



# BERKSHIRE COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

## BULLETIN

12/10/2023



### Will You Forget the Jar?

*“So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people...” (John 4:28).* We all know the story of the Samaritan woman at the well near Sychar, but let’s recall the story anyway.

Jesus and His disciples were traveling from Judea to Galilee when He decided to take the shorter route through Samaria. Not that it was never done, but since there was a level of animosity between the Samaritans and Jews, it was not a commonly used shortcut.

His disciples had gone to the city to buy food, and Jesus found himself sitting at a well, rather providentially, I will contend. A woman comes to draw water, and Jesus strikes up a conversation with this rather unpopular lady. We know she had few friends because she came alone at an unusual time to draw the water. When he asked her for some water, she was stunned that a Jewish man would speak to her, a Samaritan woman. Of course, Jesus did not care for cultural or social norms and told her He could provide her with living water.

Confused, she questions His statement, but when he tells her the water He provides will become “a spring of water welling up to eternal life,” she cannot help but ask for some of it. After a further conversation about her five previous husbands and the man she currently is with, she perceives him to be a prophet and comments that she knows the Messiah is coming. Jesus then emphatically speaks these words in John 4:26, “I who speak to you am He.” At that point, the disciples return and she leaves his presence, but, as we read in the selected verse for today, without the water jar she had specifically come to fill.

A Good question to ask would be, “Why would the Bible mention a seemingly unimportant fact that seems inconsequential to the story as a whole?” Well, the it does not babble needlessly, so there is a very good reason. You see, her focus had changed from the earthly to the spiritual, and she could not wait to tell everyone about her experience - so much so that she forgot the reason she had come to the well in the first place. So here is a question for you and me to ponder. How important is Jesus to us? Would we leave whatever we were doing to tell others the life-changing story of our personal relationship with the Savior? How important do we find our story as a testimony for others who are lost in the darkness of sin?

PTO...

**Matthew 28:19** reads in part, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” and **Mark 16:15** reads, “And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.’” Was our experience with Christ so impactful that we cannot wait to tell people about it, or is ours a secret we want to share with absolutely no one else? Are we proud, or are we ashamed of Jesus? Or are we afraid because we are uncertain of the reaction we will receive from the people we tell? Let me remind you that this woman was not one of Sychar’s upstanding, well-respected inhabitants but rather a lowly woman of dubious repute. This “nobody” was so convinced and excited that she ran and told them about the meeting. And what happened then? The people who almost certainly did not regard her highly came out to meet the man she claimed could be the Christ.

Not only did they believe Jesus, but they were so impressed with Him that they asked Him to stay with them for a couple of days. Their brief time with Him even prompted them to say the following the woman who first introduced them to the Christ, **John 4:42**, “...It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.” There is a saying, “The only way to be certain that you never win the lottery is never to play it,” and using that logic, I say this, “The only way to leave the unsaved in their lost state is to never speak to them of your encounter with Jesus.” Be like her; leave the jar and proclaim the gospel – it will change someone’s life.

<u>AM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>	<u>PM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>
<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> - Bill Joy	<u>ANNOUNCEMENT</u> - No Evening Service
<u>SONG</u> - 984 - We Bow Down	<u>SONG</u> - No Evening Service
<u>PRAYER</u> - Bill Joy Lamentations 3:22-24	<u>PRAYER</u> - No Evening Service
<u>SONG</u> - 870 - I'm Happy Today	<u>SONG</u> - No Evening Service
<u>COMMUNION</u> - John 6:35 Douglas Roy	<u>SERMON</u> - No Evening Service
<u>SONG</u> - 968 - Shine, Jesus Shine	<u>SONG</u> - No Evening Service
<u>SERMON</u> - The Beatitudes: Mercy Will Be Shown to the Merciful	<u>COMMUNION</u> - No Evening Service
<u>INV SONG</u> - 841 - Sing and Be Happy	<u>INV SONG</u> - No Evening Service
<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Cleve Stafford	<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> -No Evening Service



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS**

Please silence your phone by placing it in airport mode.

**We ask all visitors to please pick up a visitors card and fill it in.**



- Bulletins are on the fireplace table and sermon notes are inside when available.
- Please put your offering in the provided envelope (don't write anything on it)..
- If you look on the back of the visitors card you will see space to right a prayer request if you have one - feel free to do that and hand it in to us so we can pray about it.
- Today will be our first Christmas party and meal following morning service.
- There will be no Evening Service tonight.



## **PRAYER REQUESTS**



- 
- Continued Prayers for Melinda's mom Isabel du Toit who is still undergoing Chemotherapy.
- Prayers for all our service people wherever in the world they have been deployed to.

## **PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

- Praise God for our sponsors.
- Praise God for the privilege to worship in safety
- Praise God for the measure of health and wealth we enjoy

## **BIRTHDAYS / SPECIAL OCCASIONS**



### **December Birthdays**

9 - Jeffery Tarmey  
23 - Lorenzo Gonzales Quiacian  
29 - MaryAnn Cox

### **Anniversary**

23 - Cleve and Melinda

Sunday morning Bible Class - 9:00AM  
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00PM  
 Personal Bible Study (Convenient time)



Web Page



WiFi



Facebook

Word Search



Word List

BELOVED	BOAST	CHRIST	COMPASSION
EYE	FORGIVE	GRACE	HEIRS
HOLY	HUMILITY	JUSTIFIED	KINDNESS
LORD	LOVE	MERCIFUL	MERCY
PETER	SAVIOR	SEVEN	SINNERS
SPECK	SPIRIT	TRESPASSES	