



# Awakenings

::::: The Official Newsletter of Renewed Heart Ministries ::::: Volume 5 ::::: Issue 4 :::::

## Inside of the Cup versus the Outside

by Herb Montgomery

**“But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.” – Luke 11.41** Last month we did a series of eSights and Podcasts on Jesus’ dialogue with the Pharisees and Scribes in Luke 11. I’d like to share with you this month a sampling of thoughts that revolve around Jesus’ mention in these passages of giving that which is “within” as charity, and thus, “all things” would thereby be made clean.

We discussed, from four different perspectives, why a religious system or environment that places more emphasis and importance on the outside of people’s cups, rather than the inside of people’s cups, is dangerous and religiously and relationally destructive. We saw, based on four different reasons, how damaging an outward, external, performance-based, behaviorist emphasis and focus can be. In contrast, we also looked at the life-giving, intrinsic ability an environment that places greater importance and emphasis on what is taking place on the insides of people, their hearts, has as well. With this background, notice how Jesus drove the point home. His message to this Pharisee is to focus on that which is with and all things, both the things that are within as well as those which are without will be clean. How do you get the cup clean? The irony is twofold. Forget about the outside and focus on the inside. BUT, forget about getting yourself clean as well, and just give everything you do have away!!! Clean or dirty, stop focusing on yourself and start focusing on giving to others! This approach, according to Jesus, will accomplish the cleansing we desire, while our attention is focused in an entirely different direction. Stop worrying about getting clean and just go help someone!

I know this raises some questions. First, I’m not saying that “getting clean” isn’t important. What I am saying is that the kingdom is many times very messy *first*. It’s only when we stop worrying about whether we ourselves are measuring up to being “clean,” or we stop analyzing how others are measuring up to our own “clean” standards, and we simply start giving away whatever we do have, clean or dirty, to help others—only then do we really start experiencing what the kingdom calls “clean.” You see, in an outwardly focused, external, performance-based religion, sometimes we get misfocused on what I like to call false pollutants. We make a big deal for



ourselves and for others out of the externals. But the “clean” that the kingdom wants to give us, is too often not about externals. It’s about the conversion from the pollutant of self-centeredness to the purity of other-centeredness. The real pollutant that the kingdom wants to uproot and take out of our lives as followers of Jesus is the pollutant of focusing on ourselves rather than on the needs of others. A person can be very religious, but be doing all of the external, outward *stuff* only out of concern for changing their “salv-a-meter” from the “lost” position to the “saved.” (I wrote about this at the beginning of this year in the eSight about “being good” vs. “doing good”; you may want to check that out as well, if you’re scratching your head right now.) Jesus spoke of this in other places as well:

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.—Luke 9.24

If your focus is on yourself, it’s no good. This is precisely what Jesus is endeavoring to save us from.

And this leads me to my final thought on giving away to others whatever you have, clean or dirty, as “charity.” (Remember, you don’t have to get all cleaned up for God to be able to use you to bless others. His blessing others through you is the very thing that cleans us up.)

The Greek word here for charity is *Eleemosune*. And the best way for me, I think, to share with you the nuance of this word’s meaning is to translate it into the phrase “disinterested benevolence.” This is the very essence of what God is. It’s one of the most powerful qualities of His love. Disinterested benevolence is kindness given to others, with no interest in personal reward or what you may get back in return. It’s giving just to give. This is most clearly shown in the most well-known but also most misunderstood verse in the Bible, John 3:16.

continued on page 3

## Vancouver Island Camp Meeting

Nanaimo, BC, May 27-29, 2011

Let me simply share with you a few testimonies I have been getting in my email from my time at the Vancouver Island Camp Meeting:

*Thank you for the great blessing you shared with us all this weekend on Vancouver Island. All I seem to be doing is walking around saying Wow!!!! That's it:) Again thank you.*

*Pastor Herb, we were richly blessed and humbled to have you at Island Camp Meeting this year. You brought a unique and wonderful prospective to understanding Christianity. I left filled with joy and happiness. Thank you very much.*

*You met my wife and I at Island Camp Meeting this weekend. I just wanted to say that I appreciate you coming so much; my wife commented I have never talked about my faith so much after listening to your sermons. You speak to everything the both of us have concerns about, and I think there are far too many people who need to hear what you have to say.*

*Heard you at the Vancouver Island Camp Meeting, bought your book, wanted to let you know you made a difference!*

*Thank You ...from a renewed heart.*

For all of you who were praying for this event, words cannot express how grateful I am to you. God so tremendously blessed the presentations I gave at the Vancouver Island Camp Meeting. If you were at the Northern California Redwood Camp Meeting about three years ago and you remember my first time there, it was like THAT, but on steroids!! So many folks experienced radical changes in their heart level picture of God.

