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THE "CUP"

(Matthew 26:26-30)

Metaphors (figures of speech), illustrations, and parables, abound in the Bible to give us clarification on a topic of instruction. The "cup" is an example of this.

1. THE "CUP" OF HAPPINESS, ABUNDANCE, BLESSING

(Psalm 23:5) "... my cup runneth over ... "

(Psalm 16:5) "The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and my cup ... "

We sing, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one ... "

2. THE "CUP" OF AGONY, PERSECUTION, DISCIPLESHIP

(Matt. 20:23) "Ye shall drink indeed of My cup ... " (v22) "They say unto him, We are able."

(2 Tim. 3:12) "and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

The "cup" of the cross was uniquely Jesus' - (Matt. 26:39) "... let this cup pass from me ... "

(v42) "if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, Thy will be done."

3. THE "CUP" OF HYPOCRISY

(Matt. 23:25-26) "... hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup ... "

Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup ... "

It's not a lesson on washing dishes; rather, (Prov. 4:23) "Keep thy heart ... "

4. THE "CUP" OF A SMALL DEED

(Matt. 10:42) "... unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only ... "

No act of service, no matter how small, escapes the observation of God.

(2 Cor. 8:12) "... it is accepted according to that a man has, and not according to that he has not"

5. THE "CUP" OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

(Matt. 26:26-30) (v27) "And he took the cup ... " (v28) "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

When we partake of the Lord's supper, the "cup" (contents) represents the blood that was shed for our redemption (forgiveness of sins).

Our goal is not to launch a crusade to find the literal cup; rather, focus on the figure it represents: the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins, the price for our salvation.

6. THE "CUP" OF GOD'S WRATH

(Rev. 14:9-10) "... drink of the wine of the wrath of God ... in the cup of His anger ... "

(Rev. 6:16-17) "... for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

(Rms. 11:22) "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God ... "