

Road Of The Pilgrims

A Family Magazine Advocating A Family Faith



Spring 5769 / 2008

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We hope this issue of "Road Of The Pilgrims" blesses you. In Messiyah Yahshua, the Coover Family

"The Entrance Of Thy Words Giveth Light"

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

message given by Charlie Coover on 10-19-5768 (12-29-07)

We all have choices to make. When we are ignorant, we all make the wrong choices sometimes. In order to make the right choices, we need to seek Yahweh's will. This is why we read the Scriptures every week, homeschool, etc. We are going to read some examples of those who made the right choices. These examples are for our encouragement, and to help us so that we make the right choices too.

Daniel 6:8-28 ~

8Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

9Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

10Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his Elohim, as he did aforetime.

11Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his Elohim.

12Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any mighty one or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

13Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

14Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

15Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

16Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy Elohim whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

17And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

18Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

19Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living Elohim, is thy Elohim, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

21Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22My Elohim hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him

innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

23Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his Elohim.

24And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

25Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

26I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the Elohim of Daniel: for he is the living Elohim, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

27He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

28So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

That's quite a rewarding end. Not just that his life was saved, but that he was a witness for Yahweh. And by the king writing that decree, he caused others to serve Him also. So that's quite a benefit there.

Daniel 3 ~

1Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

2Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the

princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counselors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

3Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counselors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,

5That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

6And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

7Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

8Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

9They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

10Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

11And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

12There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy elohim, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

13Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

14Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my elohim, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that Elohim that shall deliver you out of my hands?

16Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17If it be so, our Elohim whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy elohim, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

19Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

23And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of Elohim.

26Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high Elohim, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

28Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the Elohim of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any elohim, except their own Elohim.

29Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the Elohim of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and

their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other Elohim that can deliver after this sort.

30Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

Sounds like a similar ending. That's a real good example. We all know what fire can do. Fire can be a blessing in some respects, but we also know that it can be very destructive. If I had to make a choice in life where I was going to face fire..... just facing fire like that is a very serious choice - whether you're going to stand by Yahweh or against Him. We know He's not going to deliver us if we stand against Him.

Hadassah (Esther) 1:10-22 ~

10On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,

11To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.

12But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.

13Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:

14And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom;)

15What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?

16And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.

17For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.

18Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.

19If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.

20And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.

21And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan:

22For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.

Would it be good to display / flaunt your beauty? Was Vashti saying "No" to something that was wrong? Ahaseurus was making a drunken request (1:7-8, 10-11). Was this a righteous request? If a wife is asked to do something unrighteous, what should she do? Did Vashti make the right choice to say "No"? We can't be positive, but this is something to think about.

Brother Andrew Gabriel Roth shares the following:

"The Aramaic idiom used in Esther of 'come to me with your crown' literally means, 'come to me with your crown--AND NOTHING ELSE.' In other words the king was asking Vashti to parade around naked in front of his assembled guests. In the Persian empire, it was very common to have slave girls, entertainers or concubines do this. Even occasionally a minor wife might be expected to do this, but NOT a queen or primary wife. Vashti knew this was a scandalous request and was correct in saying no even at risking her life.

"Now this Persian king is interesting because, following in the traditions of his ancestors as Esther says, he could not countermand directly an edict or admit fault in anything he said or commanded in writing. However, he COULD manifest his internal regrets and make amends by subtly undermining his own orders. This the king does when he can't pull back the extermination order on the Jews. But he does arm the Jews to cause their enemies to think better of attacking them.

"In much the same way, I think the Persian king regretted his drunken request to dishonor Vashti. But after such a public spectacle from sending her away and selecting her replacement, he could not restore her. Even so, he DID show his apologies by giving Esther more latitude. He could have killed her when she came unannounced as was written in his law, but he chose to hear her out instead and, because it was in private, he knew he could get away with bending his own rules." (Andrew Gabriel Roth, www.aramaicnttruth.org, www.tushiyah.org, www.ruachqadim.com, www.thepathtolife.com)

Genesis 39 ~

1And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

2And Yahweh was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

3And his master saw that Yahweh was with him, and that Yahweh made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

4And Joseph found favor in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

5And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that Yahweh blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of Yahweh was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

6And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

7And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

8But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

9There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against Yahweh?

10And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.

11And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.

12And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

13And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth,

14That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto

them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:

15And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.

16And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.

17And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:

18And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.

19And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.

20And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

21But Yahweh was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

22And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.

23The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because Yahweh was with him, and that which he did, Yahweh made it to prosper.

Halleluyah. Scripture says that Yahweh allows temptation to come, but He also gives ways of escape. (1 Cor. 10:13) So He did that even back in Genesis.

We should try to avoid situations like this one.

Joseph had to suffer negative consequences. But a blessing came out of it anyway. Sometimes the blessing takes a while to come, but it will come. In unideal situations, we need to remain steadfast, faithful, and true, and He will deliver us one way or the other.

Job 2 ~

1Again there was a day when the sons of Elohim came to present themselves before Yahweh, and Satan came also among them to present himself before Yahweh.

2And Yahweh said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered Yahweh, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

3And Yahweh said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth Elohim, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

4And Satan answered Yahweh, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

5But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

6And Yahweh said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

7So went Satan forth from the presence of Yahweh, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

8And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

9Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse Elohim, and die.

