

“Behold What Manner of Love!”

Part Four – “Can Two Walk Together, Except They Be Agreed?”

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In our last study I said we would address what servants of YHUH are to do in troublesome situations in which they are unequally yoked with spouses who do not share their love and service for YHUH. YHUH’s question “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” (Amos 3:3) shows unlike things cannot stay together. We can see this from day one of Creation as YHUH divided the light from the darkness. He put light with light and darkness with darkness, working on the principle of “like things together.”

Scripture has several examples of like things being put together. The animals were led into the ark by sevens or twos, each in a group of its own kind. The Messiah spoke of the gathering at the end of time in which He stressed the necessity of putting like things together:

Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. Matthew 13:30

This was also symbolized by gathering in the fish and sorting them by their kind:

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:47-50

The end time sorting of like things together is again clearly stated in the parable of the sheep and the goats:

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Matthew 25:31-33

It makes sense YHUH would need to sort like things together as He is setting up His kingdom. The righteous are gathered together for their reward, and the wicked for their punishment. Yet, even though this is clearly stated in Scripture, it is highly opposed by the world.

In the last days a vast ecumenical movement will unite the world in the worship of the beast and accepting its mark. Satan employs his most heinous, atrocious and scandalous designs to thwart YHUH’s crucial plan to divide mankind. .

One of Satan's most successful campaigns against YHUH's dividing work is the deeply seated belief he inspired that all divorces outside of marital infidelity are wrong and forbidden by YHUH. However, YHUH's own course regarding divorce proves against this belief. In Jeremiah we read that YHUH gave a bill of divorce to Israel:

And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; Jeremiah 3:8

YHUH divorced Israel because of her adultery committed by way of her backsliding. What was this adultery? We know it wasn't a sexual act. However it had to be something so violating to her relationship with YHUH that His love could no longer be put in her. John explains this to us: "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*" 1 John 2:15.

YHUH cannot put His love in those who love the world because the world hates Him:

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. John 15:18,19

YHUH can put His love only in those who come out of the world because the world hates Him. If someone backslides into loving the world then the world's hate comes into their heart towards YHUH and He has to divorce them. Israel's adultery was claiming to love YHUH while her love for the world was building hate in her heart for Him instead. Finally her adulterous love for the world required Him to divorce her.

When servants of YHUH are married to spouses who love the world or claim to love YHUH while also loving the world, then they are in the same predicament YHUH was in when He was married to Israel. If YHUH divorced Israel because of her love for the world, then is it possible His servants will be required to divorce their mates for the same reason?

This question was answered by the Messiah when the Pharisees asked Him if it was lawful for a man to put away his wife:

And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore Eloheem hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.
Matthew 19:4-9

The only valid reason the Messiah gives for divorce is "*fornication*," which means "harlotry (including adultery and incest); figuratively idolatry." This refers to more than sexual infidelity in the marriage; it includes infidelity to YHUH which is idolatry. This means YHUH gives us the exact same reason for divorcing our mates as He had for divorcing Israel - infidelity to Him! If someone loves the world so the love of the Father cannot be in them, then their spouses who love YHUH will have to divorce them even as YHUH had to divorce Israel.

The Messiah's answer also shows how divorce must be done for the right reason. He said "*Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.*" (Matthew 19:9). In other words, if a servant of YHUH divorces their spouse for fornicating against YHUH (which would include sexual infidelity in the marriage), then this is right. But if someone divorces their spouse for any other reason, then they are committing adultery against that spouse who must be a follower of YHUH since they are not fornicating against Him.

This gives us a consistent view of YHUH. He wants like things together. If His servants are married to

someone who loves the world more than Him, then at some point He will call them to come out of that relationship so they can serve Him without compromise.

The obvious question is when does YHUUH require His servants to divorce their mates?

