



Series: A Journey Through Matthew #12

Title: “ Serving with Refreshing Grace: The Power of a Cup of Cold Water “

Text: Matthew 10:40-42 *“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. 41 The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”*

Introduction: At first glance, the act of giving a cup of cold water may seem insignificant compared to the grandeur of other deeds. However, Jesus elevates this simple act to a position of great importance, indicating that even the smallest gesture of kindness toward his followers carries immense significance in the eyes of God.

I. What Are the Patterns of a Giving Person?

Firstly, giving a cup of cold water reflects the virtue of hospitality. *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” - Jesus (Matthew 25:40)*

Secondly, giving a cup of cold water represents compassion and empathy towards those in need. *“Generosity is not about how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.” - Mother Teresa*

Furthermore, giving a cup of cold water exemplifies the principle of solidarity with fellow believers. Jesus declares that by welcoming his disciples, people are in fact welcoming him and the Father who sent him

Lastly, Jesus promises a reward for those who engage in acts of kindness and hospitality. While this reward may not necessarily be material or immediate, it reflects the assurance of God's favor and blessing upon those who faithfully serve others in his name.

II. What Are Lessons We Learn From Jesus Words About Giving a Cup of Water:

1. The Value of Hospitality and Kindness: It reminds us that our actions, no matter how seemingly insignificant, can make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

2. Identification with Christ: Jesus teaches that when we welcome his disciples, we are welcoming him, and by extension, welcoming God the Father who sent him.

3. Recognition of Others' Worth: Jesus refers to "these little ones" in the passage, which can represent not only children but also any person who is vulnerable, marginalized, or in need.

III. How Can We Become a Joyous Giver?

First, we hold temporal things loosely- Paul wrote, ***“For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either” (1 Timothy 6:7)***

Second, we keep our essential needs to a minimum- As the apostle declared, ***“If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content” (1 Timothy 6:8)***

Third, we withstand the appealing allure of greed- Paul warned: But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

Fourth and finally, we cultivate a truly thankful and joyful lifestyle. 1 Timothy 6:17: “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.”

us the importance of hospitality, the identification with Christ in serving others, the recognition of others' worth, and the promise of reward for acts of kindness. These lessons encourage us to live lives of compassion, generosity, and service, reflecting the love of Christ to those around us.

Corum Deo: The moral of the story of giving a cup of cold water is that even the smallest acts of kindness and generosity, done with sincerity and love, hold great significance in the eyes of God.