

# The Zion Letter

The Monthly Newsletter of For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.  
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## Blessed Are The Peacemakers

### A Holiday Message

Do you have plans to attend family gatherings during the holidays this year? Do you sometimes see people at these events that for whatever reason, you had a falling-out, and haven't seen them in years? It can be a very uncomfortable situation. Sadly, most folks just put on a smile, shake hands and hold their breath until they can get in the car to leave, reminding themselves to strictly avoid these situations in the future. Yes, it usually takes family holidays, weddings or funerals to bring people who don't like each other together in the same room. God has a way of helping us deal with the people we want to write off, by bringing us unwittingly face to face with them. God wants us to understand that that life is very short and we must learn that it is important for us to make peace before it's too late by forgiving or asking forgiveness. Funerals are times when we often run into people we used to be friends with; funerals are the ultimate reality check concerning our relationships, because every person is faced with their own mortality. God doesn't want us to just bury our friend or loved one at the funeral; He wants us to bury the hatchet too by making peace with our enemies.

Although we may often run into people we'd rather not see at family gatherings, it could happen anywhere, a restaurant, the supermarket, the department store, a sporting event, etc. We mustn't be too proud to say I'm sorry if we have offended someone, or to reach out if they have offended us. Yeshua (the Hebrew name for Jesus) said, **"How blessed is anyone who is not offended by Me!"** Luke 7:23. It is human nature to take offense from time to time. But God makes it clear to believers that we are to be peacemakers: In Matthew 5:9, Yeshua said, **"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they**

**shall be called the sons of God."** In Matthew 18, Yeshua deals with the issue of forgiveness in depth: **"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother,"** MT 18:15. Yeshua goes on to say that we should forgive not seven times, **"But up to seventy times seven,"** MT 18:22. The Lord then tells a parable of a King who was owed ten thousand talents by one of his servants. This amount was equal to sixty million denarii. In Bible times, one denarius was an average day's wage. In modern terms, using \$100 per day, the servant would have owed his master **six billion dollars!!!** You do the math for your daily wage and calculate the total amount owed. The master was going to sell the servant and his household and command him to pay back all that he owed, but the servant threw himself at His master's feet and begged for mercy. The Bible recounts that the



master was **"moved with compassion, released him and forgave all his debt,"** V. 27. But then, right after he was forgiven a debt equivalent to six billion dollars or more, the servant demanded payment from one of his own servants who owed him 100 denarii, which is one hundred day's wages as opposed to sixty million day's wages! Instead of mercy, he had this man thrown into prison. When the master heard what the servant had done, he summoned the servant and said, **"You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you? And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."** MT 18:32-35. God is saying that He will deliver us over to the tor-

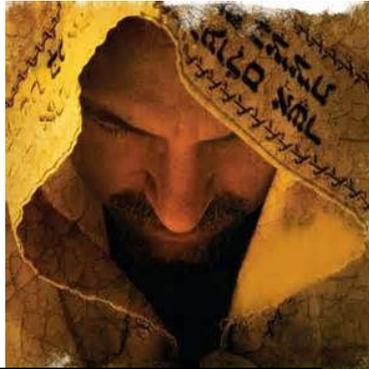
turers (demons) if we don't forgive our brother's trespasses from our heart. I have come to learn that many of the problems we face in life stem from our unwillingness to forgive. Certain patterns and situations tend to pop up, as if following us around, haunting us and discouraging us, and keeping us agitated and perplexed. In other words, life in this world will be miserable and without peace until we deal with our own debt, our debt of forgiveness, because walking in un-forgiveness makes us the debtor. God was so gracious to forgive our sins and give us eternal salvation; likewise, should we not find the strength to forgive? Yeshua paid such a high price for our salvation through forgiveness. In fact, He could have decided not to forgive; but because He did, we must honor the value He placed on forgiveness and make the connection in our heart that Yeshua's blood covers EVERY sin committed against us. We release forgiveness to others based on Yeshua's sacrificial offering for ALL people. This is how we release forgiveness to someone who has deeply hurt us.

