

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 Sukkot message: Weakness → Strength

Appreciate beautiful Sukkah: Gerardo and crew stand

Appreciate beautiful Sukkah decorations: Dawn and crew, stand. Vegetative decorations all to be reused on Shabbat, then go to Plaza outreach.

The sukkah is so called because of the covering, a סַכָּח skhakh, [altogether] from the verb “to screen, cover, shelter, interweave, thatch”

So, what is the spiritual lesson we gain from living, sitting, eating in a Sukkah?

- Time of the year usually to check insulation, weather stripping, furnace, external attic piping etc for us! This opposite. Expose to nature.
- The Sukkah has a flimsy roof covering, named after סַכָּח *skhakh* “to screen, cover, shelter, interweave, thatch” reminding us. Halakhah: has to be mostly shady, but see stars.
  - Life as we see it is never fully covered, sealed sure or guaranteed.
  - Apparently flimsy things are sometimes the strongest.
  - T'hilim / Ps 49.12 They think their homes will last forever, their dwellings through all generations; they give their own names to their estates. But people, even rich ones, will live only briefly.
- What is weak that really does last forever?
  - **Messiah:**
    - Mtt 11.28-30 Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and ‘you will find rest for your souls.’ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”
    - 1 Cor. 15.42-46 So also is the resurrection of the dead: Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption! Sown in dishonor, raised in glory! Sown in weakness, raised in power!
  - **Presence, anointing, Ruakh.**
    - Ruakh/Spirit ~ Dove: Not a predator. No gall. Not a pest. Not a fighter, soft, sweet call. Leaves somewhat easily, if not invited. Power of G-d!
    - Eph. 4.30-32 Don't cause grief to God's Ruakh HaKodesh, for he has stamped you as his property until the day of final redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, violent assertiveness and slander, along with all spitefulness. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted; and forgive each other, just as in the Messiah God has also forgiven you.
  - **Love** Can't see love or touch it. But...
    - Song 8.6-7 Set me like a seal on your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, passion as cruel as Sh'ol; its flashes are flashes of fire, [as fierce as the] flame of Yah. No amount of water can quench love, torrents cannot drown it. If someone gave all the wealth in his

house for love, he would gain only utter contempt. "Kiss of love breaks every curse."

- Love gives. Can wait to get. Essence of purity; avoidance porn.
  - Love serves. <sup>Gal 5.13</sup> For, brothers, you were called to be free. Only do not let that freedom become an excuse for allowing your old nature to have its way. Instead, serve one another in love. Not a Sukkot symbol willow.
  - <sup>1 Cor. 13.13</sup> But for now, three things last — trust, hope, love; and the greatest of these is love
- **Faith** סֶכֶךְ *skhakh* "to screen, cover, shelter, interweave, thatch" supposed to be mostly shady, but open so can see stars. Sometimes hard to see heaven, open heaven.
- <sup>Mes Jews 11.1</sup> Trusting is being confident of what we hope for, convinced about things we do not see.
  - <sup>Mes Jews 11.9-10</sup> By trusting, he [Avraham] lived as a temporary resident in the Land of the promise, as if it were not his, staying in tents with Yitz'chak and Ya'akov, who were to receive what was promised along with him. For he was looking forward to the city with permanent foundations, of which the architect and builder is God.
  - <sup>1 Cor 1.24-25</sup> We go on proclaiming a Messiah executed on a stake as a criminal! To Jews this is an obstacle, and to Greeks it is nonsense; but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, this same Messiah is God's power and God's wisdom! For God's "nonsense" is wiser than humanity's "wisdom." And God's "weakness" is stronger than humanity's "strength."
  - <sup>2 Cor 13.4</sup> For although he was executed on a stake in weakness, now he lives by God's power. What is more powerful than resurrection?
  - <sup>2 Cor 12.9-10</sup> "My grace is enough for you, for my power is brought to perfection in weakness." Therefore, I am very happy to boast about my weaknesses, in order that the Messiah's power will rest upon me. Yes, I am well pleased with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and difficulties endured on behalf of the Messiah; for it is when I am weak that I am strong.
  - <sup>1 Cor 1.26-30</sup> Just look at yourselves, brothers - look at those whom God has called! Not many of you are wise by the world's standards, [but many are: professionals, notable people, nevertheless, we WELCOME those not so well established in society] not many wield power or boast noble birth. But God chose what the world considers nonsense in order to shame the wise; God chose what the world considers weak in order to shame the strong... It is his doing that you are united with the Messiah Yeshua. He has become wisdom for us from God, and righteousness and holiness and redemption as well! Therefore - as the Tanakh says - "Let anyone who wants to boast, boast about ADONI." [Yer 9.23]

