

Relationships with Parents, Family and Friends

My dear brothers and sisters

Today I wanted to write a little more about what I remember of my relationship with my parents, family and friends while I was still young and living in Egypt. Other details are contained within messages to Dr Samuels and the Judas messages, and so I will cover those things I feel rather than specific details.

We lived in the outskirts of a major Jewish centre in Egypt called Heliopolis. My father Joseph was a talented builder, and his business flourished in Egypt as much as it did later in Galilee. He would often think about the events that led to us coming to Egypt, and, of course, came to know about the details of what happened to the children of the small village of Bethlehem shortly after our arrival in Egypt.

Joseph's Thoughts About The Messiah

As I mentioned previously, these events, and the visit of the 'wise men' cause him to ponder about the potentiality of my being the Messiah that had been prophesied. He reasoned that these events provided some proof that I was the promised Messiah. He then studied the scriptures carefully to examine what other prophecies may indicate I was the promised one.

He came to believe while I was still very young that I was the one God had chosen as the Messiah, and he did feel, as Judas said, "a great obligation to provide an appropriate education" to me. During his study, he developed strong feelings about the kind of person the Messiah would become, and in particular believed that I would be the political solution to the Roman oppression. This, of course, was a common belief, that the dynasty of David would be re-established and the Messiah would lead the Jewish people away from the oppression of the gentiles.

He would spend a lot of time with me which I enjoyed, teaching me the different scriptures, but always attempting to place the idea in my mind of what was required of the Messiah from his perspective (which was generally the perspective of most of the people who were interested in such matters). He was very zealous presenting me with scriptures and constantly talking with me when I assisted him working, which I did at times even when we were in Egypt.

I loved the spiritual discussions, but could never warm to an idea of Jehovah being a God just of the Jews only, nor could I ever see myself as a political leader, a King, leading others against oppression of the nations. I saw no special qualities in myself nor did I feel any desire to be such a leader.

So, when I was young, I did not feel my father could be right about my being the Messiah, because to me, if being the Messiah meant to use and sanction violence, with my gentle nature all I could think of that was with horror.

But I loved the scriptural discussions very much. Of course Joseph would also talk to others about his feelings, using the events surrounding my birth to demonstrate the possible truth of what he was saying to them, and so, at times, when many of our friends and acquaintances came, a discussion resulted about the matter. All would agree that the circumstances seemed to point towards such a possibility, except of course when they would see me (laughs). Then, all they saw was a kind, gentle child who was studious and loved the scriptures, but certainly when they examined my character further, they could not believe that I would ever be a leader, since I did not appear to them to have the 'backbone' for it.

Sometimes they would ridicule my father for his belief because of what seemed to be my contrary nature, and this began to add to his frustration.

My Feelings About Adults

By this time, because I loved hearing the discussions about these things, I would always listen in, and sometimes, when it seemed like I would be allowed, I would even make comments in the adult conversation. Of course, this was not always looked upon with favour, even though my father Joseph allowed it and sometimes encouraged it, because often the things I would speak of would not be along the same mindset of the discussion, and my questions could not always be answered.

I found that adults often respond in anger or ridicule when they cannot answer a question sincerely asked, and people often denied truth even when it was presented to them from writings they said they believed in.

As I approached 10 years of age, I began to feel within me differences on some matters regarding the role of the Messiah as it was commonly taught. I would sometimes voice these differences, particularly to my father, and so began a divergence in our expectations, he wanting me to see things his way, and my being unable to do so because it did not feel right within me.

This, coupled with my gentle kindness, my avoidance of all violence, my continual references to spirits and spiritual matters, my thirst for religious truth, and other similar qualities, caused my father Joseph to worry. He was convinced I was the Messiah, but did not like the direction in which I was heading. It became difficult to discuss how I felt with my dad, since his aspirations for me, and my own feelings and emotions often did not coincide, and my questions and the resultant discussions soon ended with his exasperation. So began my withdrawal and polite interest but uncommitted responses to my father's instruction.

