

Gratitude & Breaking Out of Misery

I. The Best is a Given

We can miss the OPPORTUNITY hidden in the messiness of life.

I want you to see WHO you are and give you SIMPLE TRAINING to live according to your POTENTIAL!

Luke 12.1 ESV In the meantime, when so *many thousands* of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he ***began to say to his disciples first***, “**Beware of** the leaven of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy**. **2** Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. **3** Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

4 “I tell you, **my friends, do not fear** those who kill the body, ...

6 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And **not one of them is forgotten** before God.

15 And he said to them, “Take care, and **be on your guard against all covetousness**, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

22 And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, **do not be anxious about your life**, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on.

29 And **do not seek** what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. **30** For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and ***your Father knows*** that you need them. **31** Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

32 “**Fear not**, little flock, for it is ***your Father’s good pleasure*** to ***give you the kingdom***.

1. The TRUTH is personal and friendly

2. Live openly – don’t manage your image (hypocrisy)

3. Live for eternity – Don't be impressed with the temporary
4. Avoid Greed
5. Don't worry
6. Don't spend your life trying to get what belongs to you
7. **YOUR FATHER** (King of the Universe) has DELIGHT to make it all a GIFT! <righteousness, peace & joy>

II. The Blessing in a Raw Deal

Have you ever felt like you've gotten a raw deal, the short end of the stick? Ever felt sorry for yourself, unjustly treated?

Story of Leah: Her father set her up for a humiliating life full of pain and family discord. Didn't he think anyone would want to marry her? On the first morning of her marriage to Jacob, his response was shock, horror, unbelief, outrage. What good can come from being mistreated, victimized?

Gen 29.31 ESV When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

32 And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name **Reuben** (*behold a son*), for she said, "Because the LORD has **looked upon my affliction**; for now my husband will love me." (Suffering)

33 She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has **heard that I am hated**, he has given me this son also." And she called his name **Simeon** (*heard*). (Loveless life)

34 Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will **be attached to me**, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called **Levi** (*joined*). (Abandonment)

35 And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "**This time I will praise the LORD.**" Therefore she called his name **Judah** (*praised, celebrated*). Then she ceased bearing.

Thanksgiving becomes the Messianic Line of Deliverance!

She changed her focus from her troubles to YHWH

1. External Trigger – did something happen?
2. Perception – The eyes of her heart opened and focused
3. Response – Transformation;
4. Communication – Declaration and Action

Don't tell God about your troubles, tell your troubles about your God!

What if you can totally change your circumstances and legacy by the response you have?

Suffering, a Loveless life, Abandonment or Celebration?

III. Picture the Benefits

A. Gratitude Prepares The Way for salvation (deliverance, healing) Judah!

Psalm 50:23 NIV He who *sacrifices thank offerings* honors me, and he **prepares the way** so that I may show him the salvation of God."

Rom 5.3 NKJ And not only *that*, but we also **glory** in **tribulations**, knowing that tribulation produces **perseverance**; 4 and perseverance, **character**; and character, **hope**. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the **love of God has been poured out in our hearts** by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Our **CELEBRATION** gives the Holy Spirit permission to release the Kingdom! It lifts us beyond the natural into the supernatural.

It's as if, in our suffering, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit look down from Heaven, they say, "Look how he gives thanks even in this. Let's give them something to really thank us for!"

B. Faith in Goodness!!

Jas 1.2 ESV Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ... 4 ... that you may be **perfect and complete, lacking in nothing**.

The Shopkeeper and the Rabbi

A man owned a successful store in an outdoor market in central Jerusalem. The rent was very high, but it was a prime location, and it was worth it. God wanted to bless him, so one day another man opened a similar store right across the street. The dear store owner watched his sales dwindle until he couldn't pay his high rent and was about to lose everything.

He went to Rabbi Beniahu Shmueli, and told him the entire story. He included all the details and was seething with anger and frustration.

Rabbi Shmueli told him, "What has happened to you? The Lord did this to you — it's for the good! It's not the other guy, it's the Lord!"

The merchant protested no it IS the other guy, but he had some faith in Rabbi Shmueli and asked, "What should I do?"

Rabbi S. said, "Everything is for the good. Close your store and open it somewhere else where the rent is lower. You may not get as much as you're used to, but at least you will have some income. Accept this with love."

The merchant left angry and vexed, but he really had no choice, so he reopened his store in a cheaper area. Above the store a lonely old woman lived alone. The merchant realize this and took pity on her. He began to give her food and help her with chores that were too difficult for her. Be became like a son and did everything for her, expecting nothing in return.

One day as he was about to leave, the old lady asked him to come upstairs because she wanted to tell him something. He was tired after a long day and thought about refusing her, but in the end went up to her apartment. She began to tell him her life story, how she became a widow, lost her only son. Impatient, the mer-

chant kept looking at his watch. The elderly woman said, “Stop looking at your watch! You’ve given me so much, I’m just asking for one more hour.”

Then she got to the point. Her uncle passed away and bequeathed her five million dollars. Since she had no heirs, and since he was the only one who cared about her, she decided to bequeath the entire sum to him. She only asked that he would buy a room in a yeshiva in her name and that there would always be Torah learning in that room.

The merchant returned to Rabbi S to buy the room in the yeshiva. Rabbi Shmueli asked him, “Didn’t you tell me that you were losing everything?”

The man told him the whole story.

“You see,” said Rabbi Shmueli, “everything is for the best! When we’re being tested, we don’t understand what’s happening and why. We must toss out logic and cling to the faith that everything is for the best. We must praise HaShem with our whole heart and be happy all the time!”¹

We leave the Natural and Enter the Super Natural by a Gate

[Psalm 100:4](#) Enter his gates with **thanksgiving** and his courts with praise; **give thanks** to him and praise his name.

!V. Thanks Gives Our Father Permission to Bless

[Psalm 50:23 NIV](#) He who **sacrifices thank offerings** honors me, and he **prepares the way** so that I may show him the salvation of God.”

OPEN MY EYES!!

Whatever we concentrate on concentrates on us.

¹ Adapted from “The Garden of Gratitude” by Rabbi Shalom Arush pp. 97-98

Whatever we move toward, moves toward us.

Eph 1.17 NIV I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may know the **hope** to which he has called you, the **riches** of his glorious **inheritance** in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great **power** for us who believe...

Our words become worlds.

Let's come to him in THANKSGIVING

All who are weary... come to me and I will give you rest

All who thirst... come to me and drink and out of your belly will flow