

171 – Acting on Revelation or Emotion

Acting out of revelation may not be accompanied by great fanfare; quite the contrary: everything may be entirely quiet and still. When we have sought the Lord and received revelation, the clouds may not part and the heavens may not shout, “Hallelujah,” but our minds are certain, our hearts are calm. We know in every fiber that we are moving according to the leading of the Lord and we carry inside us an ongoing sense of confirmation in our spirits. If we feel anything else, it’s clean.

Acting out of emotion is hurried, noisy, and unstable. The heavens may not shout, “Hallelujah,” but we won’t hesitate to. Our minds aren’t certain; in fact, we seem to operate as if we have decided to close them as we plunge madly into our course of action. Our hearts are not calm; indeed, we may be nervous wrecks, or we may have worked ourselves into such a determined frenzy that we steadfastly ignore any reservations we may have. We aren’t moving according to the leading of the Lord; we’re moving according to our own desires. Our spirits aren’t confirming, but we aren’t listening anyway, so we aren’t even likely to notice the checks in our spirit that are going on practically nonstop. Whatever we may feel, it isn’t clean, calm, and certain. We just need to get it done and move on. Like the line out of an old WWII movie, *“Damn the torpedoes; full speed ahead!”*

Adam received revelation directly from the Father about what fruit to eat and what fruit to stay away from. The revelation was complete and the instructions were as clear as the consequences of disobedience. Adam obviously shared the revelation with Eve, since she quoted it to the serpent. Emotion won over revelation that fateful day:

Genesis 3:6

⁶ +Then the woman ^lsaw that the tree was good for food, + that it brought a yearning to the eyes and that the tree was desirable^l for ^cgaining insight⁻. +So she ^ltook ^fof its fruit and ^late. + She ^{mr}also ^lgave some to her husband with her, and he^o ^late.

“Yearning” and “desire” are emotions that were more compelling than direct revelation from YaHoVeH Elohim. All mankind has been paying the price ever since for acting out of emotion rather than revelation.

Fast forward to the time when the Lord walked as a man.

Luke 14:25-27

25 Now vast throngs went together with Him. And, being turned, He said to them,
26 "If anyone is coming to Me and is not hating his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and still more his soul besides, he can not be My disciple.

27 And anyone who is not bearing his cross and coming after Me, can not be My disciple.

I still have trouble with the word, "hating," but as much as I've tried to find some other definition besides the obvious, I have come to see this as the Lord drawing a distinct and unmistakable contrast between loyalties to relationships in this world, versus serving the Father's purpose for our lives, which could – and most often does – cost those same relationships.

Yeshua's revelation is a principle, which He says nothing about regarding the difficulty for us in operating within it. Notice that our obedience to the revelation here – and I would suggest the same pattern is true for obedience to all revelation – is COUNTER to our emotional bent. How much indoctrination is there in our society, and even in Christianity, about the importance of family? Along comes Yeshua, who says essentially that these relationships which we would think are *sacred* are the first to detest if we are serious about following after Him.

I believe that Yeshua used the bonds of family and the language of hating, because of how deadly family can be to a sovereignly called and chosen son or daughter of YaHoVeH. Many of us listening tonight know firsthand what it's like to jettison the ties of flesh and blood for the sake of fulfilling the call on our lives. We've heard the loud cries and protests of family members who weren't called, or who decided to stay where they were. Their cries and protests were not for us – not for our good – but for them; for their good. We may make people we love very uncomfortable, because our formerly well-ordered lives followed the rules of family engagement that we didn't even know were there until we went beyond them. For others to continue relating to us means that they have to change their perspectives and their expectations – of course, they could follow the Lord too, if they wanted to, but that's another matter entirely.

The point here is that Yeshua called attention to the stark contrast between acting out of revelation and acting out of emotion. Revelation in this case requires a deliberate, determined, and dispassionate break from family ties and a willingness to go on alone. Conversely, emotion puts considerations of human family structure and relationships

ahead of the Lord – ahead of the Spirit, and ahead of the Father’s purpose – and can ultimately destroy the call on our lives entirely. Yeshua Himself ignored His flesh and blood family in favor of the Father’s purpose and call on His life:

Mark 3:31-35

And coming are His mother and His brothers, and, standing outside, they dispatch to Him, calling Him.

32 And there sat about Him a throng. And they are saying to Him, "Lo! Thy mother and Thy brothers and Thy sisters are outside seeking Thee."

33 And answering them, He is saying, "Who is My mother and My brothers?"

34 And looking about on those sitting around Him, He is saying, "Lo! My mother and My brothers!"

35 For whoever should be doing the will of God, this one is My brother and sister and mother."

Going back to the Old Testament, we see quickly where emotion gets us as we read about Cain; or Lot, who had no revelation about going with Abram, and He was nothing but trouble.

The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were a cesspool of wickedness coming out of unbridled emotion and fleshly appetites.

Esau acted completely out of emotion when he sold his birthright to Jacob. Of course, Jacob was no better when he deceived his father Isaac to receive the firstborn’s blessing.

