

## *Missed Opportunity*

*We all have had opportunities that we failed to act upon. Moments come and go and we look back and regret that we did not counter in love, aiding someone in need, responding with a kind word, doing something positive. Though we have the Holy Spirit and or claim that He lives in us, we have left numerous situations knowing that we should have done better, more, or even something other than passing by. We have failed the calling to give grace, to show forth our Creator's love as it has been given to us.*

Matthew 25:31~46 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. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye **gave** me meat: I was thirsty, and ye **gave** me drink: I was a stranger, and ye **took me in**: Naked, and ye **clothed me**: I was sick, and ye **visited me**: I was in prison, and ye **came unto me**. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye **have done** it unto one of the **least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me**. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me **no** meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me **no** drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me **not** in: naked, and ye clothed me **not**: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me **not**. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me**. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

*Missed opportunities occur in all situations, even by the best of us as we recall and think of ourselves regrettably not acting up to our spiritual potential. Whether at work, playing or shopping, opportunities to aid another or acknowledging a good performance done by them is missed by us. Life is all around us filled with chances seemingly tailor made, waiting for us to get involved. Chances that would allow us to show our Creator, Yah's love living through us such as when at work, or in school to a class mate or friend, even when alone in spending time with our Creator in prayer. Each opportunity when done correctly shows our actions producing a stronger and more confident personality, knowing who we are and what we are called to emulate, **the love of Yah**... being Christ like.*

*But when we fail to act upon those opportunities when they present themselves, we show forth our own insecurities. We are thinking of number one, me, myself and I, self-absorbed with nothing extra to give to others. We are unwilling to give help and are afraid to give recognition to others, for to do so would mean to put ourselves second.*

Luke 10:25~37 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: **this do**, and thou shalt live. **But he, willing to justify himself**, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain **priest** that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a **Levite**, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain

**Samaritan** (*heathen, non-believer*): as he journeyed, came to where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, **He that shewed mercy on him.** Then said Jesus unto him, **Go, and do thou likewise.**

*As the story of the Good Samaritan shows three men passing by, two say to themselves; “**I could** help perchance, but choose not to.” The third says **I should and must** help and did so. The difference is in “**I could**” and “**I should,**” the latter being compelled to follow love wherever it leads.” The former, “**I could**” gives the one who is self adsorbed the opportunity to choose a **way out**, while the other is faced with the responsibility to respond with truth through guided actions in accord with the will of Our Father. Living a life of love...**freed from fear of regrets.***

*We are called to **be lights**, not just to have seen the light and or acknowledge that truth exists. We must demonstrate its presence through our actions. That is the agreement we made at baptism, by openly and physically signing a contract with Yah “**to do,**” not just hear His will.*

*Inherent within Greek philosophy is its penchant of isolating thought from implementing its action. We are spending more energy trying to avert our commitment rather than to growing in its development. We use every excuse to avoid doing, rather than fostering a “**yes we can**” attitude. With the same zeal in backing out of doing, consistently excusing our behavior, we should endeavor to use that energy to expand our service in maturity. It’s the same with the energy spent convincing ourselves that Yah does not require all from us, verses spending our energy trying to be “all we could be.”*

*This is the time of our opportunity to be judged now! There is no tomorrow for those that are called to be first fruits in Yahshua’s church. The first rule of opportunity is: “**put self second,**” hence serving our Lord when He calls, putting others before self.*

*Life is a gift, offering us the privilege, the opportunity and responsibility to counter in kind by retuning the grace given, thus becoming more.*

### ***Some Common Quotations:***

Jumping at several small opportunities may get us there more quickly than waiting for one big one to come along. ~Hugh Allen

Opportunity is often difficult to recognize; we usually expect it to beckon us with beepers and billboards. ~William Arthur Ward

Opportunities do not come with their values stamped upon them.

I was seldom able to see an opportunity until it had ceased to be one. ~Mark Twain

Ability is of little account without opportunity. ~Napoleon

A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties. ~Harry Truman

The follies which a man regrets most in his life are those which he didn't commit when he had the opportunity. ~Helen Rowland

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work. ~Thomas Edison

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