



Sermon Notes

The Way of Agape Part 11 The Gift of Love January 31, 2021

"For it is in giving that we receive."
St Francis of Assisi

God originated the idea of gift giving.

Mathew 7:9-11

9 "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

John 4:1-10

1 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.[a])

10 Jesus answered her, "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."

Jesus loves broken people.

2 Corinthians 9:15

15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

This is an encounter where love meets shame.

Jesus is willing to go to the shameful places we hide.

Isaiah 57:18

18 I have seen their ways, but I will heal them

God's gift is personal.

Jesus will not let our shame keep us from His gift of love.



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Romans 8:35, 36-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Only the gifts of God bring lasting fulfillment.

If we will thirst for the gifts of God, we will be satisfied.

Matthew 5:6

*6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.*

"The effect of this water does much more than simply satisfy the thirst of the one who drinks it. It also creates something good, something life-giving in the heart of the one who drinks it. It becomes a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

A two-fold response necessary on our part: Ask and Receive.

Are you willing to ask today?

A gift exchange is not complete if the gift is not received.

