

2006 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" -Isa.61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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Do You Have a REAL Thirst?

by David A. Sargent

Some years ago in South America, a crew of Peruvian Sailors, heading toward the Amazon River, came upon a strange sight. A Spanish ship was anchored off the coast and all the sailors were stretched out on the deck of the ship. As the Peruvians drew closer, they saw that the Spaniards were in terrible physical condition. Their lips were parched and swollen. They were literally dying of thirst.

"Can we help you?" shouted the Peruvians. The Spaniards cried out, ***"Water! Water! We need fresh water!"***

The Peruvian sailors, surprised at this request, told them to lower their buckets and help themselves. The Spaniards, fearing they'd been misunderstood cried back, ***"No, no! We need FRESH water!"*** But they received the same reply from the Peruvians to lower their buckets and help themselves!

They finally did lower their buckets into the ocean waters, and when they brought the buckets on deck they discovered -- to their amazement -- ***FRESH WATER!*** Unknowingly, they had been anchored for days at the mouth of the Amazon River, and didn't realize that the volume of river's fresh water reached hundreds of miles into the Atlantic. They were too far from land to see the coast, but not too far from the mouth of the River.

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There they had access to fresh water in abundance. Dying of thirst, the sailors had given up all hope. All that they needed to do, however, was to lower their buckets.

Like these sailors, many today are dying of **"spiritual thirst"** unaware that **"Living Water"** is well within their reach!

The Scriptures record for us the account of a Samaritan woman of deeply immoral background who went out to Jacob's well at noon to draw out some water. She may have been physically thirsty, but Jesus detected in her a greater, **"spiritual thirst"**

Jesus said to the woman at the well: *"Whoever drinks of this water will THIRST AGAIN, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will NEVER THIRST. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life"* (**John 4:13-14**). The woman responded, *"Sir, give me THIS water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw"* (**John 4:15**).

It seems that this woman was dying of **"spiritual thirst"** and resigned to continue bearing her GUILT and SHAME. But Jesus informed her that FORGIVENESS and LIFE could be hers if she would just *"let down her bucket."*

Like that woman, YOU and I have a sin problem, and "the wages of sin is DEATH" (Rom 6:23). Yet, Jesus invites us to *"lower our buckets"* in faith and obedience so that we may take in the Living Water that quenches our thirst and satisfies our souls. **To drink of the**

Living Water - we must believe in Jesus (**Acts 16:30-31**), turn from our sins in repentance (**Acts 17:30-31**), confess Jesus before men (**Matt 10:32**), and be baptized (immersed) in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins (**Acts 2:38**). Then, we must continue to drink from the **"Fountain of Living Water"** through our faithful obedience (**1 John 1:7**).

Thirsty? Let down YOUR bucket and take in the Life-giving Water!

(Repeated, because of it's relevance)

---David A. Sargent,

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Honest ... But ~ **Honestly Mistaken**

Out of twelve sons, Joseph was Jacob's favorite. As a display of his affection, Jacob made a coat of many colors for Joseph. *"But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him"* (**Gen 37:4**). When Joseph told his family of some dreams that indicated that his family members would one day bow down to him, his brothers hated him even more (**Gen 37:5-11**). Their hatred for Joseph grew to the point where they wanted to kill him. Instead of killing him, they decided to sell him as a slave to a band of Ishmaelites, who were on their way to Egypt (**Gen 37:12-28**).

Now Joseph's brothers faced a dilemma: what were they going to tell Jacob? They devised and implemented a plan: *"So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood. Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, 'We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?'"* (**Gen 37:31-32**).

Jacob believed their scheme. Observing the coat of many colors saturated with blood, he cried, *"It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces"* (**Gen 37:33**).

Jacob was honest in his assessment of the situation; he thought Joseph had been killed. **He was honest, but he was honestly mistaken.**

Saul was also honest in his convictions that he should persecute Christians. He said, *"Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth"* (**Acts 26:9**). But, when he was confronted by Christ, he understood clearly that he had not been doing God's will.

Saul was **honest**, but **honestly mistaken**.

From the examples of Jacob and Saul, we learn that it is possible for you and for me to be **honest** in our convictions, but **honestly mistaken**. We can be confident that something is the truth, but we can be wrong.

How can we know, then, if our convictions are true? In His prayer to the heavenly Father, Jesus stated, *"Your word is truth"* (**John 17:17**). Thus, we can know our convictions are true when we derive our convictions from the word of truth, God's word. *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (**2 Tim 3:16-17**).

Let's be **honest** – the Lord requires it !

Let's also base our convictions on the word of God lest we be..... " **HONESTLY MISTAKEN** "

---BORROWED, and edited (vw)

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Logan & Julie Agee
Doris Allsup (Irma's sister)
Frank & Tina Ayers
Jamie Ayers
Jack & Dorothy Bailey
Karen Daly's dad (in Redding)
Juanita Dickson
Robert Erickson & Lucille
Helen Gray
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
Catherine Kay (Escalon)
David & Jerica Lovett
Jean McCarty
Jeffry & Kaye Pennant
Wendell Rapier
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Rosa Reagan (Bremerton)
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Barbara & Semaj Williams
Ellie Williams
Gordon & Glenda Wilson
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