

March 25 2023
Letter to the Messianic Jews 13:5-08
Seder Socializing

Dad, are we pyromaniacs?
Yes, we arson.

What do you call a pig
with laryngitis?
Disgruntled.

Writing my name in cursive
is my signature move.

Why do bees stay in their hives during winter?
Swarm

[jokes from Ted Alongi]



*[Actually, a continuation of the series in Messianic Jews/Hebrews.
Last week I had a class on mechanics of Seder “how to”
This is “why”]*

Mes Jews/Heb 13.5-6 **Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”**

[ABOUT THE PASSOVER SEDER?

Restoring the Foundation: Abandonment is the foundation of all wounds. Wounded people wound people. Epidemic of loneliness. 2018 – 30%; 2019 – 58%

The Seder meal is the epitome of the expression of community. My memories at my grandparents are WONDERFUL.

The Seder meal represents LEAVING Egypt in community, an impossible feat, NEVER otherwise done in world history. A nation leaving the thralls, control, bondage of slave masters and going to their own homeland. Many revolts and revolutions. US from England, Mexican and all Latin America from Spain, India from Britain. Always in the own land defending it, liberating it. Passover is a historic anomaly, expressing the love of G-d for Israel, and ultimately for all people in slavery to habits, failures, sins, abuse. FREEDOM! Author [Luke] quoting Tanakh/Heb scriptures ...]

Dvarim 31.6-8 **Khazak! Be courageous! Do not be afraid or tremble before them. For Adoni your God—He is the One who goes with you. He will not fail you or abandon you.**” Then Moshe summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong! Be courageous!

[Some people love confrontation. Others tremble at the thought. I’m not a conflict avoider, but I AM a conflict delayer, hoping the problem will be resolved without me, or diminish, or go away.]

Dvarim 31.6-8 For you [Yehoshua] are to go with this people into the land Adoni has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you are to enable them to inherit it. Adoni — He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you. **He will not fail you or abandon you. Do not fear or be discouraged.**”

T'hilim 118.6 **Adoni is for me — I will not fear!** What can man do to me?

Yeshua’s Passover expression of this ...

[Not fear Pharoah or Satan or people.

It’s a choice, not to fear!]

Lk 22.14 **When the time came, Yeshua and the emissaries reclined at the table, and he said to them, “I have really wanted so much to celebrate this Seder with you before I suffer!”**

TLV “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”

[He desires YOU.

Think of Passover (Pesakh) as a time King Messiah desires YOU.]



1. How and why He desires us.
2. How we can imitate His passion.
3. What about discord?
4. Some helps.

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• He desired them as his mystical spouse and bride; despite all their backslidings and revolting. *[Difficult to use this imagery in our day of transgenderism and gay life. His love for us is passionate and pure! David and Jonathan love > woman. Kindred spirits, Anne of Green Gables. Cf epidemic of loneliness: know you deeply.]*

• From everlasting was his desire; as it is to all his people:

Yermihahu 31.2-4 From afar ADONI appeared to me. “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness. Again I will build you, so you will be rebuilt, virgin Israel!”

[Seder expression. Drawn you: Egypt, also your own stuff, toxicity, sin, unintentional sin.

Literal fulfillment. Kibbutz history, Christians helping. HaYovel. Ultimately, spiritual fulfillment.]

Yermihahu 31.2-4 Again you will take up your tambourines as ornaments, and go out to dances of merry-makers. Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria.

[Literal and spiritual. Dance was NEVER part of synagogue worship until the Messianic Rabbi Murray Silberling initiated it. Dancing for Joy book.]

- He delighted in the beauty of the bride, which he himself has put upon them;
[Yeshua thinks you are impressive, handsome, beautiful. His own beauty, but reflected. He wants to be with you, for you and me to reflect him.]

2 Cor. 4.6 For it is the God who once said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has made his light shine in our hearts, the light of the knowledge of God’s glory shining in the face of the Messiah Yeshua.

