

If You Knew God's Gift

Sermon March 19, 2023

Scriptures: Exodus 17:1-6 & Isaiah 55:1-3

Golden Verse: *"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."* John 4:10

2) *scripture*

"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that says to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." (John 4:10) Let us focus on the scene when Jesus said this. Jesus migrated from the southern province of Judea to northern Galilee with his disciples.

On the way, on a hot day, he stopped to rest near a village in Samaria. The disciples left to buy food, and he sits down to rest by Jacob's well. A Samaritan woman comes for water. Jesus asks her for a drink, and she says in amazement: "How can you ask me when I am a Samaritan woman?" After all, the Jews had no contact with the Samaritans.

And this is Jesus' answer: *"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that says to you: give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."*

Then they talk. This woman thinks that she already knows everything. She also studied religion. She knows who to pray to, and where, and she knew the prophecy that the Messiah, the Saviour sent by God, would come. She knows a lot about God, but her life is in disarray. Who knows how many women's marriages she broke up with this behaviour? She couldn't change because what she wanted was stronger than what she knew about God.

She knew a lot about God or thought she might know everything, and it was with this confidence that she began to talk to Jesus.

I wonder if this kind of confidence is characteristic of us.

We have a religious life, yet we lack joy in our hearts, the order in our whole lives, and what we call happiness.

Maybe you come every Sunday knowing you already have the place where you usually sit, you know what is written in the Bible, and you know the hymns.

Today, you have to answer the question of whether you know God's gift.

Who is Jesus? It's a gift from God. God's gift is Jesus Himself. The living water is himself, Jesus. When He offers living water, He offers Himself so that we can be like Him. He is the one who can free us from our fear and our worries. It frees us from our passions. Jesus is God's greatest gift to you and me.

Those who know God's gift and have a personal living relationship with Him know what humility is and remain humble in all circumstances. Then, that person has honest self-criticism. He thinks differently about himself because of God's gift. Not boastful, not sly. He has a constantly developing spiritual world because he knows the gift of God.

Such a person asks Him in every situation: "Lord, what do you want me to do? Lord, what do you want me to say?" Anyone who knows God's gift, Jesus, has surrendered his life to Him.

If we knew Jesus, we would recognize many things in our lives.

In this sentence, Jesus tells us: If you knew Him, if you really knew, you would do many things differently.

It often happens in the life of a believer that he does not recognize a situation.

If you only knew... I was also very touched by these thoughts that I am sharing with you now.

If you knew how many times your partner falls asleep with a bitter heart because of you.

If you knew how your child longs for you to talk to him in a human voice for half an hour, just with him, about what he considers important right now.

If you knew what wealth is hidden in silence, you would listen much less to the TV and much more often to the Lord of silence, who speaks the eternal Word in silence and who can only be heard in silence.

If you knew how much bitterness you cause your loved ones with your nature.

If you knew what resides in your heart,

If you knew God's gift and who you could be if you opened your heart to Him... you probably have no idea about it yet.

How sad that Jesus had to say this in the conditional past: *"You would have asked him, and he would have given you." "If you knew the one who says this to you: give me a drink."*

Today, God wants to give us another opportunity. Please don't miss this great opportunity. God is again offering you and me His greatest gift, Jesus.

If we get to know Him, as soon as He made Himself known to us, then we will consider this gift the greatest in our lives: Jesus. All our possessions are nothing before him.

Let's put away all our treasures now and make room for Jesus again. If we cling to too many earthly treasures, there will be no room for Jesus. God will give us what we need every day.

Come and get to know Him better. He is the one who has been given all authority in heaven and on earth, who knows you and me, who loved us so much that He gave His life for us. Jesus is here to tell you that you are a child of God and that He loves you unconditionally. He is here to give you a real happy life, too.

All we have to do today is accept it with thanks. Believe me, that's all we have to do. He is the gift. He offers himself. It's your big chance to say thank you and live with it.

He says: *"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."* (John 17:3)

You can recognize Him.

And if we get to know Him, we will do many things differently.

If you get to know God's gift, then this gift, communion with Christ, will be the most important thing in your entire life.

If you get to know Jesus, you will pray with joy.

If you get to know Jesus, then you come here to every service in such a way that you prepare for it, that your heart is full of prayer, and that you long for what God tells you.

Then you will only have one desire: that God does with you what He wants and that you are ready to do what He wants to do through you. And then you will go home different from every service. Then the Lord will shape it. Then Christ will be seen in our eyes, heard on our lips, experienced in our hands, and our thoughts.

Jesus can be known and followed.

When many people left Jesus because of His harsh words, Peter said: Lord, we are not going anywhere. *"You have the word of eternal life, and we have believed and known that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* (John 6:68-69)

Paul writes at the end of his life: *"I know in whom I have believed, and I am certain that He can keep my treasure that I have deposited with Him for that day."* (2 Timothy 1:12) On that day, when all treasures become worthless, only Christ will remain valuable. Only those who are in Him and in whom He lives will live on.

By the end of the conversation, the Samaritan woman also learned about God's gift. She learned who Jesus was and opened her life to Him. She received the living water, which is offered today again to you and to me and to all of us. Come and accept Him boldly. Amen