The Messiah answers this question when he was approached by others who wanted to be His followers:

And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And YHUUH Saviour said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Master, suffer me first to go and bury my father. YHUUH Saviour said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of Eloheem. And another also said, Master, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And YHUUH Saviour said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of Eloheem. Luke 9:57-62

In each of these examples the Messiah shows how those who want to follow Him must cut loose from all impediments in order to go forward with Him. They have to be willing to live without a home, to leave the affairs of their families for others, and follow him with an urgency that requires them to not even return to bid those in their home goodbye. This is further expanded on when the Messiah said,

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:26-33.

Whoever wants to be a disciple of the Messiah must count the cost to determine if he can finish what he begins. The cost is forsaking all he has. This "all" includes his family members, even his wife and children. The Messiah goes so far as to say those who want to be his disciples must hate their father, mother, wife and children. How can this be? It seems impossible that YHUUH would want His disciples to hate their own families.

The reason the Messiah says they must hate their families is because this is how they are going to be perceived as they put the Messiah first in their life. Can you imagine what a family would think if a son left his home and did not even come back to say good bye? Or how a family would feel if a son didn't attend his father's burial? What do you think others said as Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael into the wilderness with a mere bottle of water and a little bread? Surely it was thought he must hate her to have not provided any better for his ex-wife and son. And what did others think of the men who sent away their wives of the surrounding nations with their children during Ezra's day? They had to seem heartless and hateful by their wives, children, and their wives' families, as well as any neighbors who saw what happened. Those who want to be the Messiah's disciples will be accused of hating their families when they obey the Messiah, which is a cost He wants them to count before they put their hand to the plough.

So it is, YHUH Savior leads His disciples to separate from every tie that impedes their ability to follow Him. If their relationship with their spouse diminishes their ability to love and serve YHUH, then they must choose between their spouse and YHUH.

The difficulty for these disciples is their love and compassion for their spouses increases as they walk closer with the Messiah. With growing concern they look for ways to influence their mates in right doing, praying they will have a change of heart and will start to show a genuine interest in spiritual things. To finally divorce them seems as if they have given up hope and don't love them anymore, but this is not the case. The divorce is only because they must choose between a spouse they love and YHUH whom they love more. The distinction is so delicate here that a spouse who is being divorced by a servant of YHUH will most likely not understand how their spouse can claim to love them so much, and yet be divorcing them. To them it seems wrong, and most likely it will seem wrong to everyone else as well.

Wrong views of YHUH's attitude towards divorce cause many of His followers to remain in bondage to unequally yoked marriages which impede their freedom to serve YHUH with their whole heart, mind and soul. Once they see divorce is YHUH's means of sorting His loving servants from their opposing spouses, then this type of divorce gives freedom from spiritual oppression.

Interestingly, even America can be seen as a child of divorce. She divorced England by means of the American Revolution. It's possible to read the Declaration of Independence as the petition for that divorce. In fact, Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, handled divorce cases as a young lawyer, and the catalog of grievances and wrongs found in the Declaration echoed those from his divorce practice.

In the same way as England oppressed America until she had to declare her independence, so do marriages become oppressive when one of the spouses fornicates against YHUH until the servant of YHUH has to declare their independence. The world-loving spouse commits grievances and wrongs against their YHUH-loving spouse because the world and YHUH are enemies.

These things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.
John 15:17-19.

Once divorce is properly understood, YHUH's work in putting like things together through His servants divorcing their world-loving mates, (just like He had to do to Israel) fits perfectly with the rest of Scripture. We are commanded "*What therefore Eloheem hath joined together, let not man put asunder*" (Mark 10:11). YHUH does not join light with darkness. Rather, YHUH divides the light from the darkness, putting like things together. This holds true in marriages as well.

Having the discernment for when the time comes in a believer's life to divorce a compromising mate requires hearing the still small voice of the Shepherd:

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold (flock), and one shepherd... My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: John 10:16, 27

The test of being able to follow the Messiah out of other folds, whether that fold is a church, family or marriage that is compromising our ability to follow the Messiah, shows who are truly YHUH's sheep. We can't hear the voice of the Shepherd all of a sudden at this point in our lives. We must have been listening to His correcting and reproving voice all along as we sought to overcome the faults in our characters. We also must have heard His voice in obeying His commands and obtaining His testimony.

