friendship! He offers us His love, His support, His security, a place in His home forever. He offers us access to Himself, and to His Father. He shares with us things that are private, not for everyone else. He explains things to us, and brings us to understanding. We are taken into His confidence for He trusts His good servants. Because of His goodness, we want to serve Him all the more, and live with Him forever. We never want to be separated from Him ever!

 **John 15:7-16**: “If you stay in Me, and My Words stay in you, you shall ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. In this My Father is esteemed, that you bear much fruit, and you shall be My taught ones (disciples). As the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you. Stay in My love. If you guard My commands, you shall stay in My love, even as I have guarded My Father’s commands and stay in His love. These words I have spoken to you, so that My joy might be in you, and that your joy might be complete. This is My command, that you love one another, as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this: that one should lay down his life for his friends. **You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, for all teachings which I heard from My Father I have made known to you**. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name He might give you.”

 As in a secular job, it is our obedience to the rules of our employer that causes the boss to give a raise in pay, or a raise in position, or a raise in status of some type that raises us in pay and position. We get a higher job title.

 It is obedience to our Abba and our Savior-Messiah that causes us to be valuable to the Kingdom of heaven. Yahushua goes further with it. It is not in the doing of the command that brings the raises in His Kingdom – it is the attitude, the nature, the goals, of the servant/worker that bring the rewards. Many obey the commandments out of intellectual pride, thinking themselves better than others, thinking they are God’s righthand man, and therefore a “bit shot” in the Kingdom. Yet, we see that attitude squelched in **Matthew 7:21-23**. Messiah said to them, “I do not know you.”

 Taking on the nature of Yahuwah, walking in His ways, and building relationship so that we understand His thinking and reasoning, so as to know Him personally, goes far beyond ritual obedience. Yahushua rebuked the Pharisees for their arrogant, extravagant, and outward, show of piety and religiosity. They did it to cause men to hold them in esteem. Messiah said in **Matthew 5:20**, “…unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter the Kingdom of heaven.”

 He said in **Matthew 21:31** that the tax collectors, notorious for being crooks, and prostitutes, went into the Kingdom before the religious Pharisees. Those who come out of a life of sin and are transferred into the Kingdom of light by the salvation of Yahushua/Yeshua/Jesus/Isa are humble people. They know they’ve been rescued by someone who loves them. Therefore, so many rescued ones think it their privilege to witness to salvation of their Savior. People who think they are good, take on a head-belief, and do not witness to others of our Savior. The religious are proud and look down on all others who don’t think like they do. They do not know the nature, ways, or thinking of Yahuwah whom they say they serve.

 In **Matthew 18:1-4**, Messiah says that unless we turn and become as a little child (in faith, love, obedience) we will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. It is in this purity of heart that we shine before the Master, and He can reward us by His smile, even as a good parent smiles at a precious child whom they are proud of.

 He does not call His disciples `servant’; He calls them “friend.” We obey Him and He draws us into His inner circle. We never want for anything because He supplies all our needs. He trusts us and we trust Him. We develop an intimate, knowing friendship-relationship even as Abraham was called “the Friend of God.”

 **Matthew 25:21**: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in little; I will make you faithful in much. Enter into the joy of your Master.”

 Referring to the story above, in 2001, He sent me to Patmos with an intercession assignment. He had wanted me to go during the previous Yom Teruah for a duel intercession assignment, at the dawn of the 7th millennium. He had wanted me to represent Him there. I had come back in August from Uganda very weak from a second bout with malaria. I felt I could not go. Now my attitude is far different now. He said “go.” And because of my obedience He would have healed me. I asked Him if I could do my assignment from where I was staying in Jordan. However, I knew intercession has to be done on site. I felt awful in not going, but I did not go. I thought He would cancel the whole assignment. In the meantime, back in Texas, He told me to get the Lonely Planet travel guide on the Greek Isles. It was newly published. I bought it, but I thought I wasted my money because I had failed to go when He told me to go for Yom Teruah September 2000/2001 to Patmos. However, come late April back in Jordan, after I taught the Torah-portion at our gathering in Aqaba, He clearly told me to be on Patmos by May 10th. It was near the end of April. All I had to go by was the Lonely Planet travel guide. Using it, I planned out the whole trip. It was a marvelous trip.

