

LESSON #7 - MORE THAN WATER - JOHN 2: 1-11

COMING TO THE WATERS - Our God is a wonderful God, Who is concerned with our eternal needs. This lesson, MORE THAN WATER, tells us that our Lord also bestows temporal gifts in abundance.

THE PRAYER - Heavenly Father, we confess that You have given us eternal life through the suffering, death and resurrection of Your Son. But we also praise You for giving us clothing, shoes, house, home, wife, children and all that we need to support our bodies and lives. May we rejoice in the bounty of Your blessings which are truly, MORE THAN WATER. In the Name of Jesus, I pray it. Amen.

PARCHED HEARTS - ILLUSTRATION - Years ago the distant land of Persia was ruled by a caring Shah. One day, disguised as a poor man, he went out to the public baths. The Shah found his way to the cellar, where a forgotten man tended the furnace, which heated the water. The Shah and the laborer shared food, drink and conversation. These visits were repeated for an entire week, until a friendship had grown between the two. When the Shah finally revealed his identity, he expected the man to request a special gift. Surprisingly, the laborer said, "You have left your palace and your glory to sit with me in this dark place. You have eaten my coarse food, and cared about what happens to me. You may give your rich gifts to others, but you have already given me the best gift of all: yourself."

THOUGHT: That is a beautiful story, and one that certainly is applicable for Christians. Jesus, our beloved Savior came from heaven to earth, and became one of us. True man and true God, He shared all of the pains, hurts and joys of life. We, who have heard the Holy Spirit's call to follow Him, find ourselves hard pressed to come up with suitable ways to praise Him for His generosity. Like the laborer in the story, we are not inclined to go to God and ask Him for more things, especially earthly blessings. Like the laborer, we say, "You have given us the best gift of all, Yourself."

FIRST APPLICATION

Yet, Scripture is quite clear that God wants us to ask Him for blessings. He encourages us to come to Him, just as we would go to a caring and loving Father. He wants us, in the Name of Jesus, to make our requests known to Him. Even though our supplications might sometimes seem to be too trivial for Him to consider, God says, "COME TO THE WATERS." He tells us to come to Him with our pleas for large gifts and small, spiritual and temporal, alike. We can see this illustrated in the story of Jesus' first miracle which took place at Cana. The text we need to turn to is found in John 2.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH - HUMANKIND'S THIRST - One of the happiest times for any community, especially a small one, is a wedding. It offers a time for celebration and renewal. This was especially true in the days of Jesus where a wedding celebration could last as long as a week. It was to such a festive occasion that our Lord was invited with His disciples. Unfortunately, it would seem that the revelry was being dampened by a problem. Please answer the questions which follow:

VERSE	QUESTION.....	ANSWER
v. 3	What was the problem?	They had no more wine.
v. 4	Does Jesus seem to be interested?	He says, "His time had not yet come."
v. 5	Does Mary believe Jesus will help?	Yes, she gives instructions to the servants.
v. 7	How does Jesus get involved?.....	He gives instructions to the servants.
v. 7	What does He have them do?	He has them fill the jugs with water. (120-180 gal)
v. 9	What had happened?	The water had been turned to wine.

THIRST FOR AN ANSWER: This is a story that many of us have known from the time we were young. But we need to ask a few more questions about what happened if we are to appreciate this aspect of God telling us to "COME TO THE WATERS."

QUESTION	ANSWER
1. Who was Jesus?	The Son of God, perfect, holy, omnipotent, all knowing
2. What was the Son of God suppose to do?	Take care of a shortage of liquor.
3. Did He consider that to be beneath Him?.....	Not at all. He helped.

**ISAIAH 55:1 "COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY, COME TO THE WATERS
GROUP BIBLE STUDIES - TEACHER'S PACKET - LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

4. Did Jesus help a little?He gave them the best wine...and a lot of it!

2. SCRIPTURE SEARCH - DEEP DRINKING - Our Lord is a great God and His invitation to COME TO THE WATERS is wide in its scope. Take a look at some of the ways that God has provided earthly blessings for His people. Examine these passages, see who was involved, and what God did.

VERSE	PERSON INVOLVED	GOD'S SOLUTION
Genesis 30: 33	Jacob.....	God increased Jacob's herds with spotted animals
Judges 16: 28	Samson.....	Prayed for strength so he could destroy his enemies.
Deuteronomy 8: 4	Children of Israel.....	Non-swelling feet and permanent clothing
Matthew 14: 29	Peter.....	The ability to walk on water

THOUGHT & ILLUSTRATION: - Anyone who takes a "first-time" look at these passages will come up with two conclusions: 1) They will be amazed that God is very flexible in the manner in which He gives blessings to His people. If we were God, making His decisions, we might have allowed Jacob to get his sheep in a more conventional way. We might have shown the Children of Israel a technique to make new clothing. But we're not God. Nor are we to judge His wisdom. After all, His thoughts are far above ours. 2) We would also be forced to conclude that when God promises MORE THAN WATER, He is quite serious. He wants us to approach Him, ask Him and thank Him for everything. He doesn't want us to leave anything out. As a parent, is there anything on this list which would be off limits for discussion between a parent and a child? If so, scratch it out:

Love	Finances	Job	School	Grades
Hopes	Traveling	Health	Worries	Future
Guilt	Anger	Hopes	Direction	Losses

Parents want their child to talk to them about everything. That's the way it is with God. That doesn't mean that God will ALWAYS give us everything we ask. When my son was three years old he wanted a 12-gauge shotgun for Christmas. As his father, I deeply appreciated him coming to me with his request. Nevertheless, the idea of him walking around the house with a gun which could do serious harm to us and him was one that was most amusing. He didn't get the gun for Christmas...but he did get something better, and far more appropriate for his needs. That is a picture of God, wanting us to come to Him and knowing His people will trust Him, in faith, to do what is right. Moreover, God knows that His children who have been given much will be glad to share with other children who have little. That is what it means to hear God's request to "COME TO THE WATERS."

SHARING THE SAV(I)OR (If you have time in your lesson or wish to work at home)

Buy a rose....or any other flower. Take a look at it. No, I mean REALLY take a look at it. Notice the detail, the shades, everything about it. Then remember, if the Lord puts that kind of time to take care of a flower, how much more will He take care of you. Share that flower with someone who feels they are alone, or that no one cares.

A FINAL STORY:

When we see how much God cares, and how sincere He is when He says, COME TO THE WATERS, we will be like that poor woman who had a lifelong struggle to make ends meet. Finally, a wealthy friend took her to the seashore. As she looked out over the expanse of waters, tears filled her eyes and she said, "Thank God for a sight of something there is enough of!"

THANKS FOR THE WATERS - Heavenly Father, I give thanks You are far more willing to listen than I am to talk. Let me trust You for everything in life. Let me see and appreciate the greatness of Your providence. In Jesus. Amen.