Then when we hear His voice calling us to higher levels of obedience and commitment to Him, and we realize this means we must separate from those who are holding us back, then we leave the fold we are in and follow Him.

Once we come out of satan's deception regarding divorce, we then must come out of his deception about marriage. The Messiah warns us about this prior to His next coming:

But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Matthew 24:37-39.

Many have wondered why “*marrying and giving in marriage*” was wrong in the days before the flood, and why this would be considered a problem again before the Messiah comes. Isn't marriage ordained of heaven?

The reason marriage is mentioned is because satan has confused and corrupted this issue just as he has divorce. Today government approved religious and secular officials perform so-called lawful marriages. Amazingly, even though Scripture gives no such authority, satan has succeeded in leading the whole world to recognize these officials as ordained by heaven to enact this sacred institution. To break this bond is considered a serious breach of trust and commitment. As these authorities declare “I now pronounce you man and wife” they invoke the Messiah's words, “*What therefore Eloheem hath joined together, let not man put asunder*” as if YHUUH endorses their man-made marriage.

However, the truth of the matter is YHUUH never gave authority to governments or religions to marry people to each other. Rather, in Scripture we find the first union of a man and woman wasn't even a marriage as we have been led to understand it. YHUUH created the first man and took part of His body to make the first woman. They were then given to each other as mates, not by marriage but by design. Adam did not go out and look for a wife. His wife was created for him and she was the only woman he could rightly be united with as she alone contained part of him. Thus YHUUH united the first couple by His creative power. He created them for each other and gave them to each other. There was no marriage decisions made by man here, not even by the couple themselves.

After the fall man replaced YHUUH's plan for creating couples for each other with men marrying and giving in marriage of their own accord: “*the sons of Eloheem saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.*” Genesis 6:2. Obviously men thought they could decide better than YHUUH who should be their wife. Beauty and attraction became a basis for marriage, and the counterfeit for YHUUH's uniting of couples was set up in the form of manmade marriages.

YHUUH has allowed these counterfeit marriages for a period of time on earth, but they will not be honored in His kingdom: “*For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of Eloheem in heaven.*” Matthew 22:30. If men marrying and giving in marriage is not allowed in heaven, and those who are resurrected will not participate in these practices, then in the last days those who come into the Messiah's kingdom without seeing death must not participate in it either.

Just as YHUUH showed His disapproval of manmade marriages before the flood, so does the Messiah bring attention to this matter again prior to the coming of the Son of man. In part two we saw how there will be couples in the Kingdom of Heaven giving birth to offspring. If these couples are not the result of the marriages made on earth, then how did they become couples?

As we already noted YHUUH did not marry Adam and Chavah; He created them for each other. Since

Adam's fall YHUH accomplishes through recreation what He sought to accomplish through creation. This is why we are told we must be “born again” of the Spirit. Those who are born again are recreated by YHUH as they seek after, listen to, and obey His words. When they obey YHUH, His words change them into the person YHUH wants them to be as surely as if He was creating them as He created Adam. Once this change is complete they have the same privileges as our first parents, including a mate who is made just for them by YHUH like Adam and Chavah were made for each other.

The big question for those who want to be joined with a mate they are recreated for by YHUH instead of married by man to someone they choose themselves is how do they know who their kingdom mate is? The criteria for recognizing when YHUH is uniting a couple is ironically the same thing He uses to divide couples – truth. The mates He creates for each other will fit like a hand in a glove because truth will unite their minds and hearts. Their attraction for each other will not be based on the criteria used for manmade marriages, such as looks, charisma, chemistry, money or personality. Rather their mutual love for the truth will bring them together as YHUH bestows on them love for one another as He promises to do for His children. This love will be pure and holy, as opposed to the world's love that is full of lust and vanity. James compares these two types of love showing how one is a temptation and caters to lust and the other is a good and perfect gift from heaven:

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which YHUH hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of Eloheem: for Eloheem cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. James 1:12-18

The warning from James for the beloved brethren not to err on this subject indicates he has stated something that many don't understand. If we are not to err, then we must carefully look at what James is saying.

