

The Out-of-This-World Forgiving and Loving Heart of Yeshua
(unconditional unending love leads people to their salvation,
not our judgments and criticisms)

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The theme of this message is from a teaching by Messianic Rabbi Jerry Miller.



John 12:46-47 TLV

Yeshua's words: "As light I have come into the world, so that everyone who trusts in Me should not remain in darkness. "If anyone hears My words but doesn't keep them, I do not judge him; for I came to SAVE the world, NOT TO JUDGE the world."

I. With Yeshua as our model, we are not to judge each other.

A. (We can judge behavior as being sinful). (Example: Saying: "He is an idiot!" No, he is someone made in the image of God, who perhaps did something foolish.)

B. SO IF YESHUA IS NOT THE JUDGE, WE ARE NOT THE JUDGE! WE ARE HERE TO HELP LEAD PEOPLE TO THEIR SALVATION.

C. Love the sinner, hate the sin; That quote is actually not in the Bible BUT Jude 1:23 ESV "Save others (an act of love/love the sinner) by snatching them out of

the fire; to others *show mercy* with fear (another act of love/loving the sinner), *hating even the garment stained by the flesh (hate the sin).*”

D. ***”He who has no sin, cast the 1st stone!!!”) John 8:7 Ready to stone the woman caught in adultery.

A. **OUR HEARTS** Open our hearts so God can enlarge our hearts--to be able to contain more of *His* heart--as we embrace our calling.

B. These verses we just read from **John 12** show the motivating purpose behind Yeshua’s own life & ministry—**TO SAVE THE WORLD!**

C. These verses are also very relevant and instructive to each of us. **So so many fall away** because of the hypocrisy and harshness of Believers (Share about brother-in-law leaving church--illogical but we all do things like that.)

III. Yeshua was motivated by His desire to **save**--His desire to **redeem**--

A. **Yeshua’s message--His ministry--His very life--was all about redeeming us & rescuing us out of darkness-- --not judging humans and their darkness**

B. Yeshua said that He came as a **light** into the world-- --He came as a **light**--& not a judge-- We reflect that light. OHO means Light of the World, not Judge of the World.

C. Yes, He **will** come again--& He **will judge** the earth then-- --but the heart & purpose of His earthly ministry at His first coming--was not to judge--but to redeem----It is His desire that none should perish. (2 Peter 3:9: “not wanting anyone to perish, but for all to come to repentance.”)

D. So that is at the heart of His **commission** to **us**--as we’re **not** here to judge--but rather to **help others see & experience** the power & life & freedom--of Yeshua’s **redemption**. Romans 11: Provoke them to jealousy, not provoke them. And then always be ready to give a reason for the hope that lies within us. (That is what drew me) “Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you,” 1 Peter 3:15

E. Yeshua laid down His life for the **unworthy (me)**. **Was anyone else unworthy?** He extended grace & mercy to the undeserving--to give opportunity for us all to **see** our sin & repent--so that we might receive the power of God to live differently—(Thief on the cross)

F. The **rule** of Yeshua’s life, the governing motive of His life, was to redeem-- --to **rescue**--
1. He rescued us by revealing the nature of God’s **holiness**-- --but also--by revealing the nature of God’s goodness & mercy—(Even His harshest critics acknowledge He was a wonderful human being, who exhibited high morals, and had insightful teachings.)

