

Wavesheaf day – “Acceptance by God” day (NEW) How busy Jesus has been since his resurrection



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: *This sermon is very different from the video sermon. You'll see Jesus much more clearly and you'll be glad you checked this one out. We don't "keep Easter" but we're delighted to praise God for Wavesheaf day. Do you feel God accepts you, or do you feel like you've failed God and don't measure up? How Wavesheaf shows the ongoing salvation day by day by Jesus. What has kept Yeshua busy since his resurrection after he ascended and returned from heaven. It includes you!*

Even if you hear this sermon after Wavesheaf Day April 9, 2023, the message applies for the rest of our lives to us all who are being called by God now. So please check it out. You'll be glad you did.

It's Wavesheaf day, the day of Christ the first of the firstfruits of God's early harvest in God's plan of salvation. I know in 2023 Easter and Wavesheaf are on the same day but don't let that keep you from exulting in this day! We don't keep Easter, but we sure delight in Christ being resurrected from the dead and then ascending and descending back for our benefit within the same day. That's all explained in this teaching.

Too many believers SKIP wavesheaf day or don't even hear anything about it in church services. It's not a holy day – but do NOT skip it! We should be preaching and teaching about it much more than most of you are hearing.

This day pictures what happens after the cross! It pertains to you and me. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty of our sins for us. He also took on himself God's wrath for sin, the shame and allowed reconciliation to occur. This day is about his glorious VICTORY and ascension to heaven the first time

to be accepted on our behalf – and to then to live in us day by day as we grow into his perfect image.

Note: Jesus ascended *twice* after his resurrection. The first time on the first day of the week and then he returned and encouraged his disciples. The second time was before 500 witnesses on the Mount of Olives.

The cross forgave our sins and as we accepted that, we were saved (Ephesians 2:8-9) from our sins and sins' penalty. Wavesheaf day is about how we are accepted by God through Christ and then how we continue to be saved day by day now as Messiah lives in us. We still sin from time to time and need an ongoing cleansing as 1 John 1:7-9 explain. IN Christ, you and I are accepted by God.

As Paul said -- I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me and now I live by faith in HIM and his life working in me. (Galatians 2:20). This is the ongoing salvation, being saved by his LIFE now (Romans 5:10). You may wish to check out my sermons on "Saved by his LIFE". And as we focus on Yeshua, God is transforming us more and more into the image of MESSIAH (2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29; 1 Cor. 15:49)

Romans 8:29

"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that HE might be **the firstborn among MANY brethren.**"

So as 1 Cor. 15:49 says, just as we've borne the image of man we shall also bear the image of the heavenly son of God in heaven.

That's a salvation process that happens each day. God is not just in the cross. God is not even just in the resurrection. God is in the resurrection JESUS now re-living his life in us, *being* our life now, accepting us, growing in us, helping every single day until the resurrection – IF we open the door to him and invite him in. HE is our life (Col. 3:3-4). HE is there with you in your pain, in your failures, in your let-downs, in YOU – as well as with you in the victories he gives you. He is with us all the time now and helping us grow more and more to look like him as he is saving us day by day. He says he is NOT ashamed of us (Hebrews 2:11).

So don't disregard or miss this inspiring day. On this wavesheaf day, always on the first day of the week, as I explained in the full sermon about the meaning of this day, the High Priest would raise high (or "waive") the first fruits sheaves of barley that had been made into some fine flour of the first fruits

barley up towards heaven. The word translated into English as “sheaves” or “sheaf” is from **the Hebrew “omer” which can refer either to sheaf or to a measure of flour. They pounded the sheaves into very fine flour. It was the flour that was raised up, NOT actual sheaves.**

The point was for God to be presented with the first of the firstfruits of barley to be accepted in behalf of the entire harvest. Upon God’s acceptance, the rest of the barley in Israel could be harvested. Basically God is saying, “I accept the barley first fruits and because of that, I accept the rest of the harvest.” Yeshua is the FIRST FRUIT. Later, at Pentecost, WE in Christ are the remaining firstfruits, and this time of wheat – so Pentecost is the FEAST of Firstfruits 50 days after Wavesheaf day.