10But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of Elohim, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin

with his lips.

11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

12 And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.

13 So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great.

Yahweh was allowing trials to test Job's faith. His wife was not standing by him in the beginning stages there, and was trying to get him to curse Yahweh, but he did not hearken to her. (See verse 10.)

1 Maccabees 2:19-22 ~

19 Then Mattithyah answered and spake with a loud voice: "Though all nations that are under the king's dominion obey him, and fall away every one from the religion of their fathers, and give consent to his commandments,

20 Yet will I, and my sons, and my brethren, walk in the covenant of our fathers.

21 Yahweh forbid that we should forsake the Law and the ordinances;

22 We will not hearken to the king's words, to go from our religion, either on the right hand or on the left.

At this point, pretty much everyone was hearkening to the king. Yahweh's people had to make a decision: Will we stand for Yahweh or fall for the king? They decided to stand up and fight against sin.

Matthew 4:1-11 ~

1 Then was Yahshua led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of Yahweh, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of Yahweh.

5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of Yahweh, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

7 Yahshua said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt Yahweh thy Elohim.

8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the splendor of them;

9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10 Then saith Yahshua unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship Yahweh thy Elohim, and him only shalt thou serve.

11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

So here we have the Messiyah Himself being tested by the devil to bow down and serve him and worship him. Is that what He came to

do? Of course not.

When we come to follow Yahshua, we need to choose to serve Him. He will give us ways to escape.

There hath no temptation taken you but that which is common to man, but Yahweh is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able, but will, with the temptation, also give you a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

The devil will flee from us, as he did from Yahshua.

Submit yourselves therefore to Elohim. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

Lots of times, good things will come out of trying situations, if we make the right choices.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love Yahweh, to them who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Joshua 24:15 ~ AND IF IT SEEM EVIL UNTO YOU TO SERVE YAHWEH, CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YE WILL SERVE..... BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, **WE WILL SERVE YAHWEH!**

The Poem Page

MY CHILD

*Come along, my child; come and take my hand.
Wait until later, dirty plates, cups, and pans.
I shall wash you; just bide your time
Right now this little child of mine,
This rosy-cheeked and sparkly-eyed little man,
This precious child who is my biggest fan,
Is getting my full attention
While he shows me his inventions,
Plays games with me and learns new words,
Takes me to see a nest of birds,
Sits on my lap and counts to ten,
Laughs while I tickle under his chin.....*

*Dishes, I believe it is time that I come
To scrub you and clean you with my little son.
Yes, it will take longer this way
Than if I told him to go play
And did them quickly all alone,
But so soon my chap will be grown.
Oh come on, let's have a little bit of fun.
The dishes don't need to so quickly be done.
Take time to put him on a stool
And to explain to him the rules.
Tell him what a good job he's done....
That precious darling little son.*

*Come along, my child; Daddy's finally home
From a long hard day of working all alone.
And now I'll take my little girl
Who's more precious than the whole world,
And we shall go out into the yard and roam*

*Out where the flowers and vegetables have grown,
Sit down together on the grass,
Smell a flower with my wee lass,
Eat a strawberry; play a game,
Think of lots of doll baby names.
She's my doll baby; she's my dream
Come true, a gift from Elohim.*

*The clock is chiming: it's time to go to bed,
Time to tuck in our soft golden sleepy heads,
But never without a prayer
For Yahweh's tender loving care,
And thanks for all that He has done
For us, our daughters, and our sons.
Kneel there together; the family altar sweet,
This precious time spent at our Messiyah's feet,
And pray for each tender child,
That Yahweh's merciful smile
Will shine upon them day and night,
Making them radiant with His light.*

Written by Rivqah Coover, age 18, 13-5768 (03-2008)

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The Children's Page

WHEN WE ALL WORK TOGETHER

Lou, Peter, Joe, and Mom, were all out hanging clothes together.

"I think that it's most fun when we all do things together," stated Joe.

"I think your right," Mom agreed.

"That reminds me of a song we could all sing," put in Peter. "It's this one: When We All Work Together."

"Oh that's good," agreed Lou.

So they started singing. Here is what they sang:

"When we all work together, work together, work together, when we all work together, how happy we'll be. When your work is my work and our work is Yahweh's work. When we all work together, how happy we'll be."

They sang it through a couple times.

When the clothes were all hung up, Mom said she needed to go start some supper. Lou quickly said she would help.

"Why thank-you," Mom replied.

"And we will do the dishes up together, right Peter?" asked Joe.

Peter quickly agreed.

"Working is so much fun when we do it together,"

he said again.

Later that evening after Dad had gotten home, the clothes were dry. Dad was tired but the other 4 went trooping out to take them down and fold them up. It went very fast as all the other things had too.

Just before it got dark, dad said that he wanted to plant a couple rows of vegetables in the garden. He had 4 volunteers right away, and all the rows Dad had wanted to get done were done before dark.

“That’s what families are for,” said Peter.

“What?” asked Lou.

“Why to help each other,” he answered, laughing.

