

THE PARABLE OF THE CUP

Easter Camp 10/4/09

Most people have no knowledge of the essential saving power of the Holy Spirit. Even fewer have any knowledge of the most important parable relating to our overcoming abilities. The parable of the cup reveals these great mysteries and empowers us to do remarkably well in our walk in the Lord.

Jesus reveals the key to the parable of the cup.

MAT 26:42 “He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this **cup** may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done”. Jesus reveals two facets to the ‘cup’ metaphor. One aspect related to the task at hand and the other related to the pressure or stress that sometimes accompanies it.

The cup is not a reference to drinking, rather it is a metaphor encompassing spiritual commitment and blessing and faithful obedience. We all know the great blessing that Christ’s obedience and faith has brought into our lives. The cup represented the calling we have set before us... we all have differing duties and jobs.

There is a much more important principle underlying the communion cup than what we realize.

1COR 10:16 “The **cup of blessing** which we bless, is it not the communion (*fellowship*) of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion (*fellowship*) of the body of Christ”? *The superseded Passover cup has taken on a much more significant role in our lives than we might realize... we all have things to do for the lord.*

Paul goes on to warn us about compromising the cup of blessing... brings damnation.

1COR 10:21 “Ye cannot drink the **cup** of the Lord, and the **cup** of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils”. *In the chapter 12 Paul confirms again of the great need to ‘drink worthily’.*

1COR 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. *Now that the sobering reality of our calling is revealed, let’s get some balance.*

God promises that he will support us and show us what is required from us.

JER 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee **great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.** *The Spirit reveals unknown truths and the ‘cup’ that you have been chosen to drink.*

The need to step out in faith... to move into unfamiliar territory... moving out of our comfort zone.

HEB 11:6 But without faith *it is impossible to please him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a **rewarder** of them that **diligently seek him**. *We need to follow after our calling through faith.*

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of **things not seen as yet**, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. *Noah drank from his ‘cup’ through faith, not knowing what was ahead of him.*

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, **not knowing whither he went**. *Another example of not knowing, but Abraham also drank from his ‘cup’.* *We don’t fear the unknown, as the church and God are here to support us.* **2TIM 1:7** For God hath not given us the spirit of **fear**; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Where is our direction going to come from? *A large part will come from those with the experience to notice your abilities and potential, the rest will come as the Lord pricks you to take on more responsibility.*

HEB 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they **watch** for your **souls**, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is unprofitable for you*. *The saints need to take very seriously the requests of those who have been given the duty of directing the church. They also have a ‘cup’ to drink and much of that involves the development of skills and abilities from within the fellowship. They will see potential or lack of it long before you will. Don’t frustrate the Lord by sidestepping opportunities when they are offered. Don’t be afraid of the unknown.*

Conclusion... God has a cup for you to drink from... don’t fight it as it will cost you your joy and blessing.

REV 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

19 As many as **I love**, I **rebuke and chasten**: be **zealous therefore**, and repent. *Take up your cup and do it.*

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, **I will come in to him, and will sup with him**, and he with me. *God will come and share your ‘cup’ and top it up when needed.*