

## Leaving Everything Behind

(Luke 5:1-11; 27-28)

Everyday life brings us choices; the direction of our day is taken by choices. In a particular day a rich young man came to YAHSHUA with a very important question: "Teacher, what good must I do to have eternal life"? He hadn't realized the turn his life would have to make to achieve the spiritual results he was looking for his eternal destiny. Life was good for him; he lacked nothing in the material language; now he wanted heaven also. "Go and sell what you have and give to the poor and you will have riches in heaven, and come, be My disciple" replied the Lord YAHSHUA (Matt. 19:21). A choice he had to make to inherit life eternal. He was found in the crossroads of eternity; which one must he choose: YAHSHUA or his riches? YAHSHUA was saying to him, I am the way, the truth and the life; I am the way to life eternal; only by following Me you will have eternal life; you can enter heaven without the things of the world. A choice he couldn't have made because he loved his riches more than YAHWEH. He left YAHSHUA sad. That was his opportunity; that was his open door to heaven, but he had chosen not to enter it. YAHSHUA then turned to the disciples and said, I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of YAHWEH; the disciples were astonished with these words and asked the question: Then who can be saved? YAHSHUA answered, With men this is impossible, but with YAHWEH all things are possible. Then Peter responded, Look, we have left everything and followed You. So what will there be for us? (Vs. 24-28).

YAHWEH wants all that has to do with us; He does not want parts or pieces; He does not want a divided body, because the heart will follow where the treasures are; if they are earthly, then that's the direction our heart is following; if heavenly, that's the direction the heart is going. Decisions are before us every day with choices set before us. The one we love more will show in the choice we make. Our decision to choose family, friends and things instead of YAHSHUA and His calling is a decision that contributes with negative reward we will reap later. Remember the riches are not the only thing that blocks us from making the decision to follow YAHSHUA; "Where your heart is, there your treasure will be also". Peter and his partners, James and John had a choice to make when the call was made to follow YAHSHUA: they **brought** the boats to land, **left everything** and **followed Him**. They left their source of income; their boats were now used to transport the Word of YAHWEH with healing, deliverance for all who needed then. These men did not look back to regret their decision; they persevere in the journey with YAHSHUA for three years, never went hungry or in need of anything. Passing by YAHSHUA saw Levi, a tax collector, sitting at his office; He gave him the invitation "Follow Me!" Levi, **leaving everything behind**, he got up and began to follow Him; Levi went a little farther with his choice, he hosted a grand banquet for YAHSHUA at his house, where he brought a large crowd of tax collectors and introduced them to YAHSHUA (Luke 5:27-31). Now that was the beginning of the Lord's commission, Go and tell the entire world. At the words of John the Baptist, Andrew brought Peter to YAHSHUA, and Phillip to Nathanael, but Levi brought a crowd- all his friends to YAHSHUA. That was to say, I leave my life style and say goodbye to my worldly friends to follow YAHSHUA. The Apostle Paul left the former things that had gains to him and considered them to be loss and counted everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege of

knowing YAHSHUA and consider all to be mere rubbish and redirected his determined purpose to know Him (Phil. 3:6-15). Nothing stood in the way for Paul to follow and serve His Lord. His encounter with Him on the way to Damascus with a purpose to persecute the Christians turned His life around and gave him a different purpose; no longer was he a persecutor, he was now a persecuted servant of YAHWEH and died for Him. Salvation entered the house of Zacchaeus, when repented of his life style and gave all that wasn't his to those he had robbed four times the amount.

In today's world and life style what does it mean to leave all family, houses, friends to follow YAHSHUA? Does it mean to leave all to go to the end of the world, or does it mean to leave the life style of the world with selfish gains to follow His teachings? It does mean both as it did for us, when YAHWEH called us to Israel. The choice to give up the carnal and worldly desires is applicable for all believers at all times. We must live our life to reflect Him only; whatever it requires to leave behind – entertainment, relationships, families, etc. To press on to heaven is never to look back to the things that used to be, the comforts life offered. To press on is to forget the things left behind to focus on the promise set before us, the never ending hope of glory; it is to walk holding onto the Truth and shining ever so brightly the joy of our coming salvation. Lot and his wife were told to flee Sodom and Gomorra without looking back to obtain their salvation; Lot's wife lost her life for turning her eyes back to the city. In the worldly thinking Moses had a lot to lose when he left the palace where he had been reared by a Pharaoh's princess, with a great future before him. But Moses decided to leave all to save his suffering people from the hands of Pharaoh. He left the world – Egypt and never looked back to his former life of a prince. He preferred to suffer with his own people. Hearing the call of YAHSHUA the believer has only one choice to make: to leave everything behind and follow Him with perseverance and determination to the end. And the powerless clay will be in the hands of the Father empowered to do that which he was called to do even when pressured, perplexed, persecuted, and struck. Under His control we will not be crushed, we will not be in despair, we will not feel abandoned, and will not be destroyed, but we will have the strength of His presence to press on to reach our eternal destination- the unseen and eternal glorious heavenly abode. The love of YAYWEH demonstrated to us on the cross is the love that compels us to die for self and leave all behind to follow Him at any cost, even our life.

**THINK ABOUT IT!**