Last, when I finished my presentation Saturday night and the bookstore opened on site, I was told the next day that the response to what folks were experiencing this past weekend as they encountered God's character of love (many as they never had before) revealed itself, oddly in a very measurable way. I was told that there was such a demand for more of what the audience had been hearing this weekend that the bookstore not only sold out of Finding the Father, but it sold more copies of that than of any book in the entire history of camp meetings on Vancouver Island.

Truly God showed up. Hearts were touched by what they saw in God's heart for them. Lives were changed for time and for eternity. By love was love awakened. And in a very real and dynamic way, Jesus' kingdom was enlarged in the here and the now.

For all of you who were praying: Thank you, thank you, thank you.

We at RHM could not do this without your support. There will be souls in the age to come that come to you and thank you for your partnership with this ministry in helping them see how beautiful our God truly is. Surely, He is worthy.

## Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting

Lake Junaluska, NC, May 29-June 4, 2011

For all those who were praying for these meetings, let me say that the response was phenomenal! My cousin is a pastor of the Mt. Pisgah Academy Church in North Carolina and so, when he called in a favor to do the youth meetings for the Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting this summer, there was no way I was going to say no. And I'm so glad I didn't! Youth meetings have always been my most rewarding presentations. They are, no doubt, the most difficult, but you get so much back for the effort you put in. Honestly, in order to keep some younger audiences' attention, sometimes I feel like I have to be standing on my head, juggling torches with my feet, while preaching content that's challenging enough for them intellectually without losing them because of where they are at in life experience and, at the same time, aiming all my energy at their heart so they can encounter God's love for them right where He wants them to experience it. It's no small challenge (it's hard, at least for me, to keep my train of thought clear when standing on my head) but the rewards are so worth it. You see, young people have nothing to lose. If they don't like you, they'll make it quite clear, but if you're actually getting through and they are seeing a very different picture of God that actually is making sense to them and if you answer for them questions that they have felt no one has been able to answer, they'll bend over backwards to thank you for the effort you made to share it with them. So, in short, your prayers were much needed, but they also were very powerful and effective! We, empowered with your prayers, and equipped with the revelation of the God's character of love, hit it out of the park this week. So many hearts were touched and lives truly changed from the inside out as the youth at Lake Junaluska saw God as they never had before and encountered Him and His love as never before as well.

Thank you so much for your prayers for these presentations. God showed up. And none of us were the same people we were when we arrived by the time it was all said and done.

## Mountain View Camp Meeting

Huttonsville, WV, June 17-25, 2011

Wow! If someone had told me beforehand how my week at the Mountain View Camp Meeting would go, I would have found it difficult to believe. Words are insufficient to genuinely capture what transpired during this week of presentations. I will say that it was a real privilege to share at the camp meeting in my own conference for the first time this summer. I have had to say "no" twice before to invitations to speak at my local camp meeting due to conflicts with other camp meetings, but this event was scheduled two years ago to make sure the dates would work. And, boy, it was worth the wait!

I gave 20 presentations over the course of the week, with a series of meetings for the adults and a series for the youth. I had never tried juggling adults and youth before, and I doubt I will again; it



was a fasten-your-seat-belt ride for sure.

Testimonies are still coming into the ministry about how folks' lives have been changed by the presentations, which allowed them to encounter God as they never had before. We are receiving stories of marriages that are beginning to be restored, stories of church environments that are radically changing as those who possessed a judgmental spirit come face to face with a God who is radically different than what they had previously believed. We hear about how these people are beginning to relate to others around them, especially within the church, as differently as day is from night. New members also are writing in to share how many questions were answered for them. Overall, there is a sincere, heartfelt "thank you" in each letter we are receiving. And the testimonies are not only from the adults; one of the young people was so moved that she wrote in to the Camp Meeting Newsletter that published testimonies each morning during the week:

"My picture of God has changed by listening to Herb's sermons. God really has blessed me through him. I would recommend his meetings to everyone." –KO

There were more requests for *Finding The Father* in the onsite bookstore than what the manager could ever remember of any

book in the recent past camp meetings, as people hungered to know more of "this kind of a God" and to encounter His extravagant love for them.

For all of you who were praying for this camp meeting, the administration here in West Virginia has told me that I will never know the difference that God has made through Renewed Heart Ministries during this camp meeting. Miracles took place in people's hearts and bodies. (One gentleman asked us to do an anointing service for him, and his doctor told him when he got back home that his esophageal cancer was gone.)

So, on behalf of all those who are right now thanking RHM for this camp meeting, let me also thank YOU for supporting us. We do almost everything free of charge. Freely we've received, freely we give, and we as a ministry could not do any of this without your support. Thank you for your prayers and your financial contributions, which enable this ministry to keep proclaiming a revelation of God's character of love. We are entering into the second most financially challenging time of our year. Summer months always seem to show a slowing down of support. Thank you in advance for your continued partnership with us in lightening this earth with the glory of our heavenly Father.