Song of Songs 6.10 Who is this that appears like dawn? As beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun, awesome as an army with banners.
[Of course, Dawn is the epitome of beauty. The moon’s light is only the reflected light of the sun. We need to reflect His glory. Time with Him and His Word. Daily. Passover Seder is one of the times, if rightly understood.]

- He desired justice to be satisfied, the Torah be fulfilled in the sense of us empowered to walk in it, sin atoned for, and the salvation of his elect obtained.
[There is a cosmic purpose of your life, and it’s romance with the King of the Universe in His Son. He desires you to walk in your cosmic purpose.]

Eph 3.8-10 The Good News of the Messiah’s unfathomable riches...letting everyone see how this secret plan is going to work out. This plan, kept hidden for ages by God, the Creator of everything, is for the rulers and authorities in heaven to learn, through the existence of the Messianic Community, how many-sided God’s wisdom is.

[He wanted to be with them at the Seder to further their redemptive, prophetic destiny!]

- He desired to celebrate the liberation of Israel, spiritually, ultimately physically “with you.”
[Yeshua a Zionist? Advantage to going there. Next Spring, 2024! Feel the Presence and Joy of G-d, simultaneously the warfare.]
- His desire is towards their being with him to all eternity, and which he delighted in the views of eternity, described later that evening.

Yn 17 24-26 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am; so that they may see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, the world has not known you,
[So we can radiate it back.]

Yn 17 24-26 and these people have known that you sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will continue to make it known; so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I myself may be united with them.”

- He desired to see the accomplishment of all his prayers and intercession.
- He desired to see justice satisfied, the Torah be fulfilled, in the sense of us being empowered to obey it, sin atoned for, and the salvation of his elect obtained;

- Another reason He desired the Seder: It was not judged proper that a man should eat much on the day before the Passover, that he might be hungry, and eat the Passover, (b'ta-a-vaon), "with desire." Maim., Mishn, Pesachim He was made under the Torah, and that was in his heart, constant attendance on it from his youth.

[So, maybe he desire to have the Seder with us, because He was hungry!]

- He was accused of being a glutton, at the tables of P'rushim, and of publicans and sinners; yet not so: fast of 40 days and 40 nights, and sometimes obliged his disciples to beg and remind Him to eat.
- He IS a glutton for US.



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How do we do likewise, and say to G-d and man, "I have really wanted so much to celebrate this Seder with you!"

1 Cor 5.8 So let us celebrate the Seder not with leftover hametz, the hametz of wickedness and evil, but with the matzah of purity and truth.

[Get rid of leaven. Literally, housecleaning ... Relational issues, confessional issues. Bonfire Wed. noon, April 5. Bring some khametz.]

As Sean Steckbeck so aptly said, "People are drawn to lovers, not 'knowers.'"

We were drawn to the joy and sense of community and fellowship. And the teaching has been very eye-opening.



Luann Ridgeway



A surprising sociological find that might help us:

[<https://youtu.be/pu3H7QXUz7I> up to 1:34]

This year, Israel earned the **fourth** spot out of 109 ranked countries, an improvement over last year's ranking of **ninth**.

Main tools the report uses are called "positive affect" and "negative affect," which essentially refer to positive and negative emotions, respectively. "Positive affect is given by the average of individual yes or no answers about three emotions: laughter, enjoyment, and interest," the report explains. "Negative affect is given by the average of individual yes or no answers about three emotions: worry, sadness and anger."



[<https://vfi-news.com/news/israel-warns-passover-travelers-of-iranian-plots-to/israel-is-the-fourth-happiest-country-in-the-world>]
 Topping the list is Finland, which leads by a significant margin. Finland is followed by Denmark and Iceland. Strikingly, every nation that precedes Israel in happiness equality is far more homogeneous by nearly every demographic metric available in the CIA World Factbook. (JPost / VFI News)

How can Israelis be the 4th happiest nation in the world with the enemies, the terrorism, the arguments among themselves?

A large part is Shabbat and the holidays. The sense of family, unity. Celebration together.

[First night we DON'T have our community Seder so you can be home with your family. Invite someone, someone out of your circle. Seder Socializing.

Universal army experience also brings a lot of social intimacy.]

