



# Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

Volume 19 Issue 7

www.lightofmessiah.org



July 2011

## Rejection

**I**t's not easy to step out in faith and potentially face rejection. **In fact I believe that the fear of rejection is one of the greatest reasons why many people do not share Jesus with others.** What will they say? What will they do? What if I can't answer them? I know the fear. I have faced it myself. My family and my community have, for the most part, rejected and opposed what I know to be true.

But this month I want to ask you to move out of your comfort zone and encourage you in the process. **Our Shalom Basket outreach is coming up in the fall and I want you to step out in faith.** If you have a Jewish friend, I want you to give them a basket. If you don't know a Jewish person you can pray for those who do or sponsor baskets to give to Jewish contacts of ours. **The likelihood of rejection is minimal. In fact it rarely, if ever, happens.** But just in case, for those who might be fearful, take heart and look at Jesus. See what happened to Him ... and hear what He said.

**Maybe you have experienced it. The people who you love the most often-times listen the least.** Not only is it common to man, but it was common to our Messiah as well. During the Feast of Tabernacles Jesus' brothers encouraged Him to go to the area of Judea and perform miracles, so that His ministry would grow and that others might see His power. *"No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world,"* they said. John 7:4 They were encouraging Him as skeptics, not believers. The scriptures tell us, **"For even his own brothers did not believe in him."** John 7:5 Jesus



stayed in Galilee for a time but then went, on His own terms, to Jerusalem for the Feast. Still, Jesus was misunderstood by not only the world, but His own brothers.

**When Jesus was in His hometown of Nazareth, He also experienced rejection by those who were the closest to Him, His own family and town.** He taught in the synagogue and they were, according to scripture, amazed. (Matthew 13:54) However they began to question Him, thinking to themselves that they had seen Him grow up. He was the son of Mary and Joseph. Surely, He could not be the Messiah. Jesus said, *"Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor."* Matthew 13:57 According to scripture, *"And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith."* Matthew 13:58

There are several reasons why those who are the closest to us find it difficult to hear from us. All of those reasons were experienced by the Jesus Himself.

Jesus said to His brothers, *"The right time for me has not yet come; for you*

*any time is right. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil."* John 7: 6-7 **There are times that our mere presence can cause rejection.** The fact that we represent the truth of Messiah and testify to the validity of the Word of God causes friction. It is no wonder that people can believe anything these days, but those who carry the banner of Christ are mocked and ridiculed. Those who stand for the truth of God's Word are condemned by an unbelieving world. **Oftentimes those who are closest to us, reject us the most, just because of the closeness.**

Jesus told those who know Him to be aware of this very real truth, *"Do not suppose I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law — a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'" Matthew 10:34-36*

**It is a hard reality that following the Prince of Peace can bring conflict.** But it does. Unfortunately most Christians, especially in America, do not know what it means to be rejected and suffer for the sake of Christ. I think we would be stronger for it. But it doesn't happen much here. Not like in China, or the Arab countries. They know. Believing in Jesus is dissonant to a lost world. **Jesus did not say he came to bring conflict because He desires conflict, but because standing for His truth in the midst of a world that rejects it causes friction.** Those who are closest to us, our family and friends, who do not know Him, will react with the greatest emotion. They did with Him.

It is also in human nature to believe we can change those who are closest to us. **If they only knew what we know they would believe what we believe, right?** Of course they would. But we have to remember that we do not have the power to change a heart, we only have the power to proclaim the message. When we do, rejection may come.

*“And He did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.”* Matthew 13:58 **Jesus had the power to change hearts. He had the power to do miracles, to open eyes, to illuminate the minds of those in His own town.** But He didn't. Of course, He was God. The lesson is profound. We need to turn those we love over to Him and allow Him to do the work in their hearts. **A part of feeling rejected is turning those we love over to the Lord.** It is not easy. It is painful. But it is what we need to do.

**I want to encourage you to step out of your comfort zone as we approach the Jewish holidays in September.** There is no better time to begin to discuss spiritual issues with your Jewish friends. Simple questions such as, *“What do you think of the current conflict in the Middle East? Do you think there will ever be peace there?”*, *“What are you going to be doing during the Jewish holidays? Do you go to synagogue? What do you do there?”*, or *“Have you ever heard of a Jewish person believing in Jesus? What do you think of them?”* (Those last questions will surely get a response!) will open up conversations.

**Please, please, take advantage of and support our Shalom Basket outreach.** If you have a Jewish friend, there is no better, or easy, way to show them you are thinking about them in a culturally relevant way. **Do not be afraid of rejection because of these baskets. They will be received with joy and excitement.** Look at the testimonies on our web site. But if you are ever rejected because of your faith remember, you are blessed ... and Jesus was rejected on our behalf to bear our sin and take our pain. So ... just do it!!



## Shalom Baskets

**Our most exciting and effective outreach is quickly approaching and this outreach involves you!** Our Shalom Basket Outreach will take place the week before Rosh Hashanah (September 19th –23rd).

A **Shalom Basket** is filled with holiday goodies for your Jewish friend. They are beautiful. You may order them through our ministry. **We are encouraging you to pick up and deliver your basket yourself.** It is a great way to deepen your relationship with your Jewish friends.

Order your Shalom Baskets by calling our office (credit card orders only), **order online at our web site**, or send \$30.00 per basket to our P.O. Box made payable to The Shalom Store. Orders must be in by September 5th.

**You can be a blessing to someone who cannot afford a basket by making an extra donation this month in support of our Shalom Basket outreach.** We also bring baskets to our Russian Jewish contacts who do not yet know the Lord. Send one to them!

### How to Contact Us

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## 2011-2012 Messianic Calendars

We are again carrying **Messianic Calendars** to help you keep track of the Jewish holidays, pray for the Jewish people, and learn about the Jewish roots of our faith as believers in Jesus. This year we are again supporting a Messianic ministry in Israel by using their calendars.

**If you desire to celebrate the Jewish holidays in your home, or want to pray for the Jewish people, this calendar is invaluable.** They make beautiful gifts as well.

Call our office to order one by phone (credit card orders), **order online at [www.lightofmessiah.org](http://www.lightofmessiah.org)**, or send \$14.00 per calendar to our P.O. Box made payable to **The Shalom Store**.

**Remember our ministry and the Jewish people as the Jewish holidays approach.** This is an important time of the year as the Jewish community is focused on spiritual issues.

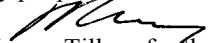
## We Give Thanks...

**Please continue to remember us in your prayers as we are now in the midst of our busy summer of outreach.** Several events are being planned for our Russian Jewish friends. I am on my way to New York this week (July 13th) as well as Israel for ministry later on in the year.

We are so grateful for your prayers and would not be able to do what we do without you lifting us up to the Lord on a daily basis. **Your prayers and financial support make what we do possible.**

God bless you....

With deep appreciation for your love for my people,

  
 Murray Tilles...for the staff  
 Light of Messiah Ministries