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*For more delightful stories like this one, check out  
“**Stories For Children**” by **Lydiyah E. Coover**  
Now available at [www.RealMessiah.name/catalog](http://www.RealMessiah.name/catalog)*

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Thoughts To Ponder

WHAT SHALL I DO?

by Rivqah Coover

“What shall I do?” a little boy asked.
“I’m dreaming of doing a very great task.
A farmer I really want to be.
What do you think I should do, Daddy?”

“Well my son, your aspirations are grand
To till and plant and work the land.
If you really want to do these things,
You’ll have to learn: Let’s start this Spring.”

So day by day, hour by hour
He learned how to plant veggies and flowers,
How to harvest the crops and market them too,
And make a good profit like he wanted to do.

He learned how to work the tractor and plow,
How to care for the horses and milk the cows,
How to cultivate the rich dark soil ~
Year by year, he steadily toiled.

One day, he stood, a big strong lad,
More a man than a boy, as tall as his dad,
Faithfully performing the tasks on the farm,
With a will to work and a strong faithful arm.

What do you think: A success was he
In the career of which he had planned and dreamed?
He had prepared himself for this day,
And those years of preparation surely paid.

“What shall I do?” a little boy asked.
“I’m dreaming of doing a very great task.
A carpenter I would like to be.
What do you think I should do, Daddy?”

“Well, my son,” his Daddy replied,
“I’m willing to help you and stand by your side.
I think to begin you’ll need some wood
And a hammer and some nails would also be good.”

As the years passed by, his collection grew
To include a Philips and a Straight and some screws.
And what do you know, one day he was able
To actually make Mother a brand new table.

One day, he stood, a tall young man
With fine ambitious business plans.
From a boy to a man, he had learned and grown
And now he could open a shop of his own.

Think you that he was glad that he
Had prepared and learned how to be
That carpenter of his boyhood dreams?
Prepared he was and he would succeed.

Now where do think these two men would stand
If they’d formed their boyhood dreams and plans,
Then applied all of their youthful days
To learning the blacksmith’s or book keeper’s trade?

Or suppose that the boy who wanted to build
His hours and days and years had filled
With learning to plant and harvest crops:
Do you suppose he’d succeed in a carpenter’s shop?

Or if the boy who wanted to farm
Applied his mind and the strength of his arm
To faithfully learning the carpenter’s trade:
Do you think a good farmer he would have made?

“What shall I do?” a little girl asked.
“I’m dreaming of doing a very great task.
A wife and mommy I want to be.
What do you think I should do, Mommy?”

“Well dear,” her Mommy quickly replied.
“I’m glad that you in me confide,
And it’s really noble that you want to be
Someday a good wife and loving mommy.

“But my precious little girl,
First you should accomplish something in the world.
Wouldn’t you like to get a degree
And have a career and make lots of money?

“There are so many things that you can do.
Perhaps you could get a job in the zoo.
You could be a teacher, or be a clerk.
For you, my daughter, there’s lots of work.

“You could be a scientist or maybe a nurse.
You ought to do one of these things first.
Then someday, my daughter, I’m sure it will be
That you’ll be able to be a wife and mommy.”

The little girl believed it was true,
And so she set out with plans of what she would do.
Instead of dreaming of being a mommy
To her own little “Mary” and “Susie” and “Tommy”;

Instead of planning how she would be
The very best wife to her special hubby;
Instead of thinking that she ought to learn
How to cook very well so the food would not burn;

Instead of aspiring to learning to sew
And all those things she'd need to know;
Instead of planning how she would be
A blessing to her family ~

She thought, In the future someday
At home with my family I will stay.
But right now I must, as Mommy has said,
Prepare for a career in the world instead.

And so a well-paying job she chose
And devoted her time to all she should know
About her career out in the world.
Now what do you think became of this girl

When one day she was asked by a kindly man
If she would be willing to take his hand
And become his wife, care for his home
And the dear children that would be their own?

Would she faithfully stand at his side
And in her home domain take pride,
Take joy in cleaning and cooking each day
And train their children up in the Way?

She remembered the words that her mother had said:
Someday, my dear, when you are wed,
Then you can care for home and family
And fulfil are your fond girlhood dreams.

But now the girl realized with a start

That those dreams were no longer in her heart.
She had no desire to resign
The career that had so filled up her time.

Why she was a woman of the world:
She was not a stay-at-home girl.
The thought of training her girls and boys
No longer filled her heart with joy.

And to cook and clean would make no pay:
Why be stuck at home all day?
All the skill and knowledge she'd learned
And all the money and position she'd earned

Would go to the wayside if she should be
JUST a wife, homemaker, and mommy.
And besides she had not a clue
How to even begin if that path she should choose.

She did not know how to cook and clean
Or mend a garment or sew a seam.
And when it came to little ones,
They did not sound like too much fun.

She'd have to get up in the night with her babes
And comfort her children when they were afraid
And take all the time to teach them each day,
And all that without any pay.

Then too, she'd be dependant on a man
Instead of being boss of her own plans.
She'd be tied down, and no longer be free.
A keeper at home she did not want to be.

Now what do you think would have transpired

If her mother had cultured her girlhood desires
To be a mother and wife someday
By taking her hand and showing the way?

