

AN APPEAL FOR CALM IN FERGUSON

As I began writing this, I was sitting here and I had the news on in the background. At that time the Grand Jury down in Ferguson, Missouri found that there is no evidence to charge the police officer in the death of the young black man back during the summer. Over the past couple of weeks, I've been watching the looting of stores and the destruction of businesses of people who decided to either build in a deteriorating neighborhood or have had those businesses from years back. It is sad to see people respond in such a way, to smash their own neighbor's businesses and burn down their neighborhood. I do realize that a lot of these destructive people are from out of the area, but the fact that the neighborhood has not tried to stop these interlopers again speaks for itself.

Yes, it is a tragedy that this young man lost his life. It is also a tragedy that a policeman that was only doing his duty was attacked by this young man and it led to his death. It is a shame that the parents of this young man aren't taking responsibility for the actions of their son Mike Brown. This sort of behavior stems from bad parenting and from growing up in a bad neighborhood. Some might think that Mike Brown didn't have a chance, and I suppose that he was dealt a bad deck of cards, speaking in poker terms. However, our parents are the ones that show us how to overcome that bad hand of cards.

As many of you know, I come originally from Bergen County, New Jersey. I was brought up on the other side of the tracks. People in other towns didn't think highly of us and I guess that they had some right to think that way. We grew up with Organized Crime all over the place and there was a great appeal to be lawless. My family didn't buy into that sort of lifestyle unlike other families that did. We grew up fairly moral people, against all odds. When I got out of line my dad used his belt on my backside. I got pushed up against the wall by my dad and I feared him. This fear led to me leading a moral life. Scripture tells us that if we spare the rod (correction) we spoil the child. Years later my dad apologized for hitting me with the belt. He was very remorseful, almost to tears. I not only forgave him, but thanked him for his strict hand. If he had not done what he did, I would have probably turned out in a bad way.

My cousin Larry on the other hand, was never corrected and my uncle and his wife often made excuses for Larry's actions. Larry could do no wrong. When he broke my toys it was my fault somehow. This turned against my uncle and his wife. Larry's dad was not a disciplinarian and Larry's mother was a verbal disciplinarian but never followed through with her threats. She

was only four foot eight inches tall and not very intimidating. My uncle often accused his wife of complaining too much. As you can probably guess, Larry didn't turn out so good. When he was 19 he already had a criminal record. He was heavily involved in taking drugs and selling them too. When Larry was about 25 his parents divorced. His father found someone who didn't complain so much. My uncle should have listened to the complaining because my aunt had good cause to be a complainer. When I was 20, I became a born-again believer in Yeshua. The next year Larry visited us in California. I tried to tell him about Jesus and Larry said, "you will never, ever, get me to believe that shit." This is when I started praying for Larry. Larry only grew worse, estranging himself from his family in favor of his drug habit. Larry spent a little time in Rahway State Prison in New Jersey and was in and out of jail for decades. During that time Larry's dad moved to Florida leaving Larry all alone.

When you pray for someone you become their proxy. My prayers, which Yahweh knew would happen since before eternity, put things into motion so that Yahweh would work on Larry who was unable to work on himself. In 1999 my dad went to be with Yeshua and I decided to take his ashes back to his favorite fishing lake back in New Jersey. I found Larry somehow and asked him if I could stay with him. I imagined that he would still be a party person and on drugs, but when I arrived, I found out that he had quit the drugs and was trying to get his life straight. He met a girl named Marcia whom he loved very much and she loved him too. I found out during my visit that Marcia was a Christian that had walked off the path for a while and was herself coming back to Yahweh. She was ministering to Larry who was coming about slowly. Larry and I kept in contact after that and I got to tell him about Yeshua, and he seemed accepting to want to learn. It seemed that every time I would call their household and Marcia would give me an update. With every call I found that Larry progressed in his search for Yahweh. First, I heard that he was asking a lot of questions, then another call I would find out that he was reading the Bible, then another call I was told that Larry was starting to pray to Yahweh. Then one day, Marcia told me that Larry asked Yeshua to come into his life and was saved. I cried like a little baby, tears of joy and thanksgiving. I got to spend three more years with Larry, talking to him every week on the phone. He moved down by his dad, to Florida and settled there. Before his move he was in mourning because Marcia had died. He never told anyone that Marcia had AIDS. We only found after her death. She had been gang raped several years earlier and the criminals gave her the virus. Where Larry's parents were responsible for turning him into a failure, Yeshua turned him into a victor. When people wrote off Marcia off as worthless, Yeshua used her to be a victor and to bring Larry to victory. Truly an amazing story.