On the flip side, if you are the offender, it is best to apologize for the offense and own up to your sin against your brother. Nevertheless, it is not always productive ask for their forgiveness if they're still angry with you. Often going to someone who is still angry with you will only stir up a hornet's nest of emotion on their part. If this is the case, you should simply give them space and pray for them. This allows God to begin dealing with them about their un-forgiveness.

Whether you are the offender or the offended party, you'll be amazed what God can do when we love our enemies and forgive them. I'm not saying you have to go out and have dinner with people who are at odds with you. Perhaps they are tied up in a lifestyle that you don't condone, as in drugs, crime, cult activity, etc....or you just don't generally get along. I love the reunion story of Jacob and his brother Esau in the Bible. Jacob had been away for some twenty years, and at the time of his departure from home, Esau had wanted to kill Jacob. Now having to face his brother Esau, Jacob was very afraid... (See Genesis chapter 27-33 to find out what happened).

### Conclusion:

There is much division in the body of Messiah today between denominations, church leaders, and congregants. So many people are wasting so much time being offended. Jesus simply said "do not be offended". It may take twenty years, but we must all face our "Esau" in order to reach our destiny with God, and believe me, He will require it. The question is, will we forgive and love our enemy when the opportunity arises? God will arrange the meetings with the enemies we have made, because He is the ultimate Peacemaker. He loves to bring healing and reconciliation! Our part is to "bury the hatchet" by administering God's healing balm of forgiveness.



I'd like to see churches and Messianic synagogues in every region come together as communities in one large venue and have a funeral for that old hatchet. Pentecostals and non- Pentecostals, churches that sprinkle and churches that dunk, Black churches and White churches, people who have split up churches and caused division, Jews and people who are anti-Semitic, republican and democrat, you name it! It's time to have a funeral for the hatchet, the King is coming soon. Remember Matthew 18 and be ready when He does. When Yeshua agonized in the garden, he wasn't just asking God to let Him avoid the pain and suffering of the Cross. His flesh didn't want to forgive the sins of the



world. However He chose to go to the Cross to forgive your sins and mine. He expects us to choose to forgive our brothers and our neighbors. As we embark upon this holiday season, will you choose to forgive those who have trespassed against you? Happy Thanksgiving!

In Yeshua's love,  
Rabbi Joe and Dawn

*For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.*

## *An Evening of Praise & Worship with Paul Wilbur*

**Saturday, December 2, 2017**  
**7:00 pm**

*An offering will be taken to benefit:  
The Joseph Project*

*Held at: The Holiday Inn Exit 7, 3005 Linden Drive ~ Bristol, VA*



Advance tickets at: [www.forzionsake.org](http://www.forzionsake.org) or 276-644-1678

Adults ~ \$12.00

Children 6-11 ~ \$8.00

Children 5 and under ~ Free

**Paul Wilbur** is an internationally acclaimed Messianic Jewish worship minister and prolific recording artist, and has ministered in Israel and around the world in many mega worship events. Paul has released multiple albums with Integrity Music, including the famous live albums from Jerusalem, *Shalom Jerusalem* and *Jerusalem Arise*, and his most recent CD is *Your Great Name*. Paul's concerts are high-energy and inspirational, and his work is well known in the church and Messianic Community. You won't want to miss this special opportunity to experience the ministry of a man who has had a major influence on our generation for Israel.

**The Joseph Project** is the benefactor of this event to help the needy in Israel.

*For Zion's Sake Ministries, making a difference in people's lives in our community.*

**MJAA Southeast  
Conference**

December 15-17  
Orlando FL.  
Register now!!

[www.forzionsake.org](http://www.forzionsake.org)

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*Come Worship  
With us!*



**Saturdays  
10:45 AM**

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*Lion of Judah  
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