- G. Of course--that does **not** mean He was soft on sin (throwing over the moneychangers tables; called the pharisees a brood of vipers)-- --but He knew peoples' hearts. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34
1. **Yeshua understood that *judging* does nothing to enable a person to get free from their sin--judging does not produce any power to change--whereas grace does bring about the power to change.** (We have all experienced grace and we have all experienced harsh judgment—**Which drew us more to that person? And which provoked us to jealousy—to want what they had?**)
- H. Yeshua never lost sight of His purpose as one who came to redeem--to **rescue** us **out** from bondage.
- I. Tendency is to make every moment a didactic/instructive one. "You should have worn your seatbelt." "You should have studied more." "Had you eaten less, you'd be healthier." After coming home late, "You scared us. Next time call."
 - J. *****(Lifeguard analogy...)** Imagine if this is how life-saving was taught. Before rescuing saying: You should have worn a vest, swam with a buddy, not gone out so far, checked the weather for rough conditions, taken more lessons.
 1. -- --**what would happen is a lot more people would drown--when they should have been rescued/saved--**
 2. We can **rescue with our love which comes supernaturally from God--**
 - K. So often with us as believers--we can observe a brother or sister drowning--so to speak--& instead of viewing them from a gracious heart--which leads us to reach out to them with compassion-- --often--we'll just analyze & judge in our hearts--why it is that they're drowning and can cause them to keep on drowning SEE OVER THERE. THAT IS WHERE YOU SHOULD BE SWIMMING. HERE IS HOW YOU SWIM SO THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN. YOU THINK IT IS OK TO KILL AN UNBORN CHILD vs. "Loving people into the Kingdom of God, one heart at a time." TELL THEM HOW YOU SEE IT—AS A LIFE VS CONDEMNING THEM FOR SUPPORTING ABORTION.
 1. --we lose sight of our purpose to redeem--& to rescue-- --& instead--we can analyze people & criticize & judge others--rather than--extending to them the grace that may be what they most need to help them **move out** of the difficulties they're experiencing--
 2. this principle is true--whether it's in our **outreach** to the lost--or whether it's in our interactions with one another—
 3. **What helps me is to realize there but for the grace of God go I. I was just like that. Again. "He who has no sin, cast the 1st stone."**

4. Again, instead of provoking them, provoke them to jealousy. “(If somehow I might provoke to jealousy my own flesh and blood and save some of them.’ (Romans 11:14)
- L. We can hold people in bondage—through our unforgiveness or critical attitudes or judgments against them and our strongly expressed political views --it defies what salvation is all about.
- M. ***I stay away from politics with people I want to know their Messiah because my conservative views can be a stumbling block and political issues are not salvation issues. If they come to know their Messiah, different views, Biblical views, are often downplayed.
1. We are made **for** freedom--& we're made to **help others** find freedom-- --but if we hold onto people's sins thru unforgiveness or judging or critical hearts--we keep them bound--& really--we keep ourselves bound as well (estrangements from parents or siblings are often Exh A of unforgiveness)--
- N. truth is--it takes supernatural grace from God--to **live in** the kind of grace & mercy I'm speaking of here. Let's look at how we can go about this.
- IV. **Let's focus on Yeshua when He was led to His death** on the cross--because this relates to us very powerfully
- A. He knew He was about to experience unimaginable pain.
- B. Pilate had just told the crowd that he found no fault in Yeshua--& was offering to release Him-- **Read LK 23:18-24; 33-34**
- C. Think about what Yeshua went thru on His way to the Cross (He felt pain, He had feelings—He had just been “denied” 3 times by Peter, one of His closest friends AND He was betrayed by Judas, another close friend.
- D. HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?!? HOW WOULD YOU REACT?!? Not to mention them exhibiting little faith in Him while in the boat amidst a storm. The list goes on.
- E. The brutal beating He endured at the urging of those He came to save. **Marty Goetz:** He was laid in a grave by those He came to save.
- F. The mocking--the rejection--the indifference to His innocence-- --so many things—
- G. I tend to get upset when people reject me...”after all I've done for them.” “I don't deserve this treatment.” Or when people don't thank me. (This is the cause of many estrangements in families.)
- H. Remember: “**It is impossible to hate people into loving God.**” (Messianic Rabbi Eric Tokajer) And it is **impossible to judge or criticize people into loving God.**