 I flew into Athens, took the plane to Samos, stayed there 2 days, then took the boat to Patmos. I had the most wonderful time. I walked up the 2k and went into the cave where Yochanan/John received the Revelation. I read my papa’s notes on Revelation that he had written. In that cave, May 13th, He talked me through **Revelation chapter 5** – and told me why John wept. He showed me from John 11 how Mary also, as Yochanan, were representatives of His Bridal remnant. I took notes for two hours on what He taught me there.

 May 13th was the 50th anniversary of being born again. I had forfeited my first assignment, but the second part of it I could fulfill in May of 2001. I fulfilled my assignment. You know the conclusion of that (above)--His speaking the first part of **Matthew 25:21** to me on the airplane leaving Athens. But, never has He said to me “thank you.” Abba taught me through patience and love how important it is to obey and not ask questions!!! We owe Them so much – our eternal life was purchased at the highest price! Why should we ever see “thank you,” or the appreciation of man? We serve Them because They are so incredibly awesome! They are our Creators. To be called Their “children,” adopted into Their family, is the highest of privileges, far greater than anything angels can understand.

 Who needs “thank you” when you become part of His life, part of His household?

Relationship is made strong as two are able to trust each other with their life and the passions of their heart. I saw Him in Person on First Fruits 2003 at the ruins of Bethesda in East Jerusalem. As I entered the garden area, He said to me “after 38 years.” I began to cry. I got out a pad and pen and put down 2003. I subtracted 38 years and came to 1965, the very year I had made disastrous decisions that ruined a great part of my life. I cried harder.

 I walked to the entrance of the ruins, where, as **John 5** tells us, the man was healed by Messiah after 38 years of waiting by those pools. I was crying very hard. I looked up and saw Him standing there, beckoning me “welcome” to the ruins. I cried even harder. As I walked around the ruins, He healed me of mental and emotional pain and memories for 38 years of great suffering. I never had any more tormenting thoughts of the past, I was free.

 So, who needs “thank you?” Serving Him is my greatest delight. When you know Him, He shares His secrets, He shares wonderful things, even as Messiah showed Yochanan the Revelation and Daniel the visions of the end days. You become an insider. You are raised to a position of trust, of friendship, of special attention, of special favors, and eternal blessings too.

 The criteria for being part of His forerunning company of the last days is that there is mutual knowing, mutual trust, mutual friendship – one on one.

 In friendship, the Master takes His servant into His confidence. Abraham trusted his servant with all the business of the household and property. He sent him to find a bride for Isaac. He knew he could trust the man implicitly. The servant said, “I being in the way, Shaddai led me.” He and his master, Abraham, were “echad” with Shaddai/Yahuwah and with each other.

 Below are quotes from Michael Howard’s book *Tales of An African Intercessor*, 1998, from Chapter 25, pages 214-215 entitled “Slavery.” Michael Howard was taught by the Spirit in intercession. His obedience opened many doors to set whole nations free to receive the Good News of Yahushua.

 As Michael Howard points out in this chapter, you are either a “doulos” (bond-slave) of the Master Yahushua, or you are a slave of your flesh, your mind, and the demonic world that programs your mind. Messiah came to deliver us from slavery to “self,” and our being manipulated and controlled by the dark kingdom. If you are truly born again, you have a Master. I know that’s not western culture, but it is the culture of the Word and of ancient Israelites, including those in the 1st century CE.

