

DIDN'T I TELL YOU?

(Luke 5:1-6, 10-11; John 21:6,10-11; 11:17, 40-44)

The certainty of this question carries a weight of confidence for those who believe and rely on the Word of God. "Did I not tell you"? The pronoun I in this question is the I AM, THE CREATOR, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, and THE PRINCE OF PEACE! Is there anything hard for Him? He spoke, therefore we believed without a doubt.

The news came to Yahshua that His friend, Lazarus, was ill to the point of death. In the frame of the time in which the news came to Him was of no concern to Him, so He remained two more days. On the fourth day when He decided to answer the call, He said, I am going to wake Lazarus up. The two miles distance between Jerusalem and Bethany, where Lazarus and his sisters lived, didn't seem too far and at no time they arrived there. In the human eye all seemed hopeless, for Lazarus had been dead four days and was already buried! But in the eye of Life Giver Lazarus' death was to bring glory to God.

Where have you laid him? Asked Yahshua. Lord, come and see; come and see the hopelessness of the heart; come and see for Yourself that Lazarus is long gone and by this time he is stinking. At the hopelessness expressed by Martha's doubt, He emphatically asked the question, **Didn't I tell and promised you that if you believe, trust and rely on Me, you would see the glory of God?** Yahshua had come to Lazarus at the Father's timing for the world to see that He was the true Son of God, the Messiah. There amidst the hopelessness stood the Life Giver ready to show the world Who He was. There was no doubt that Lazarus had been dead for four days in the minds and eyes of the people who were present. His burial confirmed the fact. Standing in that reality Yahshua then prayed, Father I thank you that You have heard Me. Yes, I know that You always hear and listen to Me, but I have said this on the account of and for the benefit of the people standing around, so that they may believe that You did send Me. After having said this, He shouted with a loud voice, **Lazarus, Come out** (Vs. 41-44)! All ears and eyes present heard and saw the glory of God through the resurrection power coming from Yahshua. **Didn't I tell you and promise you, if you would believe, you would see the glory of God?** Conditionally upon believing, there is the promise, "you will see the glory of God". Many times we pray doubting the promise, but believing the tangible. What is faith to us if we cannot believe the unseen when He gives the definition of faith as the assurance – the certainty, sureness, confidence; it is the guarantee of things we hope for, the proof of things we do not see and the conviction of their reality; faith perceives things as reality, when not seen as reality. Yahshua said if you believe, if you have faith you will experience my goodness. Martha limited her belief in Yahshua's power, when she expressed doubt at His command to remove the stone from the tomb. She said, Lord, by this time he throws off an offensive odor, for he has been dead for four days! In spite of Martha not being expecting such miracle, she confessed to believe that Yahshua was the Messiah at her encounter with Him. She said to Him, Yes, Lord, I have believed that You are the Christ the Son of God, Who was to come into the world (vs.27), but did not fully understand the unlimited power of Yahshua as the Son of God. She walked in the darkness of her limited belief of the power of Yahshua, as we believers do today. We live in a society where patience has been extinct for lack of faith in our daily lives; we exercise self-sufficiency

on the click of a button. Fearful of what the disease can do to us, we allow the doctors to burn us to our death instead of trust and rely on the Doctor of doctors to heal us. We go through life never experiencing the glory of God. And the question remains Didn't I tell you, if you would believe, you would see the glory of God? without being heard, appreciated and applied.

Many of us believers are barely spiritually alive, for we walk blinded and deafened by our burial clothes, which symbolize the spirit of doubt and its attachments called the spirit of insecurity, the spirit of fear and unbelief. We are religious in our way of believing what men say is true; we embrace religion and man-made traditions and overlook the importance of having an intimate relationship with God. The Word of God tells us to lean on, trust in and be confident in the Lord with all our hearts and minds and do not rely on our own insight or understanding; to know, recognize, and acknowledge God in all our ways; and not to be wise in our own eyes but reverently fear and worship the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-8).

When at the second multiplication of bread, having forgotten the left over bread given them, and having only one loaf with them, the disciples could not understand Yahshua's warning concerning the Pharisees' leaven, for their eyes could not see neither their ears could hear, perceive and understand the sense of what was said (Mark 8:15, 16) because their hearts "were settled in a state of hardness". This experience is familiar not only in the lives of the disciples, but also in the lives of the believers whose face and body are bound by the burial clothes. In their religious mode they know only to practice the traditions of men taught in churches, which is "the leaven of the Pharisees", but lack the spiritual discernment and understanding. To them Yahshua is asking the question, Do you not hear and perceive and understand the sense of what is said? And do you not remember (Mark 8:18)? And the question, Did I not tell you if you would believe, you would see the glory of God (John 11: 17)? It's only when we are free from those burial clothes that we can see, hear and perceive with understanding the Word of God and His calling to serve Him.

Did I not tell you? Is an emphatic question with certainty that He spoke; it is a remembrance bringing us to the place where our memories will confirm it to be true. Oh! Yeah, I remember it now. Just like Yahshua had to bring the disciples to that point by reminding them the details of the two multiplications of bread, He will do for us, provided we are free to hear with our ears and perceive with our eyes, and understand with our hearts.

The glory of God will be manifested through our act of obedience and submission to Him. It is only through obedience that our senses of seeing and hearing will be activated to perform the will of God and that will be done by our belief and trust in Him. When Yahshua told Peter to "Put out into the deep [water] and lower the nets for a haul, he, even not knowing who Yahshua was, obeyed as it is seen in his own words, Master, we toiled all night and caught nothing. But on the ground of Your word, I will lower the nets (Luke 5:4-5). Again, in John twenty-one we find a similar experience when Yahshua at the end of His ministry told the disciples "to cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find [some]" (vs. 5, 6), and when they had done it in both experiences, the glory of God was shown to them and they

believed Yahshua. At the first experience, Yahshua called them to be “fishers of men” and as fishers of men at the second experience when they hauled the net to land, full of large fish, 153 of them and though they were so many, the net was not torn (vs. 11), means that their ministry as fishers of men would bring many to salvation and none of them would be lost; it also echoes the words of Yahshua, Those You gave Me I have kept... no man is able to pluck them out of My Father’s hand (John 10). **Did not I tell you, if you would believe, you would see the glory of God? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not faint or grow weary; there is no searching of His understanding (Isaiah 40: 28).**

Oh the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unfathomable are His judgments! And how untraceable are His ways!
For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever! Amen.