Soldier School

My father felt that I needed to be toughened up, and so he sent me to a school which was operated by ex-military types, ex members of the Roman and other armies. They taught us everything relating to war and violence, and we began to study the art of killing.

I did not last very long there. There were women there who were used to prepare the meals for the soldiers who were instructing, as well as for the students. These women were also raped repeatedly by the soldiers, and any female children they had also were engaged in the sexual gratification of the soldiers. The soldiers would also encourage the students, even though as young as 7 years old, to sexually molest the girls.

I could not participate in these actions, and I repeatedly complained about them, at the risk of being beaten. Eventually I refused to attend the school, and had many arguments with Joseph about the issue. I now, in this modern life, carry with me some of the guilt of not being able to stop the rape, nor remove the women from that horrible place.

My Mother's Counsel

I would hear my father talk to my mother Mary, and she would often counsel patience, since I was still very young. She, in truth, did not know what to think, since while she could see all of the arguments her husband put forward, she could also see that in my heart the person I was did not seem to be very close to the person I would need to be, if I was to be the Messiah my father believed.

My mother by this time was very anxious to return to her home, since she missed her family so much and had been without them for such a long time during a time when a new mother really needed a family. She now had 8 children under the age of 10, and no close family relatives to assist her.

Her life was quite difficult, as were the lives of many women in those times, since not only were there the family matters to attend to, but women also generally lived by the laws of ceremonious cleansing as applied and now recorded in the book of Leviticus in the Bible.

These laws were for the benefit of preventing sickness and maintaining cleanliness in a difficult environment, but they also had the effect of isolating women to a degree, particularly women who did not have other family relatives to assist them. I felt for my mother, and did everything I could to assist her, and I could understand her desire to return home.

So, she became very insistent on travelling back, and began constant discussions with my father to return to the region of Galilee. Joseph wanted to return to Judea because of his beliefs that the Messiah should come from that region, but the political uncertainty of the region prevented that becoming a firm decision, hence the reason for his delay.

Since I had heard some of the Proverbs, and enjoyed them very much, I often laughed about my mother in reference to the scripture now recorded in Proverbs 27:15. I knew my mother would eventually win. This would later become the basis for some of my illustrations regarding the need for persistence and sincerity in praying for Divine Love, one of which was recorded in the Bible in Luke 18:1-8.

My Brothers and Sisters

I was a bit like a mother hen with my siblings, trying to protect them and help my mother by making everything easier looking after them, and I have a deep affection for them still. Eventually they would all come to believe the Divine Truth about our Heavenly Father, but during the time in Egypt all they cared about was all that children commonly care about everywhere at that age. They had heard some of the discussions about me, but of course, being younger and without any real interest at that point, they did not understand what it all meant.

I would often watch my brothers and sisters, and would see how much they just trusted everything would be provided for them even though it was sometimes hard for my parents to do so. I realized that children do not consider where their next meal was coming from, nor did they worry very much about the future. They lived in the moment, laughing one moment, crying the next, and laughing again minutes later, and expressed their emotions and feelings as they had them. They stated the truth too. If they did not like someone, they said so. If they did not want something, they said so. If they did want something, they asked. I compared that with many adults, who I could see were almost the opposite, and could see that the children were in fact closer to living happily than the adults were. Parents were always trying to give their children the best they could, and generally only withheld when it was not in their own capacity to give.

From these observations I would later make many conclusions, and many of the illustrations in the Bible are the result of feelings and emotions I experienced while looking after my brothers and sisters. Matthew 7:7-11 comparing a good parent with our Father. Matthew 18:1-5, the need to become as little children to enter the Kingdom of God. Later I was also to find children more accepting of the religion of the soul, and so I spent a lot of time with them, often to the annoyance of my disciples.

