

This Cup: A Cup of Water...

We are embarking on a special journey together. A journey that will take us deep into the heart of God's Word using a simple, everyday object: a cup. From the cup of suffering to the cup of blessing, this humble vessel holds powerful Biblical truths about our relationship with God and with one another. Let's open our hearts to what the Holy Spirit will teach us about the "Cups" of our lives.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (Psalm 23:5)

We are in a "drought" literally and figuratively. People thirst for help and hope. Our hope is in the Lord and our calling to spread that hope which requires action. Jesus tells us that even the smallest act of kindness done in His name will not go unrewarded. He commands us share of God's love through simple, tangible acts of service and compassion which reflects the heart of Jesus to a thirsty world.

The Thirst

3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" Exodus 17:3

24 And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' Luke 16:24)

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." John 19:28

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." John 4:15

What's the point: The body needs water to survive. Dehydration can affect one's body, mind, and soul. It's one thing to be thirsty and quite another to fear you may die from it. How can understanding "thirst" help us understand God's mercy and provisions for us?

The Service

42 And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward. Matthew 10:42

21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, Proverbs 25:21

What's the point: It is easy to serve those we "select". God calls us, and showed us how through Jesus, to serve ALL. Who do we right off, ignore, and withhold God's love from?

The Motivation

41 For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink ("in my name") because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward. Mark 9:41

40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:40

I was hungry and you gave me food
I was thirsty and you gave me drink
I was a stranger and you welcomed me
I was naked and you clothed me
I was sick and you visited me
I was in prison and you came to me

What's the point: The reason to serve is to tell of Jesus. The service comforts the flesh while the message soothes the soul. How can we be sure we are doing these things in Jesus' name and fulfilling the true call on our lives and the church?

Practical Application:

- **Look for the Little Things:** Be intentional this week about looking for opportunities to offer a "cup of cold water" to someone, whether it's a listening ear, a simple meal, or a word of encouragement.
- **Serve without Expectation:** Do these acts of kindness with no expectation of recognition or reward. Trust that God sees and that your reward is in Him.
- **Share the Gospel through Action:** Remember that a cup of water can open the door to a conversation about the "living water" that only Jesus can provide. Be ready to share your faith and story about Him as you serve.

Trust in the Lord and you will thirst no more.

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – The body needs water to survive. Dehydration can affect one's body, mind, and soul. It's one thing to be thirsty and quite another to fear you may die from it. How can understanding "thirst" help us understand God's mercy and provisions for us?

Tuesday – It is easy to serve those we "select". God calls us, and showed us how through Jesus, to serve ALL. Who do we right off, ignore, and withhold God's love from?

Wednesday – The reason to serve is to tell of Jesus. The service comforts the flesh while the message soothes the soul. How can we be sure we are doing these things in Jesus' name and fulfilling the true call on our lives and the church?

Thursday – Our purpose is to proclaim Jesus to a lost and thirsty world. This world thirsts for self, war, and destruction. We must show them an alternative by serving and telling in love. How can you be part of that Great Commission?

Friday – It is not I who does anything. God creates, calls, equips, sends, and serves through us. How is this a blessing to you and those He blesses through you?