If her hours and days had been happily filled
With learning homemaking and childcare skills,
And she had taken pleasure in serving her mother
And her father and sisters and brothers,

What do you think her answer would be
When the kind gentleman came to see
If she to him would like to be wed
And take up her place on his homestead?

You see, dear girls, if we want to be
Capable and loving mommies,
Keepers at home, and faithful wives
We must apply our hearts and lives

To learning now while we are young
How to care for daughters and sons
By helping out our father and mother
With the care of our little sisters and brothers.

And we must learn now to organize and clean,
How to mend and stitch and sew a seam,
How to garden and how to decorate
And a lovely palace of our homes create.

And of course we must learn to be
Frugal when it comes to money,
How to budget and shop for deals,
And how to make delicious meals.

We must learn how to bandage a knee

And care for a wound ever so gently.
And don't forget, we must learn to obey
And submit to authority every day.

How much better the story would be
If the little girl came to her Mommy
And "What shall I do" eagerly asked,
And told her mother of her womanly task,

And her mother would say, "Let's get a start.
What a beautiful dream is in your heart.
Day by day we will learn, and someday you'll be
A wonderful wife and blessed mommy."

"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of Yahweh be not blasphemed." (Titus 2:4-5)

Written by Rivqah Yahsepha Coover, age 18

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Family Story Time

THE TEST

There was once a couple by the name of Hubtorne who loved Yahweh with all their hearts and who had sought to raise their children for Yahshua. They had an ambitious and intelligent young son named Heinrick who shared their passion for the truth, and also a beautiful and refined daughter of the name of Isabelle who likewise clung to all that was noble, pure, and Scriptural. As the two grew older and more mature, the parents sometimes wondered if Yahweh would ever bring anyone into their lives who would be wholehearted and sincere enough in the faith for the parents to be able to truly give their blessing to their children marrying. Many people had drifted in and out of their lives, people who professed a faith, but who lacked in important areas which the parents and their son and daughter knew were essential. Though they sometimes wondered about the future, this devoted father and mother knew that they could never compromise merely to get their son and daughter married, and Heinrick and Isabelle were committed that they would rather stay single than marry someone who was not Yahweh's choice for them.

As the years passed by, there was one family whom the Hubtornes met that seemed different from all other families they had made acquaintance with. This family, the Grinleys, also had a son and daughter, Yair and Natalie. In many areas, they seemed to believe the same way that the Hubtornes did, and they also professed a similar lifestyle. But, as the Grinleys lived quite some distance away, the Hubtornes had not had frequent opportunity to personally get to know them. As Mr. Hubtorne wisely cautioned his children, "We communicate some with the Grinleys, and the things that they say seem wise and Scriptural, but we have not had much of a chance to observe them from day to day, and we do not know them well enough to be sure that they are genuine."

Well, apparently the Grinleys felt that Yahweh had brought

the Hubtornes into their lives for a specific reason, and were convinced that the Hubtornes were unfeigned in their faith and practice, for one day Mr. Hubtorne received a letter from Mr. Grinley asking if his son Yair could have Isabelle's hand in marriage. Mr. Hubtorne was not quite prepared for this question. He replied, "Give me one year, and I will let you know."

You can imagine that it was perhaps quite disappointing to Yair to receive this response. He was asked to wait a whole year without even a clue as to whether or not the answer would be yes or no. But, he was willing to wait for the bride whom he earnestly believed Yahweh had chosen for him.

A month later, Mr. Grinley received a letter from the king himself. He was quite surprised, and opening it, he found an invitation from the king to come and serve in his courts three hundred miles away. He would have the most luxurious of lodgings, three months of the year off work to do whatever he pleased, a high position, and most exceptional pay. He would not however be permitted to bring his family with him. Mr. Grinley was puzzled over the letter, but he promptly responded to the address given, and wrote the following:

"Your Majesty,

"I am indebted to you for your kindness in extending your most liberal hand to give me the benefits listed in your letter. I am most grateful for your consideration of your humble servant, but I must decline your offer.

"You see, your noble Majesty, I am convicted in my heart of hearts that my family is my sacred ministry and first occupation, and though I of course must maintain a job so as to provide for my family, I must keep that job in near enough vicinity that I am able to dwell with my family, to spend time with them, to encourage them, to strengthen them, to counsel them, and to protect them. The purpose that I labor long and hard is for love of my family, and consequently, leaving them behind to come and serve in your noble courts is impossible for me.

"With all respect and gratitude, your lowly servant George Grinley"

Nothing was ever heard again from the king, and though the Grinleys wondered if their response had offended him, they knew that it had been necessary.

Three weeks had passed by when one evening, a distinguished-looking gentleman showed up at the door and asked to speak with Yair. Upon seeing the young man, he smiled broadly and said, "Ah, you are just the kind of young man I need. I am looking for a bright and intelligent young gentleman who can become teacher in the local school. I hear you are a fine young man of exceptional skill and experience, which I am sure you owe to your dedicated parents, and the board of directors would like to hire you to be the teacher of our school."

At this, Yair smiled, but without a moment's hesitation, he answered, "My good sir, you are very right in saying that any good I have been able to achieve in life has been due to my parents' undying dedication to training me in the Scriptures and making many noble sacrifices for me. I cannot, however, accept your proposition for a teaching position because...."