James tells us the man who passes his tests will receive a crown of life which YHUH promises to them that love Him. Proverbs tells us what this crown is: “A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband.” Proverbs 12:4. This means the wife YHUH gives His son is a crown. This is confirmed in Song of Songs: “Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart.” Song of Songs 3:11. If you replace the word “crown” with “wife” then you will see the meaning of the verse is the same - “Behold king Solomon with the wife wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals (“wedding”). The daughters of Zion are being told to go forth to look at the Bride, the crown of the Bridegroom, given to him by his mother, the Ruach Qadosh.

These YHUH-given wives are called wisdom, since they have been recreated in the image of the Ruach Qadosh who is also called Wisdom. Men who find their wisdom wives are told their wife will be a tree of life to them:

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her

ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her. Proverbs 3:13-18

A wife who is a tree of life will then be a crown of life to her husband, just as James described:

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which YHUH hath promised to them that love him.

This is why wisdom says: “*For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of YHUH” (Proverbs 8:35), which is a parallel text to Proverbs 18:22: “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of YHUH.”*

After telling us about the crown of life YHUH gives to the man who passes his trials, James warns us not to think that YHUH tempts them with His good gifts. He explains how temptation comes through lust, not YHUH. Now comes the time for careful discernment when we must not err. When YHUH gives a virtuous wife to one of His sons because they have proven themselves worthy, is this a temptation? Never, because YHUH never tempts us. Rather, we are told:

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. James 1:18

The word “*perfect*” in Greek is “*teleios*” and means “*complete, completeness.*” In other words this gift from YHUH that some may confuse with the temptation of lust is a gift that brings “*completeness*” even as Adam was completed when he was given Chavah. James goes on to explain how YHUH never changes, which means He is no different than He was in the Garden of Eden. The gift He gave Adam is no different than the gift He gives His sons today. This time however He begets His couples with the word of truth instead of forming them from the ground.

Correcting satan's wrong views regarding divorce and marriage makes it possible for us to see how YHUH views divorce and marriage. YHUH declares that two cannot walk together unless they are agreed. Divorce was given, the Messiah said, “*because of the hardness of your hearts*” Matthew 19:8. Israel's heart became hard against YHUH so He had to divorce her, and the same holds true for those who are married to spouses who love the world more than they love YHUH today. Not all divorces are evil like satan would have us believe. Likewise, marriages are not all good like satan would have us believe either. YHUH will break up unequally yoked marriages with His truth and unite His like-minded children together in pairs by recreating them for each other, just as He created the first couple for each other.

In the last days before the Messiah comes this light must shine so we can choose between the “*marrying and giving in marriage*” of the world, and being recreated for our mate by YHUH. This is the means by which YHUH breaks up homes and marriages as He forms His couples for the kingdom of heaven. Those who go through the difficult process of coming out of their unequally yoked marriages will find great joy in what YHUH has planned for them. While their manmade marriage required them to work hard at solving the many problems caused by the differences between their world-loving mates and themselves, they will find being yoked up with the spouse YHUH creates for them is easy. This is why the Messiah says:

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke

upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30.

The Messiah's invitation to be equally yoked in the truth will surely ignite the wrath of the enemy who seeks to keep us unequally yoked in compromising marriages. But YHUH assures us we cannot walk together unless we be agreed. His work of putting like things together before He comes will take place, and each of us decides with whom we are going to be put. At this crucial time it is imperative we obey the admonition to *“Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of Eloheem.”* As we behold the love the Father gives His children as He pairs them together, then surely the love of the world will lose its hold on us and we will have the discernment, strength and determination to come out of that love and give ourselves fully to YHUH's plan.

Our next study will look at the call *“Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him.”* This is the Elijah message that prepares the way for the coming of the Messiah and the setting up of His kingdom. YHUH's plan in the Garden of Eden will be fulfilled in the last days, and this message makes that happen. The events that take place in this showdown between satan and the Messiah are breathtaking. The Bride and Bridegroom are critical participants beyond what we have ever imagined. I pray what I have shared with you in this study will prepare you for what is coming.