#### **continued from page 1**

God so loved that He gave. He gave everything He had, *with no thought of getting anything back for Himself*. It's a giving with no strings attached! It's giving for the sake of giving. It's a completely other-centered, selfless style of giving. (I encourage you to also take advantage of the presentation on our website entitled *Love, Give, Believe* for further explanation of this concept. I believe you can find it on our *Sermon of the Month* page. If not, email me and I'll send it to you.) It's what Jesus was referring to when He said to "give, expecting nothing in return" (Luke 6:35). It's what Jesus exemplified when He healed ten lepers (Luke 17), and even though only one came back and said "thank you," they were all healed nonetheless.

But how do we give away what's inside of ourselves, clean or dirty, in the spirit of the disinterested benevolence that is the very heart, soul, and foundation of this new kingdom? Well, in short, we can't. All you can do is first, let go of trying to clean yourself up from the outside in, and second, place all of your effort on seeing, understanding, and believing in God's disinterested benevolence toward YOU! Because when, and only when, His love for you reaches your heart, love in your heart will be awakened for those around you. You can't exercise disinterested benevolence toward others by simply trying to. (If this were possible, you wouldn't need a Savior at all.) What we need is to encounter God's disinterested benevolence for ourselves. To see it and believe it! To embrace it! To bask in it! To walk—no, run—in the expanse of it! For when this happens, by God's disinterested benevolence toward us, disinterested benevolence toward others will be awakened making us . . . Clean!

We only love, because He first loved us. – 1 John 4:19.

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. For whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. – 1 John 4:7,8.

And where do we find God's disinterested benevolence shining forth in its clearest rays?

Calvary. What I am convinced we must see is God's disinterested benevolence, as it's revealed on the Cross, for anything inside of us to become clean. But once it does, we will also desire to no longer live for ourselves, but for Him who loved us so selflessly, and we will desire to live for everyone else too as we embrace the value and worth that Calvary also ascribes to them, as well. This is what it means to be clean from the inside out. To actually care about and live for the benefit of others over and above one's self. In encountering the giving heart of God, His disinterested benevolence, as revealed through the cross of Calvary, we cease to be so focused on ourselves and we begin to live the life of giving away to others whatever we have, clean or dirty, to help and to bless them.

This is getting clean from the inside out. And it's what Jesus was all about.

Well, once again, I think I've given you enough to ponder this time.

Keep basking in God's disinterested benevolence toward you this month as revealed through the cross of Calvary. Let it change how you interpret everything you previously thought the cross was all about. Keep living in that love and loving like Christ.

I love you guys. I'll see you next month. Now go build the kingdom.

*Herb*

# R H M Testimonials

Thank you for sharing your very special insight into the love of our Father and showing many of us – me – that seeing God through Jesus' eyes make that paradigm shift a reality. Continue to grow and continue to share. – **S & K**

May God continue to bless you as you plant seeds for the Kingdom. Press on in the message of God's love "above all" – **R & M**

We cannot express how blessed we are to that you are willing to continue to uplift Him! Thank you for being His servant. – **OV**

Dear Herb, Pen cannot write how much the people your ministry has touched appreciated you. May God continue to bless you and Renewed Heart Ministries. – **GS**

## Sermon of the Month



Last month, we produced several eSights and Podcasts centered around Jesus' insightful words to the Pharisee's in Luke 11. This lead to a presentation Herb gave in Hollister, CA on August 12. This month we would like to share it with you in hopes of passing on Herb's passionate desire for all of us to begin producing religious environments that truly reflect what Jesus'

Kingdom is all about and that also genuinely enable others to see God and His character of love for Who He really is. May you be deeply blessed as you listen to this month's free presentation —*Inside Out* by Herb Montgomery.

## Schedule

### SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2011

Kingsway College  
Oshawa, Ontario, Canada  
905-433-1144

### SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2011

Red Willow Community  
St Albert, AB Canada  
780-458-4644

### OCTOBER 7-22, 2011

Honolulu Central Seventh Day  
Adventist Church  
Honolulu, HI  
808-524-1352

### OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 4, 2011

Fletcher Academy  
Fletcher, NC  
828-209-6800

### NOVEMBER 11-12, 2011

Lakeport Community Seventh Day  
Adventist Church  
Lakeport, CA  
707-263-6002

### NOVEMBER 18-19, 2011

Pullman Community  
Worship Center  
Pullman, WA  
509-332-8782

Renewed Heart Ministries provides many of its resources free of charge. In order to provide this service, we are dependent on the contributions of our supporters. If you would like to make a one-time gift or offer monthly support,\* please send your contributions to the following address:

**Renewed Heart Ministries | P.O. Box 1211 | Lewisburg, WV 24901**

Contributions can also be made online at: [www.renewedheartministries.com](http://www.renewedheartministries.com)

\*All donations will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

Be sure to check out RHM's free resources at: [www.renewedheartministries.com](http://www.renewedheartministries.com)