- I. Well, it is undeniable that Yeshua did not “deserve” the treatment He got. He was sinless. Even His harshest critics laud praise on Him as being a brilliant, loving person—which leads us to the **liar, lunatic or LORD analysis**.
- J. I love these words and challenge you and you and me to try to put them into practice: Again, **“Father forgive them--for they don’t know what they’re doing” Luke 23:34**—actually they acted intentionally BUT out of ignorance—no discernment or logic. **No understanding of the insanity of what they were doing...and not knowing it was God’s plan of redemption for the whole world.**
- K. Yeshua was ***speaking*** on a deeper level--to humanity’s blindness--to how entrapped we are in sin apart from God’s grace—(again, **there but for the grace of God go I. That thought alone helps me extend grace.**) Paul 1 Corinthians 15:9–10: “For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **But by the grace of God I am what I am,** and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”
- L. **Our sin is deep. His love is deeper.**
- V. I fully realize that--our redemption was purchased by the shed ***blood*** of Messiah when He ***died*** on that cross-- --but let’s think about--the ***words*** of forgiveness that He spoke out-- --**how important those spoken words were--** “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” Luke 23:34
- A. They were more than just noble & touching words-- --they were words of great power & importance—***life-changing words of forgiveness which lead to deliverance***--
- B. I don’t think our deliverance would be--as complete as it really is--if Yeshua had ***not spoken*** those words—**(we can pretty safely assume, He would not have uttered them if they were not significant.)**
- C. Yeshua--***speaking*** those ***words*** of forgiveness--was- -***Yeshua the man***--forgiving the very ones who had ***sent*** Him to His agonizing torture and death--
- ***These words were Yeshua – releasing humanity--from the guilt our sin deserved – it was Yeshua--releasing grace**
- D. We talk about atonement--& how Yeshua’s atonement differed from all the animal sacrifices--& why ***His*** sacrifice was so impacting. Perhaps the most important aspect of Yeshua’s dying on the tree--was that He as a ***human***--had the capacity--to ***forgive***--or **not forgive**--
- E. --there really did exist in the divine Yeshua the capacity to ***withhold*** forgiveness-- --but ***He chose*** not to withhold it--

- F. I think we could say that--Yeshua--as the **victim** of man's hatred & sin--was not overcome by that hatred-- --He was NOT drawn in by it to defend Self (as I all too often do) to speak words of retaliation or to defend myself----
- G. He **spoke** those words of forgiveness--even as they nailed spikes through His hands— (Do you think you would have such mercy? I am not sure I would. --Sabina Wurmbrand, Rose Price, and Corey ten Boom forgiving the Nazi's who killed her family and tortured her.)
- H. In light of Yeshua & His life--His humility--His love--His healing & blessing people--
 ---sending Him to death was really--the **ultimate act** of showing the total hopelessness of human beings in our fallen condition-- --crucifying Yeshua had to be the most horrible act of cruelty ever committed—(and against the greatest person whoever lived)
- I. --but Yeshua's response--to the most cruel & unfair act of human history-- was to speak words that were the greatest expression of mercy & love--ever spoken--
- J. ***it was partly--Yeshua's statement to **us**--that if we'll look to God in the midst of--trials & mistreatment--& if we'll keep our focus always on the **purpose** for which we've been **given life**—to help point others towards God (what an incredible example and standard setting act!)
- K. The point is: -even in the worst of trials & the harshest of mistreatment--we can forgive- - --we can be gracious & merciful--whether we feel like it or not—
- i. Who has ever been tempted to NEVER forgive someone? (“Hmmpf. I will NEVER speak to them again.” Estrangements)
- L. Do we think Yeshua **felt** like forgiving them? --we can think--“no--Yeshua **couldn't** have been tempted with bad thoughts”--
- M. He never **gave in** to it--but that doesn't mean He wasn't tempted-- --bible says He was tempted in all things--just as we are—
1. (Hebrews 2:18 “For because he himself has suffered when TEMPTED, he is able to help those who are being tempted;”
 2. Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect HAS BEEN TEMPTED as we are, yet without sin.
 3. Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be TEMPTED by the devil.)

C. that means--He experienced the same temptations we experience-- --but then--
--Yeshua **speaking** those words of grace & forgiveness--paved the way for **us** as His
followers--to walk ourselves in the **same** grace & forgiveness He did--(only by the Holy
Spirit)

N. **-anything** Yeshua did--becomes something **we** can have the **grace** to do ourselves—**IF**
we will look to Him in midst of the struggle--

4. I also believe His words there--were a proclamation to the powers of darkness--that
even in a time when He was weak & abused & dying--He **would not allow** satan to
have **any place** in Him--thru resentment or bitterness or even self-pity—We need to
not open a door to let satan in—Book: The Bait of Satan.

