

May 2009 Week 1 TEACHING

You Missed Your Water...Now Your Well is Dry

by Kim Times

"*You don't miss your water until your well runs dry.*" We've all heard this metaphor before; said a million different ways regarding a million different circumstances. I want you to know that as a born again Christian, you shouldn't miss out on anything. The eyes of our understanding ought to be enlightened and we should be open to any and every thing God would have us to see. He has given us a little something on the inside that will ensure that this happens, if we're prepared that is.

This saying means that a person doesn't know how meaningful something is to them until it is gone. After you've spent a decent amount of time with someone, you will probably become accustomed to his or her ways and habit patterns. If all of a sudden you no longer have access to that person, their absence is heartfelt; you miss them terribly.

People are so incredibly important to God, and they should be to us as well. Relationships are the spice of life. They are a blessing from God and we should view them as real treasures. We should care about the feelings of those we love and learn to appreciate that although they are in our lives, their spiritual journey is just as unique and individualized as ours. But this is often the part that we forget and neglect. It is the thing that causes us to suck every ounce of life from our relationships, and leave them bone dry.

This shouldn't ring true for us, but it does. Christian relationships are about as much in trouble as any other, and we have to begin to reverse this. We hit the jackpot as soon as we spoke the words of Romans 10:9-10, as soon as we invited the love of God to come into our hearts and accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. We have access to a never ending fountain of living waters, so why should our well ever run dry? It shouldn't. What's at stake here is our failure to learn the lessons of God's love well. All of us will say that we've learned them, but if we have there would be undeniable evidence of that.

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1 Corinthians 8:9 NLT

9 But you must be careful with this freedom of yours. Do not cause a brother or sister with a weaker conscience to stumble.

One of the lessons that we often miss is learning to catch ourselves before we take our relationships for granted. We have tremendous liberty through Christ. He desires us to milk life for every drop of joy we can get out of it, and some of us use this as an excuse to get a little loose with our commitments. Whether it's your spouse, your sistafriend, or your ace-boon-coon, you've got to always keep your radar up. You've got to keep it real; be honest with them, but also remain humble and loving towards them as well. It takes the same energy to maintain a relationship as it does to begin to build one; no matter what type it is. God holds us responsible for adding to the well-being of those we care about. We shouldn't purposely do anything that hinders their spiritual journey in Christ.

John 15:2 NLT

2 He cuts off every branch that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.

God prunes us. Through the indwelling Holy Spirit and His matchless Word, He helps us to strip off the stuff that keeps us from moving forward. He does this so that we can produce even more....more love, and more goodness! Our relationships are so special because they give us opportunities to produce something of value for the Kingdom of God. He has given us the best that can be received. We have the spirit of Christ dwelling on the inside of us. It's enough to keep our fountain overflowing with the waters of friendship and love for an eternity. We have enough to nurture bunches of folks with encouragement, inspiration, and care. This is the essence of God's love.

One of His most crucial lessons of love involves your personal reflection. Our reservoir of spiritual good stuff ought to remain on "full", but there will inevitably be times when our "A" game is below par. Feeling depleted can sometimes leave us depressed, with attitudes of jealousy, anger, and selfishness. These are feelings that have broken many marriages and friendships. They drain the goodness that others see in us and cause them to abandon the relationship altogether. When you feel a down spurt coming on, come clean and put yourself in check. Our friends and loved ones will be a mirror, reacting to whatever it is we reflect. Always bear that in mind.

James 1:21 NLT

21 So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the message God has planted in your hearts, for it is strong enough to save your souls.

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22 And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. If you don't obey, you are only fooling yourself.

23 For if you just listen and don't obey, it is like looking at your face in a mirror but doing nothing to improve your appearance.

24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.

25 But if you keep looking steadily into God's perfect law-the law that sets you free-and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

We have to constantly look in the mirror of our hearts, minds, and souls, and be about the business of improving what we see. As saints of God, our well is never dry, but it can seem that way to loved ones we've disappointed or offended. We are called to be beckons of light. Our responsibility is to serve God and be examples of His son, Jesus Christ; to keep a snapshot of what our Lord accomplished in the forefront of our minds. Our savior demonstrated time and time again how we should behave, what to think and what to say in every situation.

God has given us everything we need to love from a really good place, so that we don't have to worry about the wells of friendship and marriage running dry. We can continually pour into them, and the indwelling Holy Spirit will help us to do that. Be a continuous fountain of forgiveness and care. Be the same friend to your husband, family, and loved ones that Jesus was to you, and he will make sure that your well never runs dry.

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