

Sunday, February 20, 2022

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: Making Bitter Water Sweet

Text: Exodus 15:22 - 26, John 4:1 - 26;

John 7:37 - 39

Series: Th Journey of Faith ... 4

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to PLACE JESUS into the pool of their pain, confusion and uncertainty.

Introduction:

Last week's devotional was entitled, "The Love of God Constrains Us" and the primary text was 2 Corinthians 5:1 - 21.

1. The Love of God is NOT...:

2. The Love of God IS...:

3. The Love of God is to Control Me:

~ Medical News Today, medically reviewed by Grant Tinsley, PhD. Nutrition, written by Amanda Barrell on March 17, 2020: "In general, it is likely that a person could survive between 1 and 2 months without food. As many different factors influence the length of time that the body can last without food, this period will vary among individuals."

~ Medical News Today, medically reviewed by Elaine K. Lug, M.D., written by Jon Johnson on May 14, 2019: "Dehydration happens quickly, causing extreme thirst, fatigue, and ultimately, organ failure and death. A person may go from feeling thirsty and slightly sluggish on the first day with no water to having organ failure by the third day."

~ 1 Corinthians 10:11, "Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come."

~ Have you ever watched a Marathon? A Marathon is 26.2 miles or 42.165 kilometers; Wolseley to Qu'Appelle is 47.7 Km. The runners need Water Stations!!! Beloved we are NOT in a 100 meter dash; we are in a life time marathon! We need water.

1. Applying the Cross of Jesus Christ to Our Past:

~ Exodus 15:22, "Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water."

Interesting - 3 days!!! Statements like this cause me to trust in the inspiration of Scripture.

~ Exodus 15:23, "When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah."

I have yet to meet an adult who has had NO pain in their past that could have easily turned into bitterness!

~ Exodus 15:24, "And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?'"

~ Exodus 15:25, "And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made for them a statute and rule, and there he tested them,"

I am persuaded that the log is a type (picture) of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ Exodus 15:26, "saying, 'If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.'"

2. Applying the Cross of Jesus Christ to Our Present:

~ John 4:6, "Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour."

~ John 4:14, "but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

~ John 7:38 - 39, "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" (39) "Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

3. Applying the Cross of Jesus Christ to Our Future:

~ John 14:16, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, (17) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

~ Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

~ Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Conclusion:

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, I need Thee
Come sweet Spirit, I pray
Come in Thy strength and Thy power
Come in Thine own gentle way

Come Holy Spirit, I need thee
Come sweet Spirit, I pray
Come in Thy strength and Thy power
Come in Thine own gentle way

Come like a spring in the desert
Come to the withered of soul
Lord let Thy sweet healing power
Touch me and make me whole

Come in Thine own gentle way

Song writers:

Gloria Gaither, William Gather