Joseph’s Brothers acted out of envy and hatred when they plotted to kill Joseph, and then sold him to Ishmaelites.

The whole nation of Israel spurned the most dramatic evidence and demonstrations of direct revelation in all of the Scriptures, up to the advent of the Messiah Yeshua.

Even Moses, who was faithful to the revelation He had from the Father except for one incident, which disqualified him from entering the Promised Land.

Sampson forfeited his eyesight and even his life for the sake of acting out of emotion instead of revelation.

Saul seemed to run totally by the emotional seat of his pants, disobeying direct and unmistakable revelation from YaHoVeH through Samuel. He suffered terrible demonic torment and died horribly.

As much as I love David, he went off the rails more than once. No one can find a shred of revelation from God when he spied Bathsheba bathing and then plotted to have her husband killed so David could marry her.

Solomon, for all his wisdom, lost his mind somehow to acquire hundreds of wives and concubines. What was he thinking? Answer? He wasn't! It's certain that no revelation from YaHoVeH was involved, and there were such high hopes for him in the beginning.

Jonah had a very specific revelation, didn't he? Now, by the time he obeyed the revelation, he was certain, clam, clear-headed, and did his job. Getting to that point was all about emotion, however, wouldn't you say. Can you see him, thinking, "Nineveh? I don't want to go to Nineveh! I know, I'll run away from my all-knowing, all-seeing, and all-powerful Elohim. I'll just lose Him by sailing to another land; after all, He has better things to do than track me down."

It seems silly, when we look at it today, doesn't it? OK, but how many times do we get these bright ideas that come streaking across our brains and we start running with it before we ever think to just stop a second and ask the Lord, is this what YOU want me to be doing? Is this your revelation or does it just feel like a great idea to me?

For myself, I lived more of my life out of my emotions – what "felt right" or, more often, what "felt good" to me at the time. I got myself into all kinds of unnecessary situations and relationships, all of which came to naught. Only the situations and relationships which were established by the Father's operation of His purpose have born good fruit. When I think of the most important relationship in my life today, which is my marriage to Barbara, we both have done nothing but bear witness to the sovereignty of almighty God in it, because neither of us made it happen – nor would we have known how to make it happen. The Father has given us spiritual kids together, while our flesh and blood kids are totally expendable.

Running by emotion versus revelation puts us in jeopardy.

Look at what Hezekiah, King of Judah set in motion when he got caught up in emotions. This story happens on the heels of Hezekiah receiving 15 more years of life from

YaHoVeH, when he was about to die. The Father no sooner granted him the extra years than Hezekiah acted like a fool and failed to protect what was precious to Israel and sacred to God, whose wealth it was after all.

2 Kings 20:12-15

Merodach-baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent envoys with letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick. ¹³ And Hezekiah welcomed them, and he showed them all his treasure house, the silver, the gold, the spices, the precious oil, his armory, all that was found in his storehouses. There was nothing in his house or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them. ¹⁴ Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah, and said to him, “What did these men say? And from where did they come to you?” And Hezekiah said, “They have come from a far country, from Babylon.” ¹⁵ He said, “What have they seen in your house?” And Hezekiah answered, “They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing in my storehouses that I did not show them.”

Barbara had to work with me long and hard to learn how to protect and to treat as holy what the Father was doing in our lives. She'd say what her father said, “Just because someone is rude enough to ask your business doesn't mean you have to be stupid enough to tell them.” No one in the world is our friend, much less our brother or sister in the Lord. We don't tell other people our business, and we don't ask theirs. The image the Father gave us many years ago was that of “circling the wagons” like the pioneers did when they would camp, because it was the most protection they could give themselves and all that belonged to them.

Now that Hezekiah failed to keep the foreigners guessing, look what happened:

2 Kings 20:16-19

¹⁶ Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁷ Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the LORD. ¹⁸ And some of your own sons, who shall be born to you, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.” ¹⁹ Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the LORD that you have spoken is good.” For he thought, “Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?”

The Father will accomplish His purpose with or without our participation. We won't slow it down or speed it up by anything we think or do; it's about our *experience* of the lives He's given us. We'll either find and fulfill the purpose for which we were created or we won't, but our experience will be entirely different depending on whether we're running on revelation or emotion. Our decisions will be completely different, and therefore so will the outcome! Would anyone want – I mean really now – would you or I really want to

figure out all on our own how to make the best choices so that we aren't completely embarrassed on the Day of the Lord?

My all time favorite story about Moses is from **Numbers 9:4-8**:

⁴Then Moses ^lspoke to the sons of Israel to ^dobserve the pass-over. ⁵So they ^{ld}observed the passover in the first month ⁱon the fourteenth day ^of the month, between the evening hours, in the wilderness of Sinai. According to all ^wthat Yahweh had instructed ^lMoses, so did the sons of Israel.