Return To Galilee

Eventually my mother Mary won the day (laughs), and a trip returning to Galilee was planned. Messages from Judas discuss the details of both the plans and the trip via the sea returning to Galilee, and eventually Nazareth. I had seen very little of a real sea all my life, and I was fascinated and loved the journey. The power of the sea, and the wonder of its creatures, and the way in which a boat was at the mercy of the sea, these all had an impact upon me. I could see why many of the prophets referred to the 'sea of mankind', and I could see how difficult it was for objects in the sea to move against the tide and prevailing winds. I learned about the importance of the rudder, and the power of the wind.

(laughs) I was an adult's nightmare, always asking why.

Later I would use quite a number of illustrations referring to these things, but none of them found their way into the current Biblical writings. My brother James did refer to one of these illustrations though, when he mentioned in James 1:6 a comparison of a person who doubts and lacking faith being like a wave of the sea driven about by the wind.

I would often feel the forces of our Father's Creation, and wonder at His Immense Power, since all of these things came into existence due to the intentions of His Soul. I would reflect upon the question that if He was a God of wrath, as so many believed and many of what I had come to accept as the sacred writings claimed, then whenever He was angry, not a single thing in the Universe could withstand the power of His Wrath. Everything would disappear in one fit of God's anger.

So, it confirmed more and more my feeling that He was first and foremost a God of Love, and there was no such thing as divine wrath or divine anger.

I could see that many men wanted God to be angry, so that they could rely on Him to express their own anger towards those they condemned. If God got angry, then it was also fine for men to be angry, since anger, and its subsequent violence could then be justified. But if God did not get angry, as I believed, then anger could no longer be justified, and those who did justify it did so out of emotions that were in disharmony with God. If a person could remove those emotions in disharmony with God from themselves, then they would no longer feel the desire to be angry.

Later, as a teenager, I began to see that emotions in disharmony with God were the true cause of thoughts, words and actions that resulted in sin, and that a person who grows ever closer to the Father must also be willing to release the emotions that were in disharmony with His Love.

Arrival In Galilee

We arrived in Galilee, during a period of relative peace, but constant rumours of violence. Nazareth became our home, mostly because of my father's prospects in business, and the relative peace there because of the prosperity. I spent more time helping my father in his business, and he began to give me work of minor importance, and later, as I grew, I became as skilled as he in the business of manufacturing and building.

But I also spent less time in discussion with my dad about scriptural matters, since each discussion seemed to result in a disagreement, and I disliked constant disagreement. So I learned to listen mostly, and discuss my thoughts with my Heavenly Father.

I spent a lot of time roaming the countryside, taking keen interest in the birds and the animals. I was now feeling the impressions from my Heavenly Father more clearly, but still really unable to identify their uniqueness, since I still believed most people interested in God felt the same connection. The birds in particular struck me, since I could see that they did not have to plan ahead for what they were to eat or drink, it was all provided to them by our Father without their concern. I still have a deep interest in birds in particular, and there is huge variety and colour in Australian birds, and I still love walking through the bush being observant of these things. All birds had to do was to pick their food up, and eat. I reflected upon why it was that man could not seem to do the same thing, and I came to realize that man created his own disharmony with what our Father had provided.

The words recorded in the Bible in Matthew 6:25-34 were a direct result of what I had seen. Those words are not a completely accurate translation of what I said, since I always mentioned that at-onement with God was the thing to be sought first, which was achieved through the inflowing of His Divine Love into the soul. A child of the Father has absolute and complete trust in His Desire to provide every need, and all concerns and worries about material things are the result of emotions in disharmony with the Laws of our Father's Love, and are generally a product of our environment and parental guidance. This was one of the reasons we need to become like little children if we wish to enter into our Father's Love, because a child has complete dependence on its parent for its survival, and it does never worry about that.

The next few years had quite a large impact upon me, due to the troubles between the Jews and the Romans, and the resultant things I saw which distressed me had a very large impact on my becoming quite firm in my belief in the power of Love, Peace and Forgiveness, rather than a spirit of resentment and retribution.

But I will speak of these things in my next message.

Your friend Jesus