Leviticus 23:9-11

“And Yehovah spoke to Moses, saying, 10 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, **then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. 11 He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.**”

I don’t want to repeat the sermon already posted. I just want to focus a short time on this point of being God’s acceptance Day of you and me, all because of and through the Son of God, Yeshua/Jesus our Messiah. On this day God does not want us looking back, pressing forward to your high calling.

We’re being saved, an ongoing process after we accept his death on the cross.

I haven’t introduced myself yet. I’m Philip Shields, host of Light on the Rock, where we glorify our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. I’d love to hear from you. Use the “Contact us” section of Light on the Rock on the far right top of the home page.

One of the biggest problems we believers have, regardless of where we attend church, is being unable to feel confident about our spiritual lives. *Most of us, including me at times, often feel “Another day that I’ve let down my Father and Savior. Another day I didn’t use the Holy Spirit strongly. I can’t see Father ever saying about me, “This is my beloved son (or daughter) in whom I am WELL pleased.” Do you ever feel that way?*

We can say we have been saved (Eph 2:8-9), while also seeing that we are being saved (1 Cor. 1:18; Acts 2:47) by the ongoing transformative life of our wonderful Jesus living in us... as much as we seek him and let him in!

Like Paul had earlier said,

Philippians 3:12-14

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

*13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind** and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, **14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**”*

*We are also confident as Paul said he was, that God, who started his marvelous saving work in us, “will **also complete it** until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (**Phil. 1:6**).*

*It was later when Paul could say with confidence that he knew there was laid up for him the crown of righteousness which God would give him and ALL who loved his appearing. (Read **2 Timothy 4:6-8**).*

*If you're like me, you may often not even feel accepted fully by God. When we're in this kind of mood or attitude, it's hard to experience the JOY of God's salvation. *We just don't feel accepted! This is exactly where our arch-enemy Satan wants us. And we're not going to have any of it!**

*Today, Wavesheaf Day after the resurrection of our Messiah, Jesus ascended to heaven as the first of the firstfruits of God's harvest of human souls. He went to be accepted in our behalf. **Then, on the same day, he returned to earth** – pictured by the High Priest lowering his arms back down with the flour he had lifted up. And now Jesus came to do the work **of showing God's acceptance of the disciples** of that time – and for us even today!*

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.”

James 1:18 says we are ALSO first fruits – after Messiah. SO Jesus had to rise to heaven to be accepted first.

Realize there was more than one ascension after his resurrection.

The first one was right after his resurrection on the first of the weeks, starting the count-down to Pentecost, when Yeshua *said his first fruits would be baptized, immersed, with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5)*. Again, giving us the help and the tools we need to succeed!

BEFORE he ascended to heaven, he was seen first **by Mary Magdalene** – the town crazy woman -- out of whom Jesus cast out seven demons! But after that, she was strong, faithful, was even at the cross with Jesus. God can call us even when we're demon possessed – as he did Mary Magdalene and then God cleans us up and makes us one of the firstfruits of his calling (James 1:18). Here's that story of Mary of Magdala.

John 20:11-17

11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

SAVIOR is there with us in our weeping. Savior is there even when we don't think he is and don't recognize that it's in our times of pain when we start to SEE him better!

Remember WHY he had to rise? To be ACCEPTED as the perfect firstfruits, and then the rest of the spiritual harvest could continue.

And if Christ was accepted, then the rest of the firstfruits – you and me – are also accepted. Understand, believe and apply this and hopefully we'll be learning to feel LESS rejection and more accepting instead, from God.

