



A Cup of Blessings

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Social Media Salvation

By Minister Dr. Katrina White Brown

This cup of blessings is being poured by John from the Gospel that bears his name, especially for those who are caught up in the allure, and sometimes obsession, of social media. It seems as though everything we do today is fuel for the social media fire. From the meal we had at dinner to checking in at the church, we want people to know what we are doing. We love attention, and as one observer noted, social media provides us a forum to show the highlight reel of only the good things going on.

Social media does indeed, satisfy the need for recognition that most of us have, but it does little for our spiritual needs. While posting every aspect our lives on social media may provide a self-satisfying picture for others to see, at the same time we may lose sight of a soul-satisfying view of God. Social media is for show, not for salvation.

The New Testament tells us much about Jesus' three-year ministry on Earth, yet we only know a fraction of His life. That's because the Bible did not include everything Jesus did. John 21:25 points out that "Jesus did many other things... If every one of them had been written down... the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."

We will probably never know all that Jesus did during His ministry because He wasn't seeking recognition for Himself; He was showing the love of God the Creator. The fact is that most of those whom Jesus blessed had no idea where the blessing came from, simply because they didn't know Him. At the wedding in Cana where Jesus turned water into wine, "the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "everyone brings out the choice wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." (John 2:1-11)

When Jesus fed the multitudes "they all ate and were satisfied... The number of those who ate was about 5000 men, besides women and children" (Matthew 14:20-21). Because of the multitude's size, many of those who were fed never even saw Jesus, much less thank Him for the miracle meal.

Sadly however, many of those who actually knew Jesus and how He had had changed their lives, did not acknowledge Him. Luke's Gospel records Jesus' encounter with 10 lepers whom He healed during His travels between Samaria and Galilee. The men called out to Jesus for pity: Jesus directed them to "go show yourselves to the Priest. And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice... and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, were not all 10 cleansed? Where are the other nine?" (Luke 17:11-19)

While social media may offer short-term satisfaction, Jesus offers salvation with eternal rewards. At a time when we seem to measure our self-worth by our social media knowledge: how many likes, views, friends, or followers we have; what's trending; and what videos have gone viral, the most important insight to have is knowledge of Jesus. Public recognition is great, but it doesn't last. But God, who sees what you do in secret, will reward you openly, and eternally. May your cup of blessings be filled to overflowing with the empowering knowledge that what you do for Christ Jesus will last.

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