

COME AWAY TO REST AWHILE

And He sent them out to announce the kingdom of God and to bring healing (Luke 9). They were the first missionaries commissioned to announce the Kingdom of God. These Apostles were very privileged missionaries under the authority of God Himself. For them there were no worry of any king. Every need was supplied. They were empowered with God's Spirit to heal and to exercise power over Satan and all demons. The will of YAHSHUA was going to be accomplished while they were announcing His kingdom. The purpose why they were chosen was for that purpose. Three years YAHSHUA trained them to do what He did, in the same power. It has never been God's purpose that men should be lost because of ignorance; His purpose was for their salvation. This was the reason why He came down to earth, sacrifice His life through rejection and ultimately His death. A price we could never pay for our humanity and sinful life. So, YAHSHUA called together the twelve disciples and gave them power and authority over all demons and diseases (Luke 9:1). I am sure that the trip was hard and tiring since they did not have the conveniences we do enjoy in our days. Dusty roads for one. YAHSHUA commanded them not to take supplies for the road for they were already supplied with all they needed. There would be plenty of dust for them to shake out of their feet at the rejection of the message, as YAHSHUA told them to do.

Under the authority of God Himself, although He wasn't there with them humanely speaking, the disciples took His authority and ran with it. Departing, they went about from village to village, preaching the Gospel and restoring the afflicted to health everywhere. Seeing the miracles, they became excited and reported to YAHSHUA all that they had done upon their return. However, YAHSHUA took them (along with Him) and withdrew into privacy near a town called Bethsaida (Luke 9:10). The disciples hadn't witnessed YAHSHUA'S action behind the scenes of their spiritual warfare, as they confronted the enemies directed, they were not aware that YAHSHUA knew what was happening. His power was with them as well as His authority. Otherwise, they couldn't have been successful.

As a matter of fact, we live in a world of spiritual warfare. Every day we must face temptations without being aware of it and often falling into it. The Apostle Paul writing to the Ephesians, brought to them the awareness of the need to be dressed with the complete armor of God at all times (Eph. 6) in order for us to wrestle against the forces of wickedness in the heavenly sphere. The disciples had YAHSHUA Himself, Who is the Word of God to fight with the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God (Eph.6:17). It is good to remember while we are serving the Lord what we have available to us. We have authority, power and the full armor of God. YAHSHUA well knew the extent of the spiritual warfare they had fought and recommended them to take time in a secluded place to rest in His presence. As a good Shepherd, He offers us rest in green pastures: "The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not lack. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters; He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." Sanctification is available to us in the quiet time in His presence. There, we are blessed with "His goodness and mercy and love; they shall follow all the days of my life, and through the length of my life the house of the

Lord shall be my dwelling place” (Ps. 23). YAHSHUA’S presence was promised to be with us all the days of our live. “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matt. 11:28). Our Lord offers spiritual rest, free from religious demands. Our Lord offers us a life of love and a life of grace. We will experience Him this way when we take the first step to rest in His presence. His Word becomes reality to our heart and soul, permeating our being with peace. Peace is a restorer and an elevator of our soul to Him.

YAHSHUA did not offer the heavy demands of the Law. He fulfilled those, since we were not able to fulfill them. By grace we are saved. It is a gift that keeps on giving from the time we accept Him ending up being taking to heaven where He is. Meanwhile, our duty is to love and obey Him. It is to find rest, infinite rest in Him, as He promised. Our Lord spent the night in the presence of His Father, being restored to answer to His call. Much more we need to follow His examples, as we are weak and depending on His strength day by day. Just think the dirty and dusty roads He had to navigate every day and all day. They had to walk many miles to get somewhere to shop and everything else. Life was an effort from the early morning. He didn’t call them without offering relief from the hard work they performed. They never lacked supplies to satisfy their needs. They had enough even to pass around through the miracles of fish and bread; the miracles of healing,

The disciples’ lives were enriched through YAHSHUA’S. But many who followed Him, continued rejecting the blessings He offered and those the disciples offered. For those, nothing was left to offer them, but to shake the dust of their feet in retaliation to their rejection of the message of the kingdom. The Apostle Paul’s messages were rejected many times, almost taken for dead, but nothing would stop what God had for him to do until death separated him from this world. He said, to this hour we have gone both hungry and thirsty; as we wear but one garment; we are roughly knocked about and wander around homeless (1Cor.4:9-13). Faithfulness guided Paul to the end, when he faced YAHSHUA face to face.

The world of today has become a restless world; a world of fast-pace with electronics leading the way, many ways away from the teachings of our Savior. “Come unto Me and I shall give you rest,” He invites everyone who desires to experience His rest. The book of Psalms is filled with guidance to God’s rest. Psalm 62:1: “For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation; O Send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling” (Ps. 43:3); “The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and each of them He delivers. O taste and see the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who trusts and takes refuge in Him” (Ps. 34:7,8).

When the Lord God called us to serve Him, He equipped us with all things necessary. 2 Peter 1:3, NLT “By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.” We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

Paul said, "I can do all things because Christ strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). The work we are called to do is not through ourselves alone, but through the strength He makes available to us. The disciples had the best Teacher and complete power available to them. But we do have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us to accomplish that which YAHSHUA accomplished through the disciples. But He did not only call us to labor, but also to rest in Him. It is in resting that our soul finds peace and joy in Him. The Bible says, "You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You, leans on You and hopes confidently in You; my soul earns for You in the night, yes, my spirit within me seeks You earnestly..." (Isa.26:3,9).

In the Song of Solomon, there is a call to the bride of Christ, desiring her to be near Him by saying, "My beloved speaks and says to me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land..." (2:10-13).

Where are you with your relationship with the Lord, my friend? Do you hear His voice calling you for a time of relationship and rest? Or are you too busying with the hustle and bustle of life? Nothing we do in this earth without spiritual value will last; only that that we do for Him will remain to eternity. Get out of your comfortable seat to help one in need, to comfort one in distress, to bring hope of salvation to one lost. YAHSHUA died for all; the message must be heard by all. Arise, my friend and declare God's eternal love. As someone shared with you, so share with others. It is time to run with the message of salvation, for the time is short. Look around! Perceive many getting lost. **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son for whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."** (John 3:16).

Do you believe that?