5. Yeshua's **words** of forgiveness--closed the door absolutely to any last possibility for
sin to have a place in His heart or attitudes--

**6. in fact—it seems --without those words spoken--we would not really know--if
our redemption was complete--because----**

***--Yeshua's laying down of His life--could only have an eternal impact on man--if He
laid it down **lovingly**--in the spirit of mercy & forgiveness--because--if it wasn't done in
love--it could not have been a **perfect** sacrifice—It was not done begrudgingly. **(We need
to try to duplicate that when mistreated for the sake of the Kingdom and others.)**

--that's what made it so powerful-- --He **forgave**--as He went to His death--(His
declaration brought full release..)

VI We should try to imagine **ourselves** in His circumstances--unjustly accused & tried--
--Pilate concluding "no cause for putting this man to death"-- --even offering to release
Him--

--& then--**hearing** the people choose instead that a murderer/Barabbas be spared--
preferring that Yeshua die AFTER BEING TORTURED MERCILESSLY--

A. Think of times you've been falsely accused--or just misunderstood-- --the outrage we're
tempted to feel-- --Yeshua must have been **tempted** with anger--rage--bitterness--any #
feelings--because--truth is--it wasn't fair--it wasn't right--

B. And then--the cross itself-- --this Roman form of torture representing the depths of man's
brutality-- --the human response of many at the time to the beauty & purity & glory of
Yeshua's life was--"snuff it out-- --we **don't want** what He's offering." **Sadly, the same
is true today when people reject or fall away from the love of God.--**

--& it's in the midst of that--we see Yeshua declaring mercy & grace--

C. --Yeshua fully experienced every temptation as completely as we experience temptation

D. --don't ever lose sight of fact that Yeshua **had** the **capacity** to commit sin-- --He **had the capacity** to hold back forgiveness-- --but He **chose**--not to—

E. Romans 5:19: “For just as through the disobedience of one man, many were made sinners, so also through the OBEDIENCE of one man, many will be set right forever.”

And what should all this say to us? --simply that--the worst of humanity-- --was **conquered & defeated** & utterly overpowered--by love & mercy-- --because—“mercy **triumphs** over judgment” as James wrote in James 2:13 ----

--& so--in forgiving-- --Yeshua was saying--“this horrible thing you've done to Me-- --cannot conquer love & mercy--

--love is bigger-- --love is stronger-- --love **utterly overpowers** evil (light conquers darkness... EVERY TIME)—

F. Evil loses its grip on man-- --it's swallowed up by the power of love--& evil becomes a pitiful--powerless--empty thing--in the presence of God's love & grace—JA: Corey ten Boom: “There is no pit so deep God's love is not deeper still“.

--it was Yeshua's **human** act of forgiving--that paved the way for the **ultimate** victory & deliverance of the cross—

--& then--even when He was on the cross--He continued to respond as one looking to **redeem**--rather than being concerned about His own mistreatment--

Remember the 2 criminals on each side of Him-- --one mocks--& the other stands up for Yeshua-- --which one did He respond to?--did He **rebuke or correct the one who mocked Him? Nope! Did He behave like the lifeguard who resorted to teaching and reprimanded rather than saving? Nope.**

--the temptation must have been there to let the man know--“if I really **wanted** to--I **could** free Myself”-- --but Yeshua wasn't concerned with that debate--

G. I think that mocking was perhaps the devil's final attempt to lure Yeshua into **some** level of harshness or self-defense or verbal retaliation—some humanness.

--& truth is--**If Yeshua had said one word of retaliation or self defense--He would have disqualified Himself from fulfilling the role of Messiah--the suffering servant of Isaiah 53-

H. Isaiah 53:7: He was oppressed and He was afflicted yet He did not open His mouth.

Like a lamb led to the slaughter, like a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.

But He looked past the mocking--because-- --in the **other** man, the man on His other side--He was hearing someone whose heart was open--

--a man who--in his final hours--his heart had grown tender--& **that** was what Yeshua picked up on--that----

--here was someone to whom Yeshua on the cross could speak words of hope & comfort & life even as He Himself was in agony--

In total selflessness--Yeshua responded to the opportunity to speak blessing-- --to that repentant man. (Kind of a Prodigal Son type story)

--**imagine** his last moments of life after Yeshua spoke....knowing he was going to be with the LORD in paradise!