Here he was cut short by the man, who said, "Before you proceed, let me mention something which I had forgotten. Your yearly salary will far exceed the prices paid by most schools. Also, I have heard you are a religious man, and that you observe certain Festivals. You will be dismissed from teaching school on your annual Festivals, and moreover, you will even be paid for those days, notwithstanding the fact that you will not be teaching on those particular days."

When the man finished what he was saying, Yair proceeded with his reply. "Kind sir, I am very surprised at the offer which you extend, and I am thankful for your most thoughtful consideration of my beliefs. However, my parents have most patiently instructed me and my sister at home. The home has been the center of our education, and I intend to educate my children in the same way. Due to the careful instruction in the Scriptures which my parents have given me, I feel that the school system of our day, in which children are removed from the care and teaching of their parents and taught by strangers instead, is in direct opposition to the Word of truth, and I cannot support this system by being a teacher in your school. In so doing, I would be presenting a mixed message to others, and to my own children should the Heavenly Father someday bless me to be a father, and thereby I may cause one who is weaker in the faith to stumble."

The man turned away from Yair, and looking at the boy's father, he said gravely, "You have a very fine son. I believe he could be the most excellent teacher we have ever hired, but as he opposes, that shall not be. I see though that you have no reason to be ashamed of your son in any way, and when you are gone, there will be one left to stand in defense of those morals which are important to you. Good day." And then he took his leave.

Five weeks passed, and life continued as usual in the Grinley home. They continued to correspond some with the Hubornes, and to wonder what the answer would be when the year was up. So far, only three months had passed, and those had been the longest three months of Yair's life.

One day, a minister appeared at the Grinley's threshold, and asked for a Natalie Grinley. She was led into the room by her brother, and when the minister saw her, he smiled at the purity and innocence he beheld on her face and in her manner. "I can see by looking at Natalie that you have a very fine and lovely daughter," he told Mr. and Mrs. Grinley. "I have come to see her because I have heard she has many skills, of which writing, serving, caring for the sick, and handling secretarial work are only a few. We are looking for just such a young woman to go with a group of individuals who will be going onto the mission field overseas in twelve weeks. Of course, your daughter would need to take some specific training for this during the next three months, but I am sure that she would be capable of learning the necessary things she would be taught, and that she would be a real blessing in this mission trip." Turning now to Natalie, he asked, "Have you ever felt a call to mission work?"

Natalie spoke now, and with a refined and gentle speech, she said, "Yes, sir, I have definitely heard the Savior's call to be a witness for Him and to serve Him in whatever way He calls me to. However, I believe according to the Scriptures that I am to be under my father and mother's headship, in obedience to them, and under their protection and guidance. I have a heart to do mission work, and my heart is filled to rejoicing with the areas in which I am able, with my mother, to help my father's ministry be a success. I take great pleasure in partnering with my mother to help make my father's and brother's evangelistic efforts possible and profitable. There are many areas in which

I am able to serve my parents and my brother here in my home, and at the same time be a blessing to others, and this is where my greatest ministry is found. So I must respectfully decline the offer to go overseas at this time. If my father should ever feel a call to minister elsewhere, I will gladly go anywhere with him to be an agent for him in his ministry. Or, if Yahweh should bring me a husband, and his call should be overseas missions, I will be his joyful helper and servant in that calling. But as far as your offer is concerned, I must humbly refuse.”

The minister did not stay long. He seemed a bit disappointed, but before he left, he did commend Mr. and Mrs. Grinley, telling them that rather than naming their daughter Natalie, they ought to have named her Fidelity.

Two months later, Mrs. Grinley received company one afternoon. She seemed pleasant at first, but she had not stayed very long when Mrs. Grinley realized that she was not very discretionary. Most of her conversation seemed to center around all of the things she disliked about her husband and children. She seemed to be full of complaints, and Mrs. Grinley could not help but think that this woman was certainly going to bring ruin to her family with her slanderous tongue. After a while, the woman looked at Mrs. Grinley and said in surprise, “You sit here so quietly and do not say anything. Surely some of what I have been saying calls to your mind things about your husband which you hate or things about your children which drive you crazy. I am glad to bear your burden with you if you feel troubled and would like to share.”

Mrs. Grinley smiled. “I have been blessed with a very good husband and devoted children,” she said. “I do not lie to you and claim that my family is perfect, but we love each other earnestly, and any little discrepancies which we have are kept within our family circle. My husband and I earnestly believe, and have taught our children as well, that it is not healthful for the family if grievances in the family circle are carried outside of the home. What little differences we have, we lovingly and patiently resolve among ourselves here at home. I will be happy to talk to you of my family, but I have nothing to tell you about them except good and virtuous things which will build them up and build you up as well.”

That evening, after Mrs. Grinley shared this conversation

with the rest of the family, Yair called his father outside. The moon was shining brightly, a soft breeze was blowing, and he was thinking what it would be like if he could be sitting hand in hand with Isabelle on the porch swing. Instead, he stood with his father, and said, “Father, tell me honestly, what do you think Mr. Hubtorne’s response will be? So far, this year has been the queerest year I have ever experienced, don’t you agree? And yet it seems like such a very long year. Why it is not even half over yet.”