- **Relationships** are fragile: friends, family the most important and permanent of all that is on earth. Relationships are fragile:
  - Doesn't take much in harsh words → hurt. Mt. 18.15, but sometimes the wounds seems SOOOO huge, "How can I address?"
  - words 7%, voice tone 38%, body language 55%. Some say debunked. Will Smith in Dating Manual, or some such.
  - According to RTF, abandonment is the foundation of all pain. Rejection is the fundamental wound.
  - Sometimes only cure is on our face before Yeshua. IAMCS and UMJC.
  - PTSD
  
- **Joy** is fragile:
  - Easier to remember tragedy. Remember Maine! Remember Holocaust, Remember Amalek → Purim!
  - Remember joy. 2016 Life Model *Power of Joy*. Relational joy should always outweigh our emotional distress otherwise problems arise. Life Model Maturity examines the six life stages Scripture mentions so you identify your earned maturity and find community resources to grow. Maturity formation means filling holes in your life so your joy levels increase.
  - <sup>Phil. 4.4-6</sup> Rejoice in union with the Lord always! I will say it again: rejoice! ...Don't worry about anything; on the contrary, make your requests known to God by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving.
  - Whisper of Ruakh << roar of the world.
  - Giving is Joy. Festival of Ingathering. <sup>Acts 20.35</sup> "The words of the Lord Yeshua himself, 'There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.'"
  
- **Forgiveness** is fragile, bitterness is easy.
  - Yom Kippur Day service:
    - הלל *Salakh* release, move on ~Elizabeth Smart
    - On June 5, 2002, at the age of 14, Smart was abducted at knifepoint from her bedroom in her family's house in Salt Lake City, Utah. For the next nine months, Smart was raped daily, tied up, and threatened with death if she attempted to escape.[6] She was rescued by police officers on March 12, 2003, on a public street in Sandy, Utah, 18 miles (29 km) from her home. Two witnesses recognized abductors Brian David Mitchell and Wanda Ileen Barzee from an America's Most Wanted episode.
    - On May 1, 2013, in a speech at a human trafficking conference at Johns Hopkins University, Smart discussed the need to emphasize individual self-worth in fighting human trafficking and the importance of dispelling cultural myths surrounding girls' loss of value upon sexual contact. Having been raped by her captor, she recalled the destructive impact of exposure to illicit sexual education programs. Many of them teach that a sexually active girl is akin to a chewed piece of gum. "I thought, 'Oh, my gosh, I'm that chewed up piece of gum, nobody re-chews

a piece of gum, you throw it away.' And that's how easy it is to feel like you no longer have worth, you no longer have value," Smart said. "Why would it even be worth screaming out? Why would it even make a difference if you are rescued? Your life still has no value." Smart went on to ask that listeners educate children on

- Smart has gone on to work as an activist and advocate for missing persons
  - מחל *Makhal* to forgive, to pardon; to relinquish tunnel down to replace with joy and dance, overcome sickness
  - כפר *Kapar* atone replace with blessing
- Problem: same people still offending you. Re-forgive, re-visit issue? Yes.
- Shalom is fragile: easy to get agitated, pressured. Me doing 1040. Me and sermon prep and infinite errands.
  - Do you want a Sukkah LIFE? A after סַכָּךְ *skhakh* “to screen, cover, shelter, interweave, thatch” life. Fragile, but POWERFUL: love, faith, relationships, joy, forgiveness, blessing, shalom
  - <sup>2 Cor 12.7-10</sup> To keep me from becoming overly proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from the Adversary to pound away at me, so that I wouldn't grow conceited. Three times I begged the Lord to take this thing away from me; 9 but he told me, “My grace is enough for you, for my power is brought to perfection in weakness.” Therefore, I am very happy to boast about my weaknesses, in order that the Messiah's power will rest upon me. Yes, I am well pleased with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and difficulties endured on behalf of the Messiah; for it is when I am weak that I am strong.