

# Yeshua

# MISHPACHAH

A NEWSLETTER TO THE FAMILY OF JESUS FROM RESTORATION MINISTRIES

*The Hebraic family is not simply an individual or private matter. Rather, it is an institution in which the whole community has a stake. Thus, the Hebrew word "mishpachah," meaning family, not only refers to parents and children, but to the whole extended family worldwide in the body of "Yeshua"—our Jesus.*

Dear Friends,

The restoration of Spirit-empowered older men who reflect the loving-concern of our Father is His means to equip us to live out the relational warmth of the early Church. Sue and I have waited from the time we first returned from Israel to find the older people whom our Lord would use to equip the next generation. I am reminded of a line from a worship song: *"Take these eyes and let them see your power to heal the land, come heal our land."*

The Lord has been showing us that this is a **"Mom & Pop movement."** As the Spirit of God recruits the older people who desire to serve, you will not see the marketing hype, structural hierarchy, or human efficiency of corporate America that has taken over much of the western Church. It will be older people simply reproducing the relationship they have with their Father into the lives of those who are younger. A letter in a recent *Focus on the Family* magazine stated, "...issues of family life that seniors are most interested in, from children to grandchildren, healing broken relationships, ...wisdom in age."

If you know of men and women who are over 40 and serious about following Jesus and mending relationships,

please let them know about the Institute in Biblical Eldership. (ElderQuest Ministries: 1-800-265-8351.)

A thought to consider:

One morning we gathered to pray on a hill near the lodge. Several miles away were the snow-capped Sangre de Cristo Mountains. As I looked down the hill toward the lake below I began to search the forest near the lake for signs of deer.

As I searched I sensed the Holy Spirit speaking: "First movement, then color, then form." Years ago when I flew search and rescue in the Navy, that was the sequence in which we were taught the brain operates. It looks for movement, then color, and finally form.

The Spirit then explained, "Tell God's children to look for *His movement*, then *His glory*, and finally they will see *His form*." May this be a blessing to you.

Answered prayer is one of the key determinants in recognizing our fellowship with our Father and His Son, Jesus.

***"... you must inquire, probe and investigate it thoroughly"***  
(Deut. 13:14)

Are you a person who takes

things on face value? When you hear something negative spoken about another person, do you verify what is being said? Years ago during our retreat ministry, a young man named Mark Haas gave us this maxim: *Trust but verify*. Other people call it "kicking the tires" or "checking the teeth."

The writer of Proverbs gives us an important understanding of verifying truth: *"The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him"* (Pro. 18:17). While Sue was a kindergarten teacher at a Christian school many years ago, she wrote the parents this wise advice: "I won't believe everything your child tells me about you, if you won't believe everything he/she tells you about me."

There is a real biblical maxim in her advice, one that we hope will become a foundational practice in the Church once again: *"Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses"* (2Cor. 13:1). Sue and I live by this principle in order to avoid a very common satanic trap. When people have come to us for counsel due to an estranged relationship with someone, we protect ourselves from being entrapped in slander and gossip by reserving the right to verify what is being shared.

***Equipping the Church to Go Back for its Future***

Many who listen only to one<sup>2</sup> person's viewpoint find other relationships in their lives becoming tense and estranged. Paul warned the Galatians about this pattern when he wrote, "*If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other*" (Gal. 5:15). When someone shares detrimental information about another, they are devouring both the person they speaking against and the person listening. The Bible tells us that Satan himself seeks to devour. His name "the Adversary" is applicable; he endeavors to create adverse relationships between people and God and with each other. He often does this through spiritual strongholds, slander/ gossip, or unconfessed sin.

Every intimate relationship requires loyalty and devotion. Loyalty is the glue which binds it together. When people share detrimental information about another, they are taking the first steps of disloyalty. An emotional blockage in the relationship inevitably occurs, finally manifesting itself in total estrangement.

Although there has always been the problem of estrangement among God's people, it is now at plague proportions in the US. One of the main contributors is the unchecked perversion of psychological analysis. In many congregations this has become the ministry method of choice for dealing with personal problems. The reliance on psychology rather than on the power of the Holy Spirit to heal and restore is so widespread that it seems strange to some attendees at our seminars when we speak of

God's power to change people. To many, the Spirit's power is a distant abstraction at best—something to be talked about but never to trust in.

What do think Jesus meant when He said, "*I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin*" (Mark 3:28,29)? We see many in danger of crossing this line by negating the Spirit's power, and relying instead on the techniques of man.

### **Do you remember the scientific method?**

There was a time when people probed, examined, and investigated until they concluded the truth about a matter. The scientific method relied on the biblical foundation of: Examination + Objective [unbiased] Analysis of the examined information = a Verifiable Conclusion. We see God mandating this for the priests in Leviticus 13-15 regarding examinations for skin diseases, household mildew, and marital unfaithfulness.

