

Indifference- the Enemy of the Soul (Amos 4:4-11)

The word indifference is defined in the Webster dictionary as lack of concern, interest, or feeling; indifference is coldness toward the need of others as we see in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37); we have here a good example of indifference in the action of the priest, and in the Levite. Ironically they were spiritual leaders, chosen to serve others, especially in the sacred service. In Exodus 28:1 the Lord commands Moses to separate his brother Aaron and his sons from among the Israelites so they could serve Him as priests; they were from the tribe of Levi, from the lineage of Aaron; they performed the duties of the sacrificial offerings, among other duties. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, however, they ignored a man left on the road half dead, forgetting their position of priests as unto YAHWEH and men. YAHSHUA said that when they had seen the man, they "passed by on the other side" (Luke 10: 30-37). This was not the case that they had not seen the man; but the case of indifference; they willingly distanced themselves from him. They were found unfaithful before YAHWEH and to the duty of priest. Solomon said, "Deliver those who are drawn away to death, and those who totter to the slaughter, hold them back; if you say, Behold, we did not know this, does not He Who weight and ponders the heart perceive and consider it? And He Who guards your life, does not He know it? And shall not He render to [you and] every man according to his works" (Prov. 24:11-12). This is a stern warning we should pay attention to.

After the judgment of a great universal flood that destroyed the earth, men's indifference to its root cause, guided them to indifference to what YAHWEH had commanded them to do: to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth. They decided instead to build a tower that would reach to heaven, afraid of another flood; ignoring the promise YAHWEH had given Noah of never destroying the earth with water again, and giving him a sign of the rainbow. He said to Noah, I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a token or sign of a covenant or solemn pledge between Me and the earth; and it shall be that when I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember My covenant or solemn pledge which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters will no more become a flood to destroy and make all flesh corrupt (Ge. 9:13-15). At that time men found the comfort in having one language; in the land of Shinar, which was Babylon, they decided to build a city and a tower whose top would have reached to the sky, and planned to make a name for themselves, lest they be scattered over the whole earth (Gen. 11:2-4), as YAHWEH had told them to do (Gen. 9:1). In their indifference they acted contrary to the command of YAHWEH. The Lord then came and scattered them everywhere with confusion of tongues.

"The bricks have fallen, but we will built with hewn stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will put cedars in their place" (Isaiah 9:10). These were words of indifference to the judgment YAHWEH had sent to Israel. They said these in pride and stoutness of heart (vs. 9). One of the roots of indifference, among others, is pride. It pretends nothing happened, so not to bend the will to what is right. Isaiah called the Israelite women who were at ease (indifferent), to rise up, to listen to what he had to say; tremble, you women who are at ease! Shudder with fear, you complacent ones! Strip yourselves bare and gird sackcloth upon you

loins (Isa. 32: 9-11). Indifference numbs the soul in a state of rebellion, only to lead one to death. In Noah's day, before the great flood, the people were warned, but they decided to be indifferent and they perished in the flood; in the days of Lot, he warned his family, but some of them too were indifferent to the warning and died in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorra by raining of brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven (Gen. 19:24). Indifference to warnings brings death; indifference toward the needs of others brings judgment; for many of us, it is easy to walk away than to face the inconvenience of helping someone in need. How far can we go acting indifferently until we are caught in a helpless situation, and needing help? The seeds of indifference we planted, as we ignored others in their needs, will come to haunt us in our needs. We will cry, but we will not be heard, just as we closed our ears and eyes to others. The Lord promises blessings to those who considers the weak and the poor; He will deliver him in the time of evil and trouble; the Lord will protect him and keep him alive; he shall be called blessed in the land; and He will not deliver him to the will of his enemies (Ps. 41:1-2).

In the book of Amos, 4:6-11 we read Israel's indifference to YAHWEH'S chastening: the Lord said, I gave you absolutely nothing to eat in all your cities, a shortage of food in all your communities, yet you did not return to Me- I also withheld the rain from you, **yet you did not return to Me**; I struck you with blight and mildew; the locust devoured your many gardens and vineyards, your fig trees and olive trees, **yet you did not return to Me**; I sent plagues like those of Egypt; I killed your young men with the sword, along with your captured horses, **yet you did not return to Me**; I overthrew some of you as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a burning stick snatched from a fire, **yet you did not return to Me**. YAHWEH finishes by warning the nation of Israel: Therefore, Israel, that is what I will do to you, and since I will do that to you, Israel, prepare to meet your GOD! Israel's indifference caused her to go spiritually blind; she did not even recognize her Messiah when He came and rejected Him. With deep sorrow for Jerusalem, YAHSHUA cried saying, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who continue to kill the prophets and to stone those who are sent to you! How often I have desired and yearned to gather you children together as a hen her young under her wings, **but you would not**; then He predicted judgment by saying: Behold, your house is forsaken! And I tell you, you will not see Me again until the time comes when you shall say, Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord (Luke 13:34-35)! My friend, do you hear the Lord's calling you to repentance? What has been your attitude? Like that of the nation of Israel, you will be found guilty before Him when the time comes for judgement. He gave you His Son to save you from hell; and to deliver you from the power of sin; you can never be saved if you ignore such great salvation.

In your success, do not close your eyes to the needs around you; remember those who are ill-treated, since you also are liable to bodily sufferings (Heb. 13:3b). YAHWEH'S word says that if we close our eyes to the needs of others, even our bed will be snatched from under us in our time of needs. Embrace love for those who are poor and needy. They may not smell pleasant to you; they may not be deserving of your help; but do it as unto the Lord and He will reward you in time to come, for this is pleasing to Him. James said, For to him who has shown no mercy the judgment [will be] merciless, but mercy exults victoriously over judgment; if a brother or sister is poorly clad and lacks food for each day, and one of you says to him, Good-bye! Keep warm

and well fed, without giving him the necessities for the body, what good does that do (James 22:15-16)?

Love, because YAHWEH has loved you; share your goods, because YAHWEH has given you; share your strength with others, because He gives you strength; you can do all things, because He gave you strength (Phil. 4:13). The world is full of empty hearts waiting to be filled with the love of YAHWEH; only His people can honestly give the true love, because true love comes only from Him. Open the eye of your heart to the needy and embrace them with YAHWEH'S arms. Show the world that He is love by loving them. Indifference from you and from me will deny and misrepresent YAHWEH'S faithfulness and Who He is. Let your light so shine the work of YAHWEH'S Son on the cross, where He shed His blood for all who will come and receive Him. Let's make a difference in our world!