“I know what you mean, my son. But if Isabelle is the one for you, Mr. Hubtorne will say ‘Yes’,” George Grinley replied. “If he says, ‘No’, it must not be Yahweh’s will. That is all I can tell you. I will agree with you though that this has been a very interesting and different kind of year.

Barely a month had passed by when Mr. Grinley, as he was one evening walking down the sidewalk in town, was apprehended by a rough-looking individual who grabbed his arm. “Hey, sir.” The man spoke very quietly under his breath. “Will you please just stand here and watch a moment? Whistle if you hear anyone coming. I’ve just got to go into this store and do a little business. I’ll be just a moment. Just whistle, will you, if you hear anyone approaching. I’ll pay you good.” And the man started in the direction of the store.

But Mr. Grinley stopped him. “Excuse me, I cannot do that,” he refused, highly questioning the uprightness of this man’s “business”.

“It’s nothing bad, I assure you,” the man told him, urgency in his voice. “Just for five minutes. I’ll pay you two hundred dollars for just five minutes. Here, I’ll go ahead and give you the money.” He reached into his pocket.

Mr. Grinley turned in the other direction. “I said I cannot do it,” he replied, as he began walking away. “I will not back down for two hundred dollars, no, not even for a thousand dollars.”

Six weeks later, a smiling woman approached the Grinley residence, and introduced herself as Mrs. Linda Banks of the Decoration & Design Company Incorporated. She asked if it was true that a Rose Grinley resided at this dwelling place, and when Mrs. Grinley came to the door, she invited her to come and work for her company. “It has been told to me that you are a very artistic and careful lady who would most certainly be a

splendid complement to our company. We are in need of skillful women who take pleasure in what they do and pride in doing it right. Will you not come and work for us? The pay is excellent, the working conditions pleasant, there will be many women for you to associate with, and your husband will not have to work so hard as he does, for you will be helping to bring in much income.”

But Mrs. Grinley meekly replied, “My Scriptural career is found in serving my family, other believers, and the needy here in my home. I cannot forsake my heaven-ordained occupation for a high-paying job with your company.”

Linda Banks tried many methods to get Mrs. Grinley to agree to come and work for them, insisting to her that her children were grown and did not need her at home anymore, that she would be freed up, that she would actually be able to “do something” and to make some money instead of “just staying at home”, etc., but Rose Grinley wisely refuted each thing Linda said with the Scriptures. “By coming and working for you, I would be giving my children and other young believers the message that it is OK for a woman to desert her station at home and go out in the world to work, and I would certainly become a stumbling block to some. As far as being freed up, I find my liberty not in the fads or ideas of the world, but in the perfect Law of liberty, given in the Scriptures, wherein I am commanded to be a faithful help meet to my husband, a loyal mother to my children, a servant to the believers, and a helping friend to the poor. My mission in life is not to make money, but to do with the money which my husband Scripturally provides for me all that I have been called to do, laboring to make my husband’s home a paradise, a haven for the poor, and a delightful sanctuary for others who love the King of kings.”

Eventually, Mrs. Banks seemed to get the message that her efforts were in vain, and acting very let down that Mrs. Grinley had not agreed to come and work for her company, she took her leave. But only a week had passed when she returned, this time seeking Natalie’s participation in the Decoration & Design Company Incorporated.

In spite of the offers which were given to her, and the methods which Mrs. Banks used to try to tempt and persuade the young lady, Natalie stood firmly upon the training which her

parents had given her, meekly refusing the propositions offered her, and stating gently and quietly that her place of employment, as defined in the Scriptures, was in serving her parents and brother, and in learning the homemaking skills which would be necessary someday when she was a wife and mother.

“Ah, but you have plenty of time before you are married,” Linda insisted. “Are you saying that ALL the young women who work for our company are going to be poor wives and mothers someday? Certainly not. You will still have time at your home in the evenings and on the weekends to cultivate these womanly skills you speak of, and at the same time you will be able to earn some spending money and gain some independence. Why LOTS of girls go out to work, and you certainly should not be an exception, missing out on the opportunities that SO MANY other young women are participating in.”

But Natalie could not be persuaded, and once again, Mrs. Banks left.

More time passed by, and only one week remained until the time when Mr. and Mrs. Hubtorne would give their answer in regards to Yair’s proposal. Yair was naturally quite taken up with thoughts about this. In fact, he could scarcely think of anything else. But one evening, his expectations were quite dashed by a visit from an official who announced that his mission was to draft young men into the army, and that it was a necessity for Yair to sign up for military service.

Yair stood quiet and thoughtful for a few minutes, and then he humbly replied, “Official Bernhart, I cannot in good conscience sign up to participate in the service. While there have been times that Scripture-believing people have fought in battles, I believe that according to the Scriptures, the only battles which are acceptable for believers to fight in are the ones in which people who love the truth are fighting for a cause which is commanded and upheld by the Almighty Himself. The Scriptures make it very clear that when people engage in a battle which is not of the Eternal’s ordination, or when they are not practicing His laws and principles, they will meet defeat and the curses of His wrathful punishment. In many areas, this country is not following the teachings of our Heavenly King and

Savior, and the battles which they fight are not in accordance with His commands either. So I must refuse to sign up for this kind of participation in military.”