Delight/blessing/affirmation:

- tender, permitted touch;
- gentle tones [even when irritated],
- loving eye contact

What about the discord and protests?



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מנותקים נמאסתם

Disconnected and fed up
 100,000's demonstrating for weeks about
 judicial reform. Self-appointing Supreme
 Court succession of judges

From Shlomy

It's disconnected (The govt from the people
 the AM Israel)

The latter nee-mas-tem, we say to the govt (the AM Israel)

Meaning inferring **Disgusting, we want nothing more with you.**

Israel Today:

The reforms will largely return Israel to the situation that prevailed before 1993, when Supreme Court President Aharon Barak launched his revolutionary campaign of judicial activism.

Application: Keep your joy even in discord. Keep your focus on G-d even in stress.

Always easier to say than to do.

Stuart Kyle Duncan — a federal appeals court judge appointed by Donald Trump — visited Stanford Law School this month to give a talk. It didn't go well.



Students frequently interrupted him with heckling. One protester called for his daughters to be raped, Duncan said.



When he asked Stanford administrators to calm the crowd, the associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion walked to the lectern and instead began her remarks by criticizing him. “For many people here, your work has caused harm,” she told him.

Tirien Steinbach — the associate dean who rose to speak during the event is now on leave.

[<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGslkhQQnxMzBLrFGzfWSDdQHJC>]

A friend of mine, who is also a therapist said everyone is insecure at some level.

I believe we operate our best when we operate from that level of insecurity, as we obey God's commands. Also, as we love others when we see their insecurities and cover them.

[*Phil Cohen*]

Some helps to maintain joy, Seder socializing joy:

Always worship, trust and praise.

Worship is the goal of the Exodus from Egypt. Why then does the Torah seem to make worship so difficult in the Book of Vayikra/Leviticus? Surely it is our understanding that is at fault; the rules of offering do not make worship more difficult; rather they make it possible. There is a vast gulf between man and God. God calls to man (or his representative Moses) across that gulf to provide a way for man to worship him. God is everywhere, but his holiness keeps us at a distance. If altar and priesthood served not to create a barrier between man and God, but to bridge the divide, what bridges that divide now that they have passed away? What, or who, will bring us near to the holy God? [*Yeshua! And Yeshua in the moedim, the appointed festivals, particularly this one.*]



God calls to Moses across the distance of his holiness and gives him instructions on how one can draw near to the holy. The offering itself bridges the distance between man and God, for it is korban, that

which comes near, and a man must come near to present it.

[<https://www.umjc.org/commentary/2023/3/22/god-calls-across-the-divide>

Russ Resnik]

Some helps to maintain joy

1. Always worship, trust and praise.

2. Seek to serve and help others.

[Yeshua wanted to be with them, and started by washing their feet. How do we serve others? Seek the lost, build up the saved, bless the community?]

Mtt 28.19-20 Therefore, go and make people from all nations into talmidim, immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruach HaKodesh, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember! **I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the age.**
[Wash feet, so to speak. Volunteer to help with Seder. Offer to Debby Burt.]

Some helps to maintain joy

1. Always worship, trust and praise.
2. Seek to serve and help others
3. Some wisdom

“The desire for others’ approval and reassurance creates sensitivity to real or imagined signs of rejection.” Jennifer Crocker & Lora Park

Generally, self-acceptance is conceptualized as an affirmation or acceptance of self **in spite** of weaknesses or deficiencies.

“Continually feeding our need for positive self-evaluation is a bit like stuffing ourselves with candy. We get a brief sugar high, then a crash.” Kristin Neff

“When you learn to accept fear, you cease making a catastrophe of it. Then it ceases to be your master.” Nathaniel Branden

“Briefly, unconditional acceptance means liking yourself, others, and the world when you are not getting what you want and in spite of your getting what you don’t want.” Albert Ellis



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1. Are you walking in intimacy with Yeshua, who greatly desires to be WITH YOU.

2. Are you hearing from Him by His Word and Ruakh/Spirit?
3. What are you doing with what you hear?
4. Are you sharing with others?