So a big part of the focus of Wavesheaf Day is that Jesus confirms for us that Father in heaven accepts us, through Christ. **And fellow brothers and sisters, so MANY of us – definitely including ME – would feel more acceptance from GOD IF** we could see and feel and experience you, the body of Christ, accepting one another, even me, when we are now in Christ. All of us have things done in the past we regret. But we shouldn't be looking back. We shouldn't be gossiping about what other brethren have been or done in the past. 2 Cor 5:15 says we must NOT keep seeing one another in that old way.

And that is what Messiah spent his time doing once he came back down from the heavenly acceptance and glorification (John 13:31) he received – he was busy *REAFFIRMING God's acceptance of all these disciples who had let Christ, God and themselves down so badly in the few days prior!* They couldn't even be with him at the cross, except John and a handful of faithful, wonderful, beautiful women who stood there with their Savior. Praise GOD for them! Paul says in 1 Cor. 15 that when Christ returned from being accepted in heaven, the first one he made sure he saw right away was Peter (Cephas).

1 Corinthians 15:1-6a

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you **the gospel which I preached** to you, which also you received and in which you stand, **2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast** that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He **rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,** **5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.** 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren...”

AFTER he came back from heaven, He made a point to find Peter and reassure him. He wanted a very private meeting (we don't know what happened or what was said) to reassure Peter that Christ and Father still accepted and loved him. And had forgiven him. And wanted him to get back into ministry! Peter no doubt was feeling so down that he needed this.

Peter knew he had badly let his Savior down. WE might have said to Peter, “nope, you've crossed the line of disloyalty and lying, and I can't work with you now”. But no. That's NOT what Yeshua did! Jesus confirmed his confidence,

His acceptance of even someone like Peter who had denied even knowing Messiah at all, *three times!*

This day is Acceptance day. So even you and I, when WE mess up, on this day we are to remember we are ACCEPTED by God.

Ephesians 1:3-6 NKJV

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, *that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love*, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, ***by which He made US ACCEPTED in the Beloved.***”

So on this day, we're reminded that in spite of the many times we let God down, God has made us ACCEPTED in the Beloved – Jesus Christ. Notice our acceptance is tied to a oneness with Messiah. We're accepted “in the Beloved”.

So Yeshua/Jesus met with Peter privately first.

After that, Jesus revealed himself to two downcast men walking away from Jerusalem to tiny Emmaus, about 7 miles away.

The lessons of The Road to Emmaus

There's a lot in this story about wavesheaf day as “Acceptance day”. (There is more in the audio than these notes)

Luke 24:13-35 NIV

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, **Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;** 16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

These men were very forlorn. They had put their whole lives into this Messiah and were fully counting on him to restore Israel to greatness. But now He –

they thought – was dead and all their dreams were dashed. So they were leaving Jerusalem.

19 "What things?" he asked. [And they proceeded to tell Jesus what HE had just gone through! Ha, ha.]

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; **21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.** And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

22-24) In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Christ [The ANOINTED ONE] have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. [YES, INVITE Yeshua IN to your life and serve dinner]

30 When he was at the table with them, **he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.**

Put your hands out like you're about to break some matzah and hand it out. Your hands and palms are up. As the two men looked at the bread, what else did they see? They saw the HOLES in his hands/wrist. Then they knew this was the promised Anointed one.

32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

33 **They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem.** There they found *the Eleven and those with them*, assembled together 34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen **and has appeared to Simon.**" 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and **how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.**

[Again, what would they have seen as he broke bread and handed it to them? The HOLES in his hands!]

Luke 24:36-39 NKJV

"Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." 37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. 38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

What was Jesus doing? He was doing the work of the Wavesheaf offering. He was confirming that He's risen, with many witnesses so there would be no question -- and that he was fully accepting all of the disciples and though they had all let Him down, he had work for them to do! He confirmed now the real work gets started.

And he could have said: "I need you men being fishers of men, and not fishers of fish. I haven't given up on you because of anything you've done, or because you've let me down. Forget that. Let's move on. Let's not look back. I've got work for you. You've been called to be apostles!"

What was He doing? **He was doing the work of the Wavesheaf – accepting even sinners**, even people who had let God and Christ down.