Upon hearing this, the officer tried many ways of changing Yair’s mind, but on finding that this was impossible, he appeared very wroth, and told Yair that the king’s decree for anyone who refused to participate in mandatory military service was death. “I will return in five days to see if you have altered your impractical ‘convictions,’” he said, “And if not, necessary punishment will have to be carried out.”

What a blow was struck at the hearts of the entire Grinley family. In seven days, the Hubtornes were to be letting Yair know whether or not he would be accepted as part of their family, and now a death sentence was hanging over him, which apparently would be executed in five days. Their hearts were broken and they were filled with anxiety, and sent a desperate plea to all they knew, including the Hubtornes, for earnest prayers to be lifted on high for them.

Five days later, the officer returned. “Do you tell me that you still will not change your mind?” he asked sternly.

Yair did not waver. “If I lose my life for my convictions, as based upon the Word of Yahweh, I shall find my life again, that being eternal life, when the Master of the Heavenly armies descends from the heavens. However, if I, for fear of death, do what I know to be wrong, my eternal life will be taken from me, and I will face certain and never-ending death, which is the greatest detriment anyone can face. No sir, I do not change my mind. Shall I then be executed? Goodbye, dear Mother and Father. And you, Natalie, remember my fond affections for you, and also be dedicated to.....”

“Stop! Stop!” cried the officer, upon hearing these tearful last words which the family was exchanging. “I can’t bear it anymore. There is no mandatory draft in place right now. I was asked by a Mr. Hubtorne to come and tell you there was though, and pronounce a death sentence if Yair would not submit. He said it was some kind of test, but according to the specifications which he gave me, you have passed the test, so I leave you to go free, and may you be blessed,” he said, extending his hand to Yair, “For being so steadfast in what you believe to be right.” Likewise, he shook hands with both of the

parents, commending them for the good and faithful job they had done raising their son to be loyal to his faith, and last of all, he bid Natalie to always have high regard for such a noble brother as she had. Then he left.

“Mr. Hubtorne?” “Mr. Hubtorne asked him to come and do that?” “A test?” The house was buzzing with questions after the officer left.

Two days later, the Hubtornes came to visit. That evening, in the livingroom, Mr. and Mrs. Hubtorne revealed the answer to the puzzles which the Grinleys had wondered about in the past year.

“We have met many families who seemed genuine at first, but who, after getting to know them better, proved to not be as firm or convicted in their faith as we thought they were. When Yair asked to marry our Isabelle, I could not be content to give her hand in marriage to him, unless I was absolutely certain that the family into whom she would be marrying was truly what they professed to be. I hope you will not take this offensive, as though we question your sincerity or have been distrustful of you. From everything I had seen and heard, you appeared to be genuine and pious in your faith. But I earnestly hope that you will understand that when it came to one so precious as my daughter, I just had to be completely sure. So I felt I must perform some tests. Do you remember when the king invited you to come and work for him?” asked Mr. Hubtorne.

“The king? How did you know about that?” Mr. Grinley was shocked at Mr. Hubtorne’s knowledge of that situation.

Mr. Hubtorne smiled slightly. “Well, it wasn’t really the king. It was me.”

“You?” all of the Grinleys chorused in amazed unison.

“Yes, it was him,” Mrs. Hubtorne agreed.

Mr. Hubtorne explained. “When you wrote such a trustworthy and Scriptural response to that proposal, refusing to accept such tempting offers, based on your fidelity to Yahweh and your family, I knew that you had truly made your family your first ministry, and I was pleased. But of course I had to see where Yair stood as well, and so I had to send a gentleman to present to Yair the idea of becoming a schoolteacher. That man faithfully brought back to me the message of everything Yair had said, by which I was convinced

that he too highly regards his duty to his family and the Scriptural standards regarding such.” Yair was amazed beyond words by this explanation. What if, what if he had accepted the proposal? What if the kind speech of the man, the good pay, or the flattering words in regards to his skills and intelligence, had persuaded him? He was so glad that he had not been tempted to compromise.

Now Mrs. Hubtorne spoke up. “And when the minister came to visit, under pretense of planning a mission trip, he too came and told us all that your wise and lovely daughter replied.” Turning to the young lady, she said, “Your answer displayed great wisdom, both of your parents in educating you in the truth, and of you, in embracing that truth wholeheartedly and being well able to defend what you believed. This assured, and the situation with Mrs. Linda Banks, assured us without a doubt as to your family’s faithfulness to a woman’s Yahweh-given calling.”

“You mean Linda Banks was sent by you, too?” asked Mrs. Grinley.

“Yes, she was,” Mrs. Hubtorne answered softly. Then with a little laugh, she said, “I’m sorry that we have intruded into your home in so many ways in the past year.”

“No need to apologize,” assured Mr. Grinley, though he was still a little shook up by all of this news. “But what about the man who tried to get me to watch for him one night while he went into the store?”

“A man who will not accept two hundred dollars for five minutes’ watch is an honest man,” Mr. Hubtorne said with great earnestness. “And the sincerity which you have all proved in the past months has assured me that the rest of your family is honest as well.”