**Objective examination  
+ objective analysis  
= a correct conclusion.**

The increased reliance on psychology within the western Church began when the GI Bill prompted our seminaries to scramble for Federal money after WW II. In time, psychology books superseded the Bible as the reference of choice in dealing with people's problems. (Some even discarded the

notion of "sin", terming everything a "problem" or issue.) Bear in mind that the Bible reveals that humans are made in the image of God. Intimate, load-bearing relationships both with God and with each other requires our personal knowledge of one another. The Bible's problem with psychology is that psychology permits us to *define people categorically*. When we begin to categorize people, we remove ourselves from being responsible for knowing them intimately.

You've heard statements such as:

"That's the way all men act."  
"You're a "high-D" (or a choleric).  
"Everyone from the south acts that way."  
"You know those charismatics..."

These statements place people in a categorical box. Of course, doing this makes it easier for our minds to grasp the complex nature of people. But the bottom line in dealing with people categorically is that it prevents us from becoming *personally involved*. Consider trying to fulfill Paul's words *without* personal involvement: "*If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it*" (1Cor. 12:26). Without personal involvement we become desensitized. Desensitized people are prone to think in impersonal categorical terms, making it impossible for them to support dignity, relational security, or to experience the love and companionship God desires.

Before WW II the German propaganda newspaper *Der Stuermer* desensitized the Germans to the fact that the Jews are people. When the

“Final Solution” was enacted,<sup>3</sup> false dichotomy is behind the the population did not envision the Jews as people, but as a *problem* being addressed by their government. We see the same desensitization today whenever abortion is referred to as “pregnancy termination” rather than as murder of an unborn child, or of euthanasia as “death with dignity” rather than as taking a life.

Those of you who have gone through our book *Demolishing Strongholds* know how important intimate relationships are in meeting the seven needs God created in us. One comment we frequently receive after people renounce generational strongholds and begin to have their needs met is how *compassion* for others begins to grow. The combination of trusting in the power and authority of Jesus to rid yourself of the spirits, and the power of the Holy Spirit to enable you to love and to have your needs met through intimate relationships results in ever-increasing compassion for other people.

**No objective examination  
+ subjective [biased] analysis  
= deluded conclusion**

Permit me to share a problem that is rampant in the western Church. This problem would not exist if God’s people would objectively examine the Scriptures. Many Gentiles accept the view that the opposite of God’s law is His grace. They hear it, repeat it, but fail to verify it. Their failure to examine the Bible has opened the door for grace to be viewed as an excuse for not obeying His laws. This

gives a sense of power and control over another person. It has become so brazen that people who probe you with background questions or examination then feel free to imply your motives toward others—motives that are never confirmed or verified by you. They install themselves as experts on your personal character and motivation!

The Bible clearly stipulates that the opposite of the law is *lawlessness*. Scripture further affirms that grace is God’s empowerment to both *know* and *keep* His commandments. By not examining the Scriptures, many have lived under the deluded conclusion, believing that law and grace stand opposed to each other.

This same problem is seen in the reliance on human analysis so prevalent throughout churches in this country. Rather than objective conclusions derived through long-standing personal relationship, conclusions are often based on filling out psychological tests or worse yet, on mere impressions. For those of you who are free of spiritual strongholds and have an increasing dignity through experiencing our Father’s love, you know the sting you feel when people try to “psyche you out.” Rather than fulfilling the verse of the old song, “*They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love*”—“We will guard each man’s dignity...”—sadly, God’s people have in many ways become the *robbers* of each other’s dignity.

With the analysis mode so well entrenched in churches today, people play with each others motivations and personalities. We fail to see people as representing the image of God, but rather as a composite of personality traits and motivations that can be altered through human intervention. Permit me to voice a warning to you: The perversion of psychology in the Church can be like witchcraft. It

gives a sense of power and control over another person. It has become so brazen that people who probe you with background questions or examination then feel free to imply your motives toward others—motives that are never confirmed or verified by you. They install themselves as experts on your personal character and motivation!

People imply motivation with phrases such as, “You’re the way you are because of your alcoholic mother”, or, “Your unmet need for attention as a child has caused you this fear and insecurity.” These are often deluded conclusions. Even the phrase, “Once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic” is a trap created by those who rely on human technique and not on the Spirit’s power to bring complete freedom and healing.

In your Father’s sight, you are not defined by past strongholds or by sins you have confessed to Him. He sees you and the events surrounding you as His means of expressing to you His unfailing love and concern for you, and to enable you to grow into the character of His Son, Jesus. Analysis will trap you in your past. The Spirit’s power enables you to uphold Paul’s goal:

**“Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”** (Phil. 3:13,14).

*Mike & Sue Dowgiewicz*