

Shooting for the Stars!

(Seeking Greatness and Rewards in the coming Paradise)

*(When quoting scriptures, from the Rotherham Emphasized Bible New Testament,
I will substitute the Hebrew word Yahshua for Jesus, Yahweh and Elohim for God and Anointed for Christ.)*

Religion and the traditions of man have put many Christians in a position that discourages godly aspirations. Yahweh's Word encourages godly achievements and the seeking of rewards for our present and future lives. Our Father presented to His Son, Yahshua, a colossal task. If he could accomplish it he would also receive a colossal reward. Our Lord shot for the stars and hit his mark.

Yahshua was in the temple, at the age of twelve, reading his Father's Word and discovering letters written to him (Luke 2:46-49). In Genesis 3:15 Yahweh spoke to the Adversary and to his Son saying, “ and enmity I put between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed [Yahshua]; he shall crush your head, and you shall crush his heel.” Our Lord’s mission was laid before him. He would win the fight but be wounded in the battle. His reward would be declared in Psalms 2:7-9.“I declare concerning a statute: Yahweh said unto me, ‘My Son you are, I to-day have brought you forth. Ask of Me and I give nations—your inheritance, And your possession—the ends of earth. You shall rule them with a sceptre of iron, As a vessel of a potter You shall crush them.’” He would receive a reward like none other given, Lordship over the earth. Yahshua sought greatness through obedience, which brings with it rewards, as directed his Father. What were Yahweh’s directions? To serve mankind in love!

Our Lord gave his all to us. “But did empty himself, the form of a servant having taken, in the likeness of men having been made, and in fashion having been found as a man, he humbled himself, having become obedient unto death—death even of a cross, wherefore, also, Yahweh did highly exalt him, and gave to him a name that is above every name, that in the name of Yahshua every knee may bow—of heavenlies, and earthlies, and what are under the earth—and every tongue may confess that Yahshua *the* Messiah is Lord, to the glory of Yahweh the Father”(Phil 2:7-11). What a wonderful passage! Father explains the task to be performed, how to perform it and the reward when accomplished. The task was to die for mankind. What motivated Yahshua to take the job. “Who in consideration of the joy lying before him endured a cross, shame despising! And on the right hand of the throne of Yahweh hath taken his seat” (Heb. 12:2). What was the joy that was laid before him? Sitting at our Father’s right hand ruling the earth. Do you want to sit at our Lords right hand? James and John did.

James and John desired greatness and Yahshua did not reprove them for desiring greatness but instructed them on how to attain such a worthy aspiration. “Whoever may will among you to become great, let him be your minister; and whoever may will among you to be

first, let him be your servant; even as the Son of Man did not come to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many”(Matt. 20:26-28). Others also desired greatness. “And he came to Capernaum, and being in the house, he was questioning them, ‘What were you reasoning in the way among yourselves?’ and they were silent, for with one another they did reason in the way **who is greater**; and having sat down he called the twelve, and he said to them, ‘If any did **will to be first**, he shall be last of all, and **minister of all**’(Mark 9:33-35). Desiring to be first is OK with Father. He is also a rewarder to them who seek Him out by faith (Heb. 11:6).

Our Father is a rewarder. Some will say, “O, I will be happy just to be in Paradise with any job. The reward is just being there. Seeking rewards is selfish.” Father will and does pay for services rendered, according to His will, as long as they are being done in love (I Cor. 13). “For in the law of Moses it has been written, ‘you shall not muzzle an ox treading out corn;’ for the oxen did Yahweh care? or because of us by all means did He say it? yes, because of us it was written, because in hope ought the plower to plow, and he who is treading ought of his hope to partake in hope”(I Cor. 9:9-10). Father is the Motivator. He motivates by loving us unconditionally and by giving us rewards. “And his lord said to him, Well done, servant, good and faithful, over a few things you were faithful, over many things I will set you; enter into the joy of your lord”(Matt. 25:21). The apostles will be rewarded in the kingdom because of their labors. “And Yahshua said to them, ‘Verily I say to you, that you who did follow me, in the regeneration, when the Son of Man may sit upon a throne of his glory, shall sit—you also—upon twelve thrones, judging [governing] the twelve tribes of Israel; and every one who left houses, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or fields, for my name’s sake, **an hundredfold shall receive**, and life age-abiding shall inherit; and many first shall be last, and last first” (Matt. 19:28-30). What about the saints reward? “Have you not known that the holy ones [us] shall judge [or govern] the world? and if by you the world is judged [or governed], are you unworthy of the smaller judgments? have you not known that we shall judge [govern] messengers? why not then the things of life”(I Cor. 6:2,3)? Do you want to govern? Do you want to serve in the coming Paradise? Serve now in love and be faithful and you too shall be rewarded in this life and in Paradise.

We work together with our Father and our Lord in order that His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. “I planted, Apollos watered, but Yahweh was giving growth; so that neither is he who is planting anything, nor he who is watering, but He who is giving growth—Yahweh; and he who is planting and he who is watering are one, and each **his own reward** shall receive, according to his own labor, for of Yahweh **we are fellow-workmen**; Yahweh’s farm, Yahweh’s building you are. According to the grace of Yahweh that was given to me, as a wise master-builder, a foundation I have laid, and another did build on it, for other foundation no one is able to lay except that which is laid, which is Yahshua the Anointed One; and if any one did build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—of each the work shall become manifest, for the day shall declare it, because in fire it is revealed, and the work of each, what kind it is, the fire shall prove; if

of any one the work did remain that he built on it, **a wage he shall receive**; if of any the work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; and himself shall be saved, but so as through fire”(I Cor. 3:6-15). Seek greatness by way of service in love. Expect rewards because our Father and our Lord are the best tippers. Make deposits into your spiritual IRA account (Paradise) daily and it will add up so when our Lord appears he will say, “Well done my good and faithful servant, enter into my joy.”