

AN ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

I was driving around yesterday before school and had sort of a revelation. Perhaps I should call it a re-revelation. Let me explain.

Over the years I have fallen into the trap that many believers in Yeshua fall into. For some reason we tend to fall into the lie that Yahweh promised us a rose garden. That could be not farther from the truth. Yeshua promised us peace, comfort and rest, but what many fail to realize is that he promised that we would have those in times of persecution and severe trouble. He promised that there would be times when we would be persecuted, put out of the synagogues (and churches), and we would even be killed for our faith. He didn't promise that we would have nice cars, nice houses, a very happy family and he certainly didn't promise that in this world we would have peace.

As I said, I was driving around yesterday and I was getting frustrated. Frustration has been more on my plate lately, especially given the fact that our family, like most others in America today, is in a financial quandary. We're not starving and we have a modest roof over your heads and yes, we have a couple of aging cars; but we are not in dire straits. It is however not like it used to be, where prosperity tended to just drop out of the sky, so to speak. To make stress a bit more present, the funds that I had coming in while in school ceased for the current time until something can be resolved on a government level. There is also some upheaval in our family at the current time and there is quite a bit of stress. So, you see, there are reasons for frustration, so to speak.

You readers have to understand that I, like many others, sort of change when I'm driving around. For some reason, driving brings out the worse in me. It isn't driving per-se, but putting up with other drivers that sometimes makes me wish that me and all the other drivers were in a demolition derby at that time. I learned to drive in California and have driven in many states of this great land. In California and back in the Northeast we learned to drive defensively and in a dog-eat-dog fashion. In essence, you learn to become assertive but courteous at the same time. At least that is what I learned to do. In Oregon however, all rules that I learned go out the window. The drivers in my new state are without a doubt the worse drivers ever, anywhere. If you need a picture, just imagine a place where you feel like the only normal driver and all other drivers have taken Quaalude's before they went out to drive. They all seem to be in a fog, like time doesn't matter; in a slow-motion world where everybody has "tortoise nervosa."

Yesterday I exited our 55 and over community (which in itself makes life interesting) and headed out onto the road. It seemed that all of the drivers on the main street timed it just so that I could not pull out onto the street. Next, I came to a traffic light where the slowpoke in front of me timed it just so that he got through the light and I had to stop. After that, some wonderful soul decided about 500 feet from his turn that he was going to almost stop before he in fact turned. The next two traffic lights turned out like the first one that I mentioned and by that time I got mad; but at the same time, I noticed that Yahweh was going to talk with me.

Yes, I heard that still-small voice within me speaking to me. It wasn't just about the traffic conditions, but all of the conditions that have come up recently. You see, I had actually had the audacity to think that because I believed in Yeshua, and tried my best to follow his words in my life, that I had some special mojo when it came to life. Although scripture clearly states that Yahweh allows the rain to fall on the just and the unjust equally; I figured that I was some sort of special case where that would not happen.

Furthermore, I came to the re-realization that everything that happens will happen because Yahweh knew it would happen before he ever founded the world and created this selfish little servant. If I was able to get through that light, or if I had to stop for that light, it was all preordained. When the family is in upheaval and it seems like others are getting justice while the just people are being scat upon it is all for a reason. When the finances stopped this month and I had to sell my possessions to have money for food and rent it was for a reason. Maybe Yahweh didn't want me to have those things? Maybe he wants us to be able to trust in HIM more? Maybe Yahweh is getting us prepared for a time when we will truly have nothing.

A lot of people are going through things these days. Some are experiencing divorce and/or your spouse left you for what you feel is an unjust reason. Maybe you had to leave your spouse because of abuse or whatever reason. Perhaps Yahweh didn't want that person in your life anymore. Perhaps he knew that down the road that the other person would harm you or cause you to walk away from HIM. Maybe He has something better for you. Maybe you lost money in the stock market? Well, maybe he doesn't like you gambling and he got you out of it to bring you to a higher truth. Apply this type of thought to whatever you are going through.

You see, this world is set up on what "the gentiles seek." If we are walking with Yeshua we are to be seeing the things that the world is doing, we need to see what they lust after, and we need to turn about-face and walk the other way. The world wants the big cars, the nice houses, the money and everything else worldly. We need to find rest in Yeshua, who will comfort us

when we are persecuted or denied the things that we truly need. We need to realize that in Yahweh's eyes, everything that we're going through has already happened. We need to think outside of linear time and start looking at things like Yahweh looks at them. He will see us forward to the end, and if we endure to the end, we shall be saved. In closing, let's look at what Yeshua said:

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Matthew 6:24-34 KJV