

## A CUP OF COLD WATER FOR/FROM JESUS

(Matthew 10: 40-42)

Intro: Where are we in today's Gospel lesson?

- Are we among those?
  - #Who welcome.
  - #Who show hospitality.
  - #Who give a cup of cold water.
- Or are we among those?
  - #Who are welcomed.
  - #Who are shown hospitality.
  - #Who receive a cup of cold water.

For the sake of this conversation.

-I'm going to assume that a cup of cold water is a good thing.

#I received an email this week.

\*Warning against the dangers:

+Drinking cold water with your meal.

\*Contending it:

+Solidifies the oily stuff in your stomach.

+Turns it to sludge.

=Slowing down the digestive process.

\*I don't know if this has any:

+Scientific.

+Medical.

=Merit.

\*But I like cold water with my meal.

+My daughter-in-law likes water without ice.

+I like ice in my water.

#I told you about the circulation pump.

\*We had installed on our hot water heater.

+Water heater is in a closet.

=In the garage.

=In the front of the house.

+Our bathroom is in the back of the house.

=It would take a minute or more.

-To get hot water.

#For the sink.

#For the shower.

+So we had this circulation pump installed.

=To keep the hot water flowing through the pipes.

-We now get hot water just by turning on the faucet.

- \*But there is one drawback to this system, in my opinion.
    - +In order for the hot water to keep flowing through the pipes.
      - =There is now a cross-over connection valve.
        - Under the sink in our bathroom.
        - Between:
          - #Hot water line.
          - #Cold water line.
      - =For the circulation pump to work.
        - Hot water flows:
          - #From the hot water heater.
            - \*Through the hot water line.
          - #Back to the hot water heater.
            - \*Through the cold water line.
    - +So when the circulation pump is turned on.
      - =If I turn on the cold water faucet.
        - There is warm water in the line.
          - #For a minute or more.
  - \*I don't know about you.
    - +But after I brush my teeth.
      - =I prefer to rinse:
        - With cold water.
        - Not hot water.
- Cup of cold water is a good thing.

So back to our question.

- Where do we see ourselves in today's Gospel lesson?
  - #Do we identify with the readers of Matthew's Gospel?
    - \*Those who are called:
      - +To welcome Jesus' disciples.
      - +To show hospitality.
      - +To give a cup of cold water.
        - =As though doing it to Jesus himself.
  - #Do we identify with Jesus' disciples?
    - \*Those who are sent out.
      - +Trusting that:
        - =Someone will welcome us.
        - =Someone will show us hospitality.
        - =Someone will give us a cup of cold water.

I. Do We Have A Cup Of Cold Water For Jesus?

A. Sure We Do. Let Me Count The Ways.

1. Our Helping Hands Food Pantry.
  - a. I'm still encouraging you.
    - To sign up.
      - #On the sheet.
      - \*On the table.
      - +In the narthex.
    - To experience a Helping Hands "Show and Tell."
      - #Some Tuesday morning.
  - b. We feed 15-20 people every week.
    - Through our food pantry.
  - c. We have helped to feed Jesus.
2. Habitat for Humanity.
  - a. We have helped to build four homes.
    - In the last two years.
    - #For needy families.
  - b. We have helped to build homes for Jesus.
3. Operation Hope Prison Ministry.
  - a. We collect:
    - Toiletries.
    - Underwear.
    - #For ex-offenders returning to the community.
  - b. We collect:
    - Toiletries.
    - Underwear.
    - #For Jesus.
4. We share our facility with:
  - a. Life Line Medical Screening.
  - b. National Alliance on Mental Illness.
  - c. Election Board.
  - d. This past week.
    - Two youth groups.
      - #Salem Lutheran Church.
      - \*St. Cloud, Minnesota.
      - #Grace Lutheran Church.
      - \*Champaign, Illinois.
    - Camped out here overnight.
      - #While on mission trips.
      - \*Of one kind or another.
      - \*In one part of the country or another.
  - e. Jesus.

- B. We Would Like To Think That We Are A Welcoming Community.
1. One of our Guiding Principles.
    - a. "Everyone is welcome."
    - b. Jesus is welcome here.
  2. Our church sign.
    - a. "You are welcome here."
    - b. Jesus is welcome here.
  3. But Jesus says in our Gospel lesson:
    - a. "Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet."
    - b. "Whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person."
    - c. "Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple."
      - What does that mean?
        - #In the name of a prophet.
        - #In the name of a righteous person.
        - #In the name of a disciple.
      - The idea in the Greek language is this:
        - #Whoever welcomes a prophet.
          - \*Because he or she is a prophet.
        - #Whoever welcomes a righteous person.
          - \*Because he or she is a righteous person.
        - #Whoever provides even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones.
          - \*Because he or she is one of my disciples.
      - +Here "little one."
        - =Does not mean "child."
        - That's true in other Scripture passages.
        - =Little one means "disciple."
  4. The challenge for us.
    - a. Welcome a newcomer.
      - In the name of a newcomer.
    - b. Welcome a visitor.
      - In the name of a visitor.
    - c. Welcome a stranger.
      - In the name of a stranger.
    - d. Welcome people.
      - For who they are.
      - For the gifts that they bring.
        - #Not because we want them to be like us.
    - e. Welcome Jesus.
      - In the name of Jesus.
        - #Welcome him for who he is.
        - #Welcome him for the gifts that he brings.