I know that some of you are probably mad at me for blaming the parents for the death of Mike Brown. You can't deny though that he was a product of his environment, both by his family and the neighborhood culture. However, that dog don't hunt at all. I grew up in a rough neighborhood where I could have easily become a criminal like Mike Brown. The difference is that my dad and mom, my grandparents and those that my family fellowshiped with were all moral people. My dad could have become a mafioso and he even thought about it during times of poverty; but he never did. Being of Italian extract dad could have complained about abuse. Some ethnicity's think that they hold the patent for being abused, but when you take a hard look, the majority of people suffer it to some degree. For instance, one time we wanted to rent a bungalow down at the Jersey Shore and in order to do so we had to have our grandmother rent it in her name because the owner would not rent to Italians. My sister and I had to stay in the car because they didn't want us to spill the beans about being Italian. Italians have always been deemed stupid scofflaws by people from Northern Europeans. Being of Jewish extract isn't easy, as you might imagine. When I was in the habit of wearing my Kippah (that little Jewish hat) I often found that I was mistreated, not by worldly people so much, but by professing Christians. I've conducted experiments on this because I don't want to testify wrongly because maybe I was imagining these things. When I would wear the Kippah, I would see the bigotry, almost constantly. When I would experiment and not wear the Kippah the same people would treat me nicer. After doing this experiment upwards of ten times it can no longer be a machination of my own making, but there has to be validity.

In the Torah, we are commanded not to mistreat slaves because we were once slaves in Egypt. We are also exhorted not to suppress the foreigner because of the same reason, having been slaves in Egypt. For this reason, Jews often take up the cause of the underdog. Jews know slavery and persecution better than any other people. During the civil rights movement in the 1960's many Jews can be seen marching with Civil Rights Advocates. I get asked many times why it seems that Jews tend to vote democratic. The answer is simple in that they mistakenly believe that the Democratic Party is also for the underdog. Yes, many times it seems like they Democrats are, but looking deeply into the matter one can see that the Democrats feign a concern for the oppressed so that they can gain control over the underdogs and use them for political purposes. A simple look at voting histories of Democrats shows that they were opposed to civil rights at the beginning; that they were the founders of the Ku Klux Klan and that they were even violently opposed to the Emancipation Proclamation. Democrats often cast the blame on Conservatives for the very things that they have done for centuries. For instance, Conservatives see entitlement programs not as a help for the underprivileged, but as a way of keeping people enslaved in a system that makes them captives of the government. A good way

to illustrate this is the saying, “if you feed a man a fish you feed him for a day, but if you teach a man how to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.” Liberals like to give out the fish so that the hungry person becomes dependent on them. Conservatives want to teach a man to fish so that he can become independent and feed not only himself, but others. Democrats see this as being an evil thing. I think that is because when a man is no longer under government control they can think for themselves; something called liberty, and socialists and communists are opposed to liberty.

Now think about it, when you become independent you begin to enjoy being independent and you want not only to maintain your independence, but you want to know how to acquire more; hence, to become prosperous. When a person becomes dependent on another it might seem easy, but life was never meant to be easy. It is human nature to want an easy life. Life is like exercise, if you do it you become strong but if you expect someone else to exercise for you, your muscles begin to atrophy, fat begins to build up, body systems begin to work wrong and fail. If you don't use it, you lose it, right? Scripture notes that “the borrower becomes servant to the lender.” Many people who are on entitlement programs think that they are getting something that they somehow deserve, but believe you me, the piper demands a price for his song. The price that the underprivileged pay is that they are kept at their lower status purposefully so that they will always have to ask for more. This is not freedom, but slavery. What liberals have done to the poor is criminal. They keep people poor, but not poor enough to realize that it is the liberal that are keeping them poor. Then they have the savvy to blame the people who do have liberty, for the ills of the poor. Pretty soon the poor in this status start to believe that those who do possess things owe them because they are unreasonably wealthy. That is why Michael Brown could walk into a convenience store and just grab a box of cigars and walk out, and when called on his thievery threatened the owner of the store with violence.

A good example of feigned “liberal caring” is something that is going on here in Eugene, Oregon. Because Eugene is considered the bastion of liberalism here in Oregon (probably right behind Portland) they welcome the homeless to live here, but they welcome them to live here as homeless. There are people who call themselves “Homeless Advocates,” say that they are sticking up for the rights of the homeless. They are constantly at city council meetings trying to get the homeless new places to pitch their tents. Do you see a problem here? They are advocating for the homeless yes, but they are advocating for them to remain homeless. We never hear about these “advocates” inviting the homeless into their homes, or letting them pitch their tents in their garages. We never hear about these supposed “advocates” getting jobs for the homeless. Why does this happen you ask? I'll tell you. If you solve the problem of homelessness, you put the homeless advocate out of work. They'll have nothing to complain about anymore and they'll see

that the system will work if they allow it to happen. Their mantra is to keep them where they are so that you can feel good about yourself and that you're doing something to help them. But in effect, the advocate is keeping the homeless person in their same status and they use them as political tools and to keep their jobs as advocates.