 As the Passover Lamb and the Yom Kippur Lamb of Yahuwah, He paid the price for our sins, so that we might be free to walk in the eternal Kingdom of His Father Yahuwah. While people think they are “free” to sin against Yahuwah, or free to choose their belief systems, they are not free – they are slaves to those that control their minds – and the forces of darkness that manipulate.

 Michael Howard gives us powerful words, echoing what I have written and spoken for so many years, with precise accuracy from one who has given his life to set people free. From *Tales of An African Intercessor* by Michael Howard, page 217: “Jesus, Himself, the Greatest Intercessor, paid the ultimate price to set the entire human race free from the tyranny of sin and the shackles of the devil who hates men. And still, men love to return to the chains and prisons of that slavery which is so torturous and robs them of their dignity. Perhaps the worst form of slavery is religion, which makes false promises and presents false hopes to men who are manipulated by the systems, seduced by vain ritual, and captivated by its myths and mysteries.

 **Religion is the greatest robber of relationship with God**. This is precisely what the enemy of our souls desires and what he purposes to use in these last days as he seeks to establish a worldwide ecumenical movement which will embrace all persuasions in one great brotherhood similar to that which defied God in the plains of Shinar so long ago. It is this affront to the Lord Himself who will finally bring down His ultimate wrath on rebellious man. This is slavery, most arrogant and rebellious when men defy the living God and choose the prison of darkness rather than the freed of His glorious light. **All religious forms are slavery**…If ever there was a need for intercession to open the eyes of men to that which is coming, this is the hour before worldwide holocaust descends and sweeps literally billions into deeper slavery. Freedom is only in Jesus, for He declared `If the Son shall set you free, you shall be free indeed.’ (**John 8:36**).

 The world is on the verge of religious and physical slavery, the likes of which has never been seen. Nothing can stop what is coming, but intercession will prepare a remnant of uncompromising martyrs who will raise the standard of the Lord and give hope and courage to the faint of heart who will find it difficult to stand.

 Men everywhere are selling themselves for money to get rich quickly. And at the same time, man as a spiritual creature, albeit a rebellious one, will seek comfort in a religious system which demands conformity, for in conformity there is unity. The slavery of the next system which is going to sweep this planet is absolutely diabolic and will impact every person on earth in one way or the other. He stage is set and the players are in the wings ready for their cue.”

 Wow – this book was written in 1998! His words are surely prophetic of what we are experiencing right now on a global level! We feel the oppression of slavery right now, and we hear the rumors daily of the planned global ID and surveillance system. The great tribulation has begun and its speed is mind-boggling. Yahushua, as He said He’d do, is compacting time to “shorten the days” for our sake.

 Because we are at that time now, we must strengthen those who will face death for His sake, those who are fearful, those who do not know Them as They are, and lead many to salvation who would otherwise go the way of the Beast and be damned. Preparation for the coming of Yahushua Messiah is our message.

 Your assignment from the Master besides sharing the Good News of freedom/salvation in Yahushua/Y’shua/Yeshua is found in **Revelation 3:2**, “Wake up and strengthen that which remains and is about to die.” How you carry out that assignment is between you and the Master. But, if you fail and are an unworthy servant … well, before deciding to be an unworthy servant read **Luke 12:31-48**.

 The pattern for servants is found in **Acts 1:8** – start training, advance, and He will send you where He wants you to go. What He tells you, He fully expects you to do. If there are obstacles in your way, He will remove them! Guaranteed!

 Do you want the Master to say to you “well done good and faithful servant?
His thank you will be “enter into the joy of your Master.”

 I never wanted to be left out of anything the Master was doing. In Him is total peace, knowing He is in control, trusting Him implicitly with my life. He’s never failed me, even when I failed Him. I’ve gotten to know Him as He is, and I never want to be away from Him for one nano-second, not now, not for eternity.

The rewards of being His Friend are more than I could share.

 So, I challenge you to submit your life totally to the Spirit of Yahuwah and to knowing and loving the Savior, Messiah Yahushua as Friend.

In His love, Shabbat Shalom, Yedidah

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