

Message from Robin+

My granddaughter is learning to talk. It is so amazing to hear her begin to string words together into sentences. Her grandparents think she is brilliant! She loves to drink water, however she insists that it be cold. She has figured out how to make this happen by saying, “want fresh cold water please!”

There’s not much that is better than a glass of fresh cold water when we are thirsty. In fact, it’s a basic need for life. Maybe that’s why, in our Gospel reading from Matthew for this week Jesus says, “and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.” (Matthew 10:42)

Perhaps this is one of the ways Jesus teaches us how to love our neighbor, how to care for one another. We can start by doing the simplest things, like giving cups of cold water. And if we use cups of cold water as a metaphor, we can progress in loving our neighbor by giving food to the food pantry, rides to appointments, or cards, calls, and safe distancing visits to our shut in neighbors.

Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann was asked what we can say or do that might help people who do not believe in God now come to see that God is present, loves all of us and wants to comfort us during this pandemic. He replied, “The primary and most effective witness for that is when men and women practice faithful, generous lives and give themselves away for the sake of the neighborhood. People see that and sooner or later they will ask, “Why do you do that?” It is at that moment that we can say, “My life of generosity is grounded in the goodness and faithfulness of God.” But I think there is a danger of saying things about God too soon because we must lead with our actions and the way we live our lives. Also, we must give witness in the way we engage in policy and practice.

We give cups of cold water whenever we work to make the lives of our neighbors better, whether we are doing hands on acts of mercy, financially giving to assist programs that help others, or working to change the laws and practices of society in ways that improve the lives of every human being. Take some time to be still with God and pray for those who are in need. Then look up from your prayer to see what God will show you – look around for people who could really use a cup of fresh cold water. There’s plenty of water – let’s share it!

Walter Brueggemann, Baptist News Global, https://baptistnews.com/article/qa-with-walter-brueggemann-faith-in-a-time-of-covid-19/?fbclid=IwAR0NcOG7dnvVXFgxKkpilUtyg5UiM_aOJobqX0IRygLNW5N9k39x6C5AoDM#.XvF0Zy2z06U