--Similarly there's such incredible power & life released in our forgiveness--our mercy--our words of grace-- --& really----(Recall how good it feels to hear the words "I forgive you." The transformative power in those words.)

--even our actions of sacrifice--if they don't flow out of a heart of love & compassion--it's just an **act** without substance--(If we just do it expecting something in return, it is not love, it is negotiating; ...even if we are simply wanting words of appreciation or thanks, it is simply negotiating I know I personally get miffed when no appreciation is mentioned.)

-Wayne Hilsden: To be more like our Master, we must love people more than they deserve.

Matthew 2:7--Yeshua quoting the prophets said "I desire **mercy**--not sacrifice"-- --even Yeshua's sacrifice--without the mercy He **showed**--would not have been complete--

--what paves the way for more of the supernatural power of God in our lives--is a heart of **mercy & forgiveness**--

--that **Mercy releases the power of God in us** so that--the worst of human evil cannot prevail-- --it's no match for it because----

--**mercy triumphs over judgment**-- --it triumphs over bitterness-- --mercy releases power to actually bind up the enemy & it closes the door to his power--

--**Our mercy slams the door on the devil** every time he would tempt **us** to give place to hurts or offenses or judgements--

We need to know--that it's **never appropriate** for a Believer to say

--"I'm just too hurt or angry to forgive"-- --because--the **mercy & grace** in you--can **triumph** over--the judgmental feelings that come so naturally to us--

--**mercy triumphs over judgment**-- --over offenses & bitterness—(Touching someone on the shoulder broke his anger towards me cause of my faith.

--&--unless we give of ourselves to **grow** into a radical level of grace & mercy--we **won't fulfill** the call & purposes of God for our lives--we won't fully experience ourselves--the **freedom** of our salvation--apart from giving **ourselves to being generous with mercy & grace**-

We must be a people who see **no other option** but forgiveness--every time we're hurt or offended or mistreated--

Does that mean--if someone is in an abusive relationship--for ex.--they should just put up with it? --no--that's not what I'm saying--

--what I'm saying is-- --in the day-to-day encounters we have with people-- --guard our hearts from allowing offense or bitterness to draw us in—(forgiveness of people who have wronged me even if they don't have the wisdom or insight to repent).

--that doesn't mean we don't feel the pain of mistreatment-- --the pain is real-- --in fact-- **It's the pain--that makes the grace we give-- --such a powerful thing**

Point is--as we process these things with the Lord-- --we realize that--"no--I'm called to be **like Him**-- --& from the grace He's given me--I'll give the same to others"--

--no other option but grace--every time we're annoyed or irritated by someone--or prone to be judgmental or critical toward others--

--& Perhaps the best way to **step into** that place of freedom--is to do something to **bless** the very people who seem to be the hardest for us to **want** to bless--(may be as simple as prayer...) Anyone can bless those who are kind to us—that's relatively easy to do.

Romans 12:14-21: "Bless those who persecute you—bless and do not curse...Repay no one evil for evil...If possible, so far as it depends on you, live in shalom with **all people**. Never take your own revenge, loved ones, but give room for God's wrath—for it is written, '**Vengeance is Mine; I will repay,**' says Adonai. Rather, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. For by doing so you will heap coals of fire upon his head."Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

God wants us to live as those who see that--we have **no other option** but grace--

--when we live in that place--it releases something supernatural of God's life & blessing in **us**-- --we look to **bless** those we struggle with--& you know what? --our own hearts change-- --it's a supernatural thing--(not logical)

--& We find that there's **much** more joy in forgiving & being gracious--than in retaliating & holding onto offense-- (sense of freedom)

We all know that God calls us to a victorious life as **overcomers**-- --but--overcoming **begins** with our own hearts----

--letting Yeshua **express Himself** in our own hearts--because-- --when we really yield to Him to do this (not easy)-- --He tells us in **REV** that--“**behold--I can make all things new**”-