## II. Are We Open To Receiving A Cup Of Cold Water From Jesus?

### A. That's Not Always So Easy.

1. Book of Acts quotes Jesus.
  - a. Acts 20:35.
    - Saying that is not recorded in any of the Gospels.
  - b. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."
2. It is often also easier to give than to receive.
  - a. When we give.
    - We are in control.
    - #We decide.
    - \*Who gets the gifts.
    - \*What the gifts will be.
  - b. When we receive.
    - We are dependent.
    - We are at the mercy of the giver.
    - #Who decides.
    - \*If we will receive a gift.
    - \*What the gift will be.
3. Doris Kurin.
  - a. When she still lived in her own home.
  - b. Before she moved into the memory care center.
  - c. Always offered me:
    - Cold drink.
    - Cookies.
    - Ice cream.
    - #Even if:
      - \*I had just eaten lunch.
      - \*I wasn't hungry.
      - \*I wasn't really thirsty.
    - #I always accepted her gifts.
    - \*I realized I was her guest.
      - +She had a need:
        - =To welcome me.
        - =To show me hospitality.
        - =To offer me a cold drink.
4. Melissa Ramirez.
  - a. Made me this can cozy.
    - In Sunday School.
    - It says:
      - #"Pastor #1."
    - I didn't know it was still wet.
    - #When she gave it to me.
    - #So the "1" got a little smudged.

- b. I don't really need this.
    - I don't really use this as a can cozy.
  - c. But I keep it on my desk.
    - As a reminder.
      - #Melissa had a need to give me this.
      - #Melissa had a need to offer me a cold drink.
5. Helping Hands Tag-Along.
- a. I keep bugging you about.
  - b. Not just about what you might give.
    - Food.
    - Time to help out with the program.
  - c. But what you can:
    - Learn.
    - Receive.
      - #It's a cup of cold water for you.
6. When I was a hospital and jail chaplain.
- a. People used to ask me:
    - How I could stand to do that ministry for 28 years.
    - How come I never got burned out.
  - b. My answer always was:
    - Because I felt I received more than I gave.
7. Can we be open to the gifts that other people have to offer?
- B. Can We Be Open To The Gifts That Jesus Has To Offer?
1. Maybe we look at God's gifts.
- a. Like I look at:
    - Doris' cookies and ice cream.
    - Melissa's can cozy.
  - b. I don't really need these things.
  - c. If I need anything.
    - I can go out and get it for myself.
2. But what about those things?
- a. I really do need.
  - b. I can't acquire for myself.
3. Moving day.
- a. April 2006.
  - b. When our household belongings were being unloaded.
    - Here in Tulsa.
  - c. We had not yet had a chance to buy a new refrigerator.
    - That would go in our kitchen
  - d. We had an old refrigerator.
    - That we were going to keep in our garage.
      - #Backup.
      - #Overflow.

- e. But the electrical cord on that old refrigerator.
    - Too short to reach the outlet.
  - f. We needed an extension cord.
    - We couldn't put our hands on one.
    - Who knew where that box might be piled?
  - g. D.B. Woods came over.
    - To welcome us.
    - To offer us.
      - #Not a cold drink.
      - #But a bottle of wine.
    - To see if there was anything we needed.
  - h. We needed an extension cord.
    - Within five minutes.
      - #He ran home.
      - #He came back.
    - \*With just what we needed.
4. Where do we turn for those spiritual gifts?
- a. We absolutely need.
  - b. We can't provide for ourselves?
    - Forgiveness.
    - Repentance.
    - Eternal life.
    - Open hearts.
    - Open hands.
5. Jesus is here at this altar.
- a. To welcome us.
  - b. To show us hospitality.
  - c. To offer us:
    - Holy bread.
    - Cold drink.
      - #Drink that refreshes.
      - #Drink that forgives.
      - #Drink that saves.
      - #Drink that heals.
      - #Drink that inspires.

Concl: So come.

- We are the guests.
- Jesus is the host.
  - #Here is a cup of cold water from Jesus.