WE get down. But our Savior was resurrected to keep saving us day by day, even as we slip up his blood cleanses us from ALL unrighteousness (1 John 1:7-9). ALL of it. WE get down about it, and should – til we confess and repent.

But Jesus has come back to tell us he still also accepts US. And has work for us to do still too.

Wavesheaf day has another key role: This day starts the 50-day COUNT to Pentecost. Be sure you count.

Yeshua will not leave us without all the help we need.

- Remember we were IMMERSED/baptized in His name, to show we're burying the old self. *Our baptisms weren't just for washing away spiritual dirt. Oh no, much more than that. It was about **ridding ourselves completely** of our old fleshly carnal nature.* We shouldn't be tolerating areas of sin in our lives! It should all be dying, dead and **buried**. But now we need to be IMMERSED with God's Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4-5

"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; **5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now."

For the life of me, WHY do so many of you take your good 'ol time to get baptized? Once you truly repent, knowing you need your Savior, knowing you need your sins and your old self buried in baptism and you need to be resurrected with Christ as you come up from the water immersion baptism, as HE is your new life – WHY are any of you holding off baptism in the name of Jesus!?! (Study **Romans 6:3-6** about baptism)

Immersion/baptism is just like throwing out the LEAVENING we had before the days of Unleavened Bread. That old leaven pictured us, our old self. We can't salvage any of that. We can't take the leaven out of leavened bread and make it Unleavened Bread. It has to be thrown out and replaced by the Unleavened Bread of the life of Jesus. Just like immersion baptism pictures us burying our old dead self, not just washing it. Again, see Rom.6:3-6. Then we come up with Christ, in his resurrection life.

In the same way, after throwing out the leavened bread, we had to go buy or bake some new fresh bread, Unleavened Bread this time. Bread that never before had ever been leavened and never can be. That fresh Unleavened Bread pictures the life of Messiah that we now partake of. That bread, HIS life, we accept, we receive, we delight in, and that life of Messiah becomes our life. It pictures the new sinless life perfectly, completely, 7 days But that is all Jesus Christ. As we abide in him, HE produces HIS fruit for us to display (Phil. 1:11; John 15:4-6).

And by abiding in Jesus, we produce much FRUIT as **John 15:4-6** says. But Jesus himself said we can't produce ANY fruit unless we are abiding, staying attached closely in and to him.

Philippians 1:11: BY Jesus, we produce “FRUIT OF righteousness BY Jesus Christ”.

So Jesus said we had to all ***receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:4-5) on the Feast of Pentecost, Feast of Weeks.***

WAVESHEAF DAY starts the fifty day COUNT to the day of the baptism of the Holy Spirit! Wavesheaf Day is day 1.

Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us – though there will be many times we will be tempted to think he HAS left us alone. He will not. He will never leave us nor forsake us. Nor can we ever be separated from his love. He came back down to assure us all, He’s here for the whole task of completing in us what God started (Phil. 1:6). He’s doing the work of Wavesheaf. Confirming God’s undying love for us –in Christ especially.

So we celebrate our friend, our Lord, our King, our Savior, our brother – in good time and tough times, in healthy times and painful times, in times of joy and times of weeping. KNOW He’s there with you. He doesn’t take us out of the fire (Shedrach and friends), but comes into our fiery trial with us, as he did for them. Even when we don’t see him in our tough times, KNOW he is there.

He's accepting us, helping us.

This is Acceptance Day. This is Christ living in you by his resurrection life. This is a large part of what this day pictures.

Commit. Commit to being more ZEALOUS, non-Laodicean!
Commit to trashing any other leaven that pops up in our life.
Commit to much more prayer and to be filled with God’s word in Bible study.

Commit to “constant contact” prayer, calling out to God and the son of God constantly, especially in times of distress and heavy temptation.

Commit to waging WAR and a strong fight against temptations to sin.
Commit to enduring to the end and being faithful no matter what to the very end.

Closing prayer

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