

June 26, 2011 “How Will God Use Your Cup Of Water?” Matthew 10

A story is told of a Kindergarten teacher playing a “pop-up” game with her children. They were pretending to be pop corn popping up during the song. She noticed one little boy didn’t pop-up; he just stayed crouched down. “Why aren’t you popping up?” she asked. “Because,” the boy answered, “I’m just burning on the bottom of the pan.” In our world today, there are many people we know and those we don’t know, who are burning on the bottom of the pan of life. There are people burning up in guilt, worry, fear, sadness, loneliness, death, hunger, and pain.

Knowing that would be true throughout history, Jesus told His disciples the importance of giving a cup of cold water to someone in need. This cup of cold water can be given in many ways. This could be a cup of comfort or a cup that is Christ Jesus Himself... God can use these cups of love in many ways.

Giving begins with looking up in faith. Knowing we have a Savior Who died and rose for us is the motivation to reach out to others as a way of saying “Thank You” to Jesus. A substitute Sunday School teacher couldn’t open the combination lock on the supply cabinet so she called the Pastor. The Pastor began with a number or two then he looked up towards heaven. He then finished the numbers and opened the lock. “I am in awe of your faith, Pastor” she said. “Really,” he answered, “It’s nothing. The numbers are on a piece of tape on the ceiling.” To accomplish what God has for us begins with looking up. God has the answer up there for you.

A women’s church group was sending a large box of clothes to a Missionary and his family. They had all the sizes just right so everyone in the family would get something. One day a member came by with her husband’s new coat that he didn’t like. “Send this” she told the ladies. It wasn’t the right size, but they needed something as packing material to wrap around the other gifts in the box, so it was included. Later on they received a “thank you” from the Missionary with special mention of the “miracle” coat. It seemed a homeless man came to their door, freezing. They invited him in and discovered that the coat used for packing was a perfect fit for this man in need. The ladies had sent a “cup of water” that was a real blessing used by God.

Vacation Bible School is a perfect time for cups of water to be given. Our Staff gives out “cups of water” to these children in the form of Bible stories, crafts, and even freeze pops, and KoolAid. Hearing these children sing about Jesus that there couldn’t be anybody Else Who is our Savior is wonderful. They are learning Bible verses that will stay with them for a lifetime. They have adults around who value them, listen to them, praise them, and tell them that God made them special. During the tornado alert, the Staff members were with their children, giving hugs and words of hope. Lots of cups of cold water God could use. I even had a VBS Mom talk with me about having her P-K daughter Baptized. This is another “cup of water” God used.

A cup of cold water could be just that to a parched throat. Because God Is Good.
. .All The Time,

a cup of cold water could be the Good News of Jesus Himself Who died and rose to forgive the sins of a person burning in the bottom of the pan of life. A simple act of faith and love can help others "pop-up" in joy and hope. How wonderful to have God using your "cup of water" to bless one of His children. Amen. .pastor matthews