I am not an apologist for Michael Brown. What he did was wrong, several times over, but he didn't make himself into what he was. His parents divorced, which is hard on any kid. I know this because my parents divorced when I was a school-age child and it was very difficult for my sister and I. His biological father seems to be a fairly nice guy but is very laid back. His biological mother on the other hand looks like a very opinionated woman who probably dominates the men in her life. This emasculation of his father by his mother makes a young man like him seek out what real men are supposed to be like. Now, enter his neighborhood. Michael's family situation was not unique in his community. There are many young black men who are looking for their identity. They need a leader to look up to and then when the testosterone kicks in at puberty a pecking order is being established. You have to become tough because all of the teen males are trying to be the alpha male of the community. Then, on top of that mom marries a man who is a thug, a very opinionated ex-convict that teaches you how to be a radical. Michael's stepfather was the man who was seen on video exhorting the crowd to burn the town down and the crowd followed his instructions.

Now add to this mix a mistrust of white people in general that is preached within the walls of many black households. Don't try to tell me that this isn't true, I've been told this by a few black brothers that came to faith in Yeshua. There is as much, if not more racism in black homes as there is in many white homes. On top of that, place a rabid mistrust of police figures, especially white police authorities. This is a mistrust that is founded in some truth. I'm white and when a policeman pulls me over on the highway, I get a fear within me, especially in some areas of the nation where police corruption has occurred for a very long time. I have a good reason to fear too. There are some police that hate Jews, others who think that all Italians are mafioso and so on. If it wasn't for the sake of being fairly light complected I would fear much more. I really do get the fear and intimidation thing, honest I do. It is interesting however that quite a few black police officers have spoken out against the violence and many agree with the verdict of the Grand Jury. This shows me that perhaps the charges of white police officers being racist in Ferguson might not stand on a firm foundation.

A big part of the blame can be placed on President Obama and Attorney General Holder too. They claim that since they're black they know what racism is. Obama has even claimed that

he was treated unfairly by police officers. With this in mind, they had to know that the people of Ferguson would erupt in violence if a determination was made clearing the officer of wrongdoing. Everyone knew that this would happen, especially the news media that half of their national fleet of news trucks (or so it seemed) down in Ferguson. With the knowledge that such a judgment would bring violence, Obama and Holder should have been on television and radio the day before and all day before the determination came down, telling the people not to resort to violence and to ask them to go home peacefully and wait for other actions to be taken. INSTEAD, Obama waited till hours after the rioting started to make such a statement. The fact that he did nothing can only suggest two scenarios. Either he is soooo stupid that he didn't think of it, nor did his advisors, OR, he wanted violence to erupt so that it would be just another thing to start a larger conflagration in the future. Judging Obama by his past actions and his aspirations which he has made plain by his lack of any racial peacemaking, he wanted the rioting in order to increase the division between the races. Obama isn't a community organizer; he is a disharmony organizer.

My dad used to tell me that when people don't work for what they have, they don't respect what they own. I proved this to be true when I was a teen and things were handed to me. After I started working and paying for my own possessions, I realized that I had to work hard to afford my things and I treated them more carefully. Perhaps a lack of work ethic and having handed to people is what makes burning down one's own neighborhood so easy. The offenders don't realize that their victims won't get a government bailout the day or month afterward and that the damage done will cost the victims their own funds as well as increased insurance rates because they made a claim.

The attitude of a community can be seen by what its people say and also write. As we know, Mike's stepfather was on video yelling for the crowd to burn down the city. He was seen as a sort of messiah at the moment. What resulted is what always happens when people listen to false messiah's and don't temper things with Biblical Scripture. The following is a picture of what seems to be a warped sense of reality in the minds of some in Ferguson and maybe in other areas of the country. Some have said that the following picture is Photoshop retouched, however I've looked at it on Photoshop and the distortions around the sign and on the sign are found in the whole picture, leading me to think that it is an actual picture that has not been retouched. It is most probably a cell phone picture. If this is true, the sign is disturbing:



If you have a small screen or are viewing on a smart phone, the sign in the middle of the picture states, “No mother should have to fear for her son’s life every time he robs a store.” My answer to that is, “No policeman’s wife or mother should have to fear when her son is called to go to a neighborhood where he is hated.” When we look at words, we often automatically think of what the antonym of that word is. A lot of people think that the opposite of “love” is “hate,” but that is not true. The opposite of Love is Fear. Hate is a reaction or a result of fear. Fear breeds hate. I am sure that the officer that was sent out on that call to Ferguson that day feared going there. He probably wondered and feared what he would encounter. He probably knew that he had to choose his words carefully because nearly everything a white cop would say would be seen as offensive. It’s been established by a few witnesses of the event that the officer never left his car before he was attacked by a very intimidating and large young man. No one knows what made Michael Brown turn around and approach the officer. No one knows what made him attack the officer. No one knows why, after having his hand shot, he didn’t try to run away, but instead, he turned around and charged the officer. My thought is that it is perhaps, because Michael hated whites, or police or especially white police officers. There could be credence the notion that the police in Ferguson have been abusive in Michael’s neighborhood and Michael’s hate caused him to believe that he was going to take the officer out before the officer took him out. It was clear that Michael was the thief that robbed the convenience store because he had the box of cigars in his hand. It was not clear however that that particular officer was one of the “bad” cops that had mistreated the residents of his neighborhood. Another question arises. If the cops were so bad to the people of Michael’s neighborhood, why weren’t there ever complaints made against offending officers? In this day and age, when you can’t even look cross eyed at people of color

without being called a racist, and with a Black president and Black attorney general running the nation the residents of Ferguson could have easily brought charges against the Ferguson police. The lack of this sort of actions makes me wonder if the police were really “so evil.” Nothing puts fear into a public servant than the possibility that civil rights charges can be brought against them, yet as far as I can determine, that has never happened, until two weeks after this event occurred.

I want the reader to know that before I became a believer in Yeshua, I was on the other side of the Law. I was no angel. I stole things and I lied to police. I got high and drove and I hated the police because I FEARED them. I knew that I was doing wrong and that if I did get arrested, I would have to face the penalty for what I was doing. My guess is that I was being watched out for because I never got caught in my misdeeds. I guess also I didn't progress to worse things because maybe I had a conscience that whole time. I had that conscience because my parents did their best to get me to do right, to honor authorities and to obey the law. Had I not had that instruction I would have had a warped sense of right and wrong and I could have been the guy in the picture delivering a warped sense of thinking. The thing is that Michael Brown strong-hand robbed a store, the police were called out to find the robber and when he was found he attacked a police officer and was killed. If Michael had never robbed the store none of the events and none of the strife would have occurred. He needs to be seen for what he was, a thug that broke the law. We cannot create subsets of people who are allowed to break the law and allow such behavior to continue. Yes, there are dirty cops, just like there are dirty politicians, dirty store owners and dirty poor people. Yes, the system sometimes doesn't work, but does breaking the law justify the system? Does burning down and looting the businesses of people who are not part of the problem do anything but create more fear and hate? The universal principal that two wrongs never make a right still applies.

And in closing, no, I am not someone who doesn't understand. My ancestors have been slaves time and time again, once for 430 years and under horrible taskmasters. We've been kicked out of countries over and over again and we've been told to covert or die. We've been murdered and persecuted for the past 3500+ years and pretty have well earned the title of the martyrs for who we are. The world has blamed us for plagues, wars and everything you could possibly think of. Yet we Jews are the epitome of the phrase, “when life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” We just pick ourselves up, help each other and rebuild. We don't burn down our own towns and when we cry out about antisemitism the world laughs and applauds, they don't bend backward to throw us money, to rebuild what has been destroyed and kowtow to us because they see us as a threat.

People of all races that are persecuted need to learn that this world is evil and it offers evil. The problem isn't the police or the governments or our leaders, although they are puppets. They are puppets of a group of people who want to take over this world for Satan. He is the one that hates all human beings and he will, if he's allowed to, cause us to destroy each other. The only way that peace will ever come between the races is if we come to true faith in Yeshua, the Prince of Peace. If the governments give you "freebies" they are doing it to enslave you. When Yeshua gives you something it is eternal and lasts forever. I am afraid for this nation. We've made the government our god and told the God of Israel to go away. We've created a vacuum where we've told Love to go away and the vacuum is being filled with hatred, bigotry and violence. In our time we're seeing the opposite of love, we're seeing fear and it is being manifested in hatred. We fail to see who the real bad guys are and because of that they are allowed to deceive freely:

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:10-13*

I'm asking everyone to just take a step back and look at the situation through the eyes of Yahweh. The evil entities that exist are playing us all against each other. They are using our government to drive between us what looks like unmovable wedges. Yeshua (Jesus) is the only answer to this whole race hatred thing. If He is in our lives and savior and King then we crave love, not fear; we crave resolution, not division, and we crave mercy rather than retribution. Everyone, think for yourselves, not what another person is thinking. Yahweh gave us all brains to be able to deduce what is right from wrong, use your brains and your hearts. Do not be quick to violence, but be quick to make peace. Read Yahweh's Torah to find out what He sees as right and wrong and pray to Yeshua before you do anything after being wronged. This world was changed from a barbaric place by the Love that believers in Yeshua had for each other, and it is being destroyed because of fear and hatred. There is only one cure, Yeshua. I pray that you choose life and peace and joy; choose Yeshua.