

“The Invisible Cup”

Anna Gerhauser @ Church on the Park, 8 September

Start off with illustration: glass teacup wrapped up in pretty scarf.

All wrapped up.

This is the part where we think we have it all together. Looks pretty but can't fulfil its purpose. Scarf can't hold liquid. Scarf has no life to give.

Pharisees were **all about the outside**. Looking good, looking spiritual to impress people. Matthew 23:25-28

“Your niceness stinks to me.”

You CANNOT live to please *people* and please the *Lord*. You CANNOT live to please *yourself* and please the LORD.

Saul was all about the outside too.

1 Samuel 15

²² *But Samuel replied:*

*“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
as much as in obeying the Lord?”*

*To obey is better than sacrifice,^(S)
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

²³ *For rebellion is like the sin of divination,^(T)
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.*

*Because you have rejected^(U) the word of the Lord,
he has rejected you as king.”*

Word from the Lord – season of pruning. If you don't let God cut off sin (areas of your life that don't bear good fruit), you will be cut off.

1 Samuel 16:7b

The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD look at the heart.

God is all about the inside, the heart, **the contents**.

Is your heart the Lord's? Do you live to please Him?

1 Peter 3:3-5

*Your beauty should not come from **outward** adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewellery or fine clothes.^(D) ⁴ Rather, it should be that of your inner self,^(E) the unfading beauty of a **gentle** and **quiet** spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*

GENTLE: not a word to try and suppress women. Paul also writes to men to be gentle; in fact, it's a fruit of the Spirit. Same word used to describe Jesus in Matthew 21:5 and Matthew 11:28-30.

Definition: humble, meek, unassuming, considerate,

QUIET: (of your heart) at rest, peaceful, tranquil

Gentleness gives the sense that the person has stopped fighting to be seen or noticed – can enter into God's REST, knowing that HE is the source of life, not you.

In the Scripture, in Matthew 11:28-30 and in Hebrews 4 you seek a clear connection between gentleness (or meekness) as key to experiencing God's REST.

“Your gentleness has made me great.”

How do we get there? **Surrender** to God's process, the work of the Holy Spirit – Journey to Peace.

Unwrapped.

Extraneous, unnecessary stuff removed. Things we used to draw attention to ourselves. Trying to live this Christian life in the flesh (our own strength and abilities). Strips away everything that is man-made.

Let God see you (Ps 139: “search me and know my heart”). Surrender to the process.

You cannot know God unless you first let Him fully know you.

Matthew 16:25

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Paradox of dying to self in order to receive abundant life.

Exposed.

Vulnerable. **Brokenness.** See your need of God.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Remember how the Lord your God led^(C) you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test^(D) you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. ³ He humbled^(E) you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna,^(F) which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach^(G) you that man does not live on bread^(H) alone but on every word that comes from the mouth^(I) of the Lord.

Realise that you have no life to give apart from Him.

“When you are nothing, then I can use you.”

Poor in spirit (Matthew 5)

Psalms 51

16. *You do not delight in sacrifice,^(AN) or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.*

¹⁷ My sacrifice, ^(AO) O God, is ^[b] a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart ^(AP)
you, God, will not despise.

Washed. (continually)

2 Timothy 2:21

*In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. ^(AG) ²¹ Those **who cleanse themselves** from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.*

Filled.

Be still, let Him pour into you (can't fill a cup that's moving around all the time). Surrender.

Asking God to fill me in the shower.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then approach ^(Z) God's throne of grace with confidence, ^(AA) so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Yesterday's cup of tea won't do for today, no matter how good it was yesterday. We need to be washed and filled DAILY.

The cup cannot take credit for the contents – only the One who pours in.

Glorified (beautifies from the inside out).

It's all about Him!

Not a self-made woman, but a God-made woman.

("I'm making gold in you Anna". The gold in Heaven is transparent)

It's as if the cup and the contents are one. The more we die to self, the more we become one with the LORD and share in His nature.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ^(A) and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.^(B) The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God,^(C) who loved me^(D) and gave himself for me.

Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (MSG)

God is all about the contents, not appearances. Jesus always gets straight to the heart of a person. All about fruit. Jesus in us. Only He gives life.

God is not saying "try harder". He is saying, "Surrender. Let me wash you. Let me make you into who I created you to be."

If God is the only one who can change our hearts, why aren't we running to Him? Why aren't we running to His Word and His presence?

YOU CANNOT FIX YOURSELF. Even a surgeon does not operate on him/herself.

Where are you planted? Are you planted?

Being a Christian, a disciple of Christ, a child of God is not about ACTING GOOD (when people are looking), it is BEING TRANSFORMED by God's goodness.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 – See journal notes

18 And we ALL who with UNVEILED faces contemplate (reflect) the Lord's glory, are being TRANSFORMED into His image with ever increasing glory, which COMES FROM THE LORD, who is the Spirit.

Prophetic song:

Stop trying to pretend
Stop trying to be good without my power
Be real with me
Humility is knowing who you are
And knowing who I am
It's giving me your heart
And trusting in the Lamb

End Notes

God wants to change the way we view one another. Know one another after the Spirit. Look for Jesus in one another.

Psalm 23:5-6

*You prepare a table^(K) before me
in the presence of my enemies.
(God can fill you ANYWHERE YOU ARE)
You anoint my head with oil;^(L)
my cup^(M) overflows. (HOW GOD FILLS – IN ABUNDANCE)
⁶ Surely your goodness and love^(N) will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.*

Crowned with compassion

I was praying for someone, that they would not seek after riches, but seek after God first. As I was praying I had a clear vision of a covering being removed to reveal an empty invisible cup underneath.

John 7:18

Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

Romans 8:30 predestined, called, justified, glorified

He adorns us.

[Isaiah 61:10](#) ESV

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Jesus was all about the Father's glory.