⁶Yet it came to ^lbe that some men who became unclean ^oby touching a deceased soul of a human ⁺ were not able to ^dprepare the passover ⁱon that day. ⁺Then they came ^lnear before Moses and before Aaron ⁱon that day. ⁷Those men ^lsaid to him: We are unclean ^oby touching a deceased soul of a human. Why should we be disadvantaged ^oby failing to offer ^rthe approach present of Yahweh ⁱat its appointed time in the midst of the sons of Israel?

⁸So Moses ^lsaid to them: Stand by and let me hear what instruction Yahweh may ^mgive for you.

I think I can guarantee that whenever you and I have stood by to hear what instruction the Father would give – when we have sought His revelation – we have NEVER gone wrong. How could we?

Peter was not one who waited for the Lord's instructions so many times, and every time, he got busted. Peter, Lord bless him, was perpetually running on emotion and not revelation.

Look at the exchange he and the Lord have in **Matthew 16**:

13 Now Jesus, coming into parts of Caesarea Philippi, asked His disciples, saying, "Who are men saying the Son of Mankind is?"

14 Now they say, "These, indeed, John the baptist; yet others Elijah; yet others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 He is saying to them, "Now you, who are you saying that I am?"

16 Now answering, Simon Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Peter comes right out of pure revelation here, and the Lord backs him up and verifies the source:

17 Now, answering, Jesus said to him, "Happy are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood does not reveal it to you, but My Father Who is in the heavens.

18 Now I, also, am saying to you that you are Peter, and on **this rock** will I be building My ecclesia, and the gates of the unseen shall not be prevailing against it.

19 I will be giving you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens, and whatsoever you should be binding on the earth shall be those things having been bound in the heavens, and whatsoever you should be loosing on the earth, shall be those having been loosed in the heavens."

20 Then He cautions the disciples that they may be saying to no one that He is the Christ.

21 Thenceforth begins Jesus to show His disciples that He must be coming away into Jerusalem and to be suffering much from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and to be killed, and the third day to be roused.

22 And, taking Him to him, Peter begins to rebuke Him, saying, "Propitious be it to Thee, Lord! By no means shall this be for Thee!"

23 Now, being turned, He said to Peter, "Go away behind Me, sa-tan! A snare are you to Me, for you are not disposed to that which is of God, but that which is of men."

Obviously, Peter stepped out of revelation and into emotion. Revelation looks, feel, and acts completely differently from emotion. More importantly, the outcome of revelation glorifies the Father; the outcome of emotion may glorify you or me, but it can't glorify the One who gave His Son's life for ours.

Let's read the next two verses of **Matthew 16**:

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples: "If anyone is wanting to come after Me, let him renounce himself and pick up his cross and follow Me. **[the only way we'll do that is by revelation, not emotion – Like Barbara says about emotion in marriage: "Lust might get you together but it won't keep you together."]**

25 For whosoever may be wanting to save his soul shall be destroying it. Yet whoever should be destroying his soul on My account shall be finding it.

This last verse is counter to the dictates of emotion. No one wants to deliberately destroy his or her soul, but just like Luke 14:26, no one wants to hate "his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and still more his soul besides." If we don't hate these; if we don't destroy our own souls, however, He says we cannot be His disciples.

Do you think Judas was running on revelation or emotion? How'd that work for him? How about the Pharisees of Yeshua's day?

Finally, look at Yeshua Himself, Whose emotions would have been running amuck, hours before He was to be tortured and killed like the worst criminal as demanded by His own people to whom He was sent to save!

John 12:27-28

*Now is My soul disturbed. And what may I be saying? 'Father, save Me out of this hour'?
28 But therefore came I into this hour. Father, glorify Thy name!" A voice, then, came out of heaven, "I glorify it also, and shall be glorifying it again!"*

“My Soul is disturbed. Everything in me wants to run away from this.” That was the emotion. The revelation was, “I came for exactly this,” and then He addresses the Father directly, Who backs Him up immediately.

To me, this is an encapsulation of how acting out of revelation versus emotion works. Revelation is not always about or toward what WE would want or the direction WE would take. That’s how we can tell the difference, perhaps: BECAUSE we wouldn’t have chosen it, we might be able to count on it being from God. In any case, the Father always backs up His word – didn’t we look at that just a week or two ago?

The outcome of revelation is advancement of the Father’s purpose, and no matter how we might FEEL about it, we KNOW it’s right. The outcome of emotion is too often a massive toxic waste dump to clean up after the fact. The Father is not bound to back up what WE do based on emotion; He IS bound to back up what we do based on His revelation. No cleanup after the fact is required.

Backtracking on plans and presumptions is perhaps the single biggest area we fall down on here at the Father’s house. Barbara and I often want more and see for people than they want or see for themselves. We invest more in them than they do in themselves. We want everyone to make it and have a great life, and meet the Lord in victory. Sometimes people have latched on to OUR vision and made it their own, and it never works. Every time we get into plans and presumptions on someone’s behalf, when the Father is after something else in their lives at a particular time, we end up repenting and backtracking and cleaning up a mess. Where we have been guilty of that in your life, I ask you to forgive us. Your life is between you and the Father, not between you and us.