Natalie was just ready to ask about the situation with the officer, when Mrs. Hubtorne turned to Mrs. Grinley, saying, “I am sure you remember your surprise afternoon visit with Thelma Rods. She is in reality a woman who has never been married, but at my request, she invented all sorts of things to complain about concerning her husband and children. Rest assured, she didn’t want to, but I begged her to, and she finally gave in. She was sure to report to me your trustworthy and sweet reply and your refusal to say any ill about your family.”

“But the final test was when the issue was not money, or position, or mere temptation, but when it was the sacrifice of life itself.” Mr. Hubtorne’s eyes were filled with tears as he looked Yair full in the face. “The fact that you were willing to die for your faith showed me without a doubt that you do not merely profess righteousness: you live righteousness. The officer told me exactly what your answers were to his threats, and my heart was touched to the core, though it grieved me to have to cause you such pain for a time. Now, if you will please forgive us for all the bother we have been in the past year, Isabelle would like to say something to Yair.”

“If it is something that must be forgiven, we will forgive you,” Mr. Grinley said.

“But we do not really think you need to apologize,” Mrs. Grinley assured them. “The great lengths you will go to preserve and guard your daughter’s safety and spiritual well being and future are merely proofs of your sincerity and of the great value you place on the truth and on your family.”

“What is it you have to say to Yair?” asked Mr. Grinley, with a gentle tenderness in his voice, as he looked on the fair and sweet Isabelle.

Isabelle stepped forward. “I will gladly become your wife,” she said, with tears in her eyes. “You have proved to me your undying devotion to and steadfast love for our Heavenly Master, and I would be honored to be Mrs. Yair Grinley.”

Later on, Mr. and Mrs. Hubtorne and their son Heinrick spoke alone with Mr. and Mrs. Grinley. “You have proved to us that your faith is a living and devoted faith which will never die,” said Mr. Hubtorne, “And we will gladly give our daughter in marriage to your son. Furthermore, our son, Heinrick, would like to seek your permission to marry your blessed and precious daughter Natalie.”

There was a long silence and then Mr. Grinley spoke. “Of course we will need to ask Natalie, but the past year has not only been a proof to you of our sincerity, but a proof to us of your absolute loyalty to the truth. If Natalie consents, we consent.”

Three months later, a double wedding was held in which Isabelle Hubtorne became Mrs. Yair Grinley and Natalie Grinley became Mrs. Heinrick Hubtorne. The hearts of both couples

were full of joy and peace in following the will of Yahweh, as were the hearts of the parents on both sides. And you can be assured that the children which were birthed as a result of these beautiful unions were raised up in all faithfulness and purity, and trained in such a way that they too would pass virtue and sincerity on to their children and grandchildren and all generations to come.

This story was written by Rivqah Yahsepha bana Shalom, age 18, on 12/09/5768 (02/16/2008).

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A Voice To The Young

Dear brothers and sisters,

We were recently blessed to visit the LaGoy family in Maine whom we have known for several years. We were with them over Sabbath, and Mr. LaGoy shared a good message with everyone on submission. This is typically thought to be relative to women and children, but he shared some good points for us all to consider, and as they were a blessing to our whole family, we wanted to share them with you too.

We must all submit to Yahweh.

John 14:15 ~ "If ye love Me, keep My commandments."

James 4:7 ~ "Submit yourselves therefore to Elohim...."

Submission to Yahweh is essential in order to have a good relationship with Him.

Deuteronomy 30:16 ~ "In that I command thee this day to love Yahweh thy Elohim, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and Yahweh thy Elohim shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it."

John 14:21 ~ "He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him."

There are people in each of our lives that we must submit to as well.

1) The husband/wife relationship: Ephesians 5:22 ~ "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto Yahweh."

2) The king/subjects relationship: 1 Peter 2:13a ~ "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for Yahweh's sake."

3) The brother-to-brother relationship of mutual respect to each other: Romans 12:10 ~ "Love one another with

brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor.”

4) The elder/younger relationship: 1 Peter 5:5 ~ “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for Elohim resisteth the proud, and giveth favor to the humble.”

Between those examples and others, we all have people to submit to. And what it all comes down to is HUMILITY. It takes HUMILITY to put ourselves in subjection to another. It takes HUMILITY to put ourselves in subjection to Yahweh. Young people want to be grown up. They want to be adults. They want to be able to make choices. BUT... we all have to remember that it is not adult or mature to push our limits and disregard or disdain authority. Mr. LaGoy said in his message:

“Submission is part of growing up. To reject it is to reject growth. It is to reject adulthood. It is to reject relationships and say, ‘I want war and conflict all my life.’ ”

The conclusion of Mr. LaGoy’s message was this:

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear Yahweh, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

Yahweh has given commandments regarding submission to Him, to parental authorities, to civil authorities, etc. Let us all embrace our duty then, and respect Him and keep His commandments.

Sincerely in Messiyah Yahshua, the Coover family

*Thank-you, Brian LaGoy, for the excellent message!
We hope that these thoughts you shared bless others as
they blessed us. - The Coovers*

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