--we allow His grace & mercy to fill our hearts-- --to fill our attitudes-- --& that brings a freshness of God’s grace to our **own lives**--

--There’s no formula for victory in this area-- --cannot be done apart from **relationship**-- getting to know **Him**...His love...--cannot be done apart from **faith**-- --**cannot be done if we dwell in the realm of our feelings.**

--but if we’ll keep our eyes on Yeshua--& set our minds on things above & not on things from earthly perspective----

--if we’ll walk in closeness to Him--**looking** to Him at those times when temptation is pulling at us to give way to harshness or unforgiveness--

--God can bring us into even more incredible liberty of heart than we could ever imagine--
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Bible says God’s mercies are new every morning-- --it’s His mercies **to** us--but I think we could say also-- --it’s to be His mercies **thru** us--

--how different would our **attitudes**--our **relationships**--be--if we simply allowed God--to make **our** mercies--**our** compassion--new & fresh every day--

“**Lord--would You fill my heart today with a freshness of mercy & grace, so my heart would stay tender toward You & toward others; so that--my life can be an avenue for a pure flow of life & blessing & grace & power from heaven, that lifts others up,-rather than tearing them down.**”

--as followers of Yeshua--each of us has a **purpose** for which we are to give our lives-- --that purpose to bless & redeem--

--& for fulfilling that purpose--we have a **Savior**--who has already lived this out perfectly--giving us an example of the gracious heart we’re called to express--

--He gives us the **example**-- --but He also gives us the empowerment to live it-- --but we can only do so if we’re willing to live by faith & not by our feelings—

It really is true--what Paul wrote in Gal 2:20: “And it is no longer I who live, but Messiah lives in me. And the life I now live in the body, I live by trusting in the Son of God—Who loved

me and gave Himself up for me". (in relationship--His faith imparted to us that faith imparted for living...)

-When we suffer, remember Our LORD suffered more. (mistreated, persecuted, treated unfairly, betrayed, spoken poorly of or slandered)

--as we keep that truth in center of our own hearts every day-- --I'm telling you--God can absolutely change us--so that we **really become** more like He is--

Daily we need to be fixing our eyes on Yeshua the author & finisher of this faith we're seeking to walk in--

VI. Conclusion

Why do bad things happen to good people? PERHAPS so others can see how Believers react. Remember, we represent the Messiah. PERHAPS attack by the enemy. How we act may influence/affect someone's salvation as **Hypocrisy and failures/fleshy responses causes many to fall away or not be hungry for and seeking the LORD.**

Application to us: Some people's lives will be changed because of the change in our lives and our mercy.

The radically gracious heart--is what marks the major contrast between--what is the spirit of the world versus the spirit of Yeshua-- --more & more--the spirit of this age--is being expressed in its **worst** form

--Yeshua cancels our guilt & our shame & the debt we owe to God-- --He cancels the rule of sin over our lives--& from there--He draws us in--to a relationship of love--even **sharing with** us the beauty of His nature--

--seeing humanity's distance from Him-- --Yeshua isn't looking to cut us off-- --He's looking to draw us in & bring us into His family--

--**the contrast could not be any clearer**-- --& that's why the gracious heart that is quick to forgive & bless & love--is actually so attractive to this world--

--do not believe the lies that are out there.

When the true gospel--the true expression of Yeshua's gracious heart--is seen in His people, there will be radical transformation in people.

--don't believe that the world won't respond to that--

--**some** won't-- --but many will respond--because-- --this world is so love-starved-- --&--**we have the answer—It's better than a cure for cancer or heart disease.**

Remember: A gracious heart is not an issue of how we *feel*.

--But grace is actually a whole realm that we choose to enter into & walk in--by faith--as we daily see Yeshua & the grace He's given us.

--A grace by which **we bring redemption to those around us rather than judgment--**

It's key to how we see the lost-- --& it's key to how we choose to see one another—

If you don't yet know the Messiah, those of you in our sanctuary, watching this on our livestream, or later in our archives: I leave you with the challenge to ask God to reveal to you who is the Messiah.

If you already know Him, I challenge you and me to surrender, and seek Him more and more to enable us to walk more with His grace, mercy, and love.