

TRUTH & RIGHT

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MOMMA'S CAKE

"And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward" (Matt. 10:42).

Christ, in context, challenges us to love Him more than anyone else (Matt. 10:37). To follow Him, we must die to self in order to gain His true and lasting life (Matt. 10:38-39). The price of discipleship is high: we must give our all (Luke 14:33). Yet, the price is low: anyone by faith can give their all (John 6:37; Matt. 11:28)! It doesn't take much of a person to be a Christian, just all of that person there is.

Our Lord assures us that

even giving a child a cup of cold water (being kind to an "insignificant" child by being considerate enough that the water is "cold"), is a wonderful deed that God sees and rewards! No one makes a bigger mistake than thinking that if you can only do a little, it doesn't count for much, so you end up doing nothing. Jesus teaches us in the miracle of feeding 5000 with five loaves and two fish, that with Him, little is much (John 6:9). He can bless and multiply our efforts for good (Eph. 3:20-21). There is no such thing as insignificant service in the Lord's kingdom.

So, let me tell you about my Momma's cake. It is the most delicious chocolate

cake in the world! (She has a secret way of preparing them). I recently saw in her closet a big stack of chocolate cake mixes. When someone at church has been sick, or has some difficulty, or has an occasion to need some food, my mom bakes them her famous chocolate cake to cheer them up. She is a cake baking machine. (Recently, someone at church said in jest to me, "I've been a little depressed lately...could I get one of those cakes?"). By regularly making a cake, this is a way she can make a contribution to helping others.

She does this because she cannot now, like when I was growing up, teach Bible class, clean the church building, give someone a ride to church, draft blueprints for building a church building, or have the preacher over for a meal during a gospel meeting. She has a debilitating spinal condition called "spinal stenosis" that inhibits mobility. She walks with a cane because she also needs knee replacement surgery.

Yet, she is still the indomitable cake baker.

The lesson of Momma's cake reminds me of this nifty poem about finding our place of service for the Lord:

Shamger had an oxgoad;
David had a sling;
Dorcas had a needle;
Rachel had a string;
Samson had a jawbone;
Aaron had a rod;
Mary had some ointment;
And all were used by God.

So, I urge you to develop your talents, as a disciple of Jesus, and discover your place of service by giving "a cup of cold water" to whomever you can help. God bless you in the service of our Great King, Jesus our one and only Savior. Remember, it's all for Him, who did so much for us. In love, He has changed us, so we can help change the world. — W.

Frank Walton

**Be An Encouragement
Jeremy Joy**

*"Encourage one another
daily, as long as it is called*

Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:13).

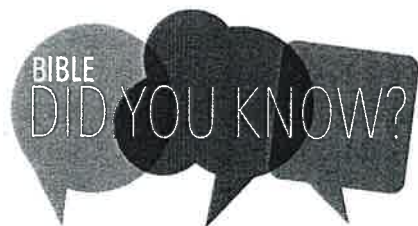
Have you ever been around someone who used your heart as a place to dump negative thoughts and words that weigh you down? On the other hand, have you ever been around someone who has made you feel like you could change the world by yourself?

The second question illustrates the power of **encouragement**, which involves "*inspiring courage*" in others. It is what happens when someone makes a meaningful deposit into the heart of another.

We **need** to encourage one another. We live in a world full of negative attitudes and actions meant to tear down. Even loved ones may unintentionally fire arrows deep into our hearts.

One way to encourage others is through words that

are properly seasoned; they taste good on the way down. What will you hear today? How will you handle it? Most importantly, what will you say to others throughout the day? Why not resolve now to be an encouragement?



Amos was a simple farmer who God used to prophecy judgment and warning against God's people. "The words of Amos, who was among the shepherders from Tekoah, which he envisioned in visions concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah " Uzziah Uking Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake," Amos 1:1

People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



City of Dalmanutha

An ancient town dated to the first century C.E. has been discovered during archaeological work conducted on the northwest coast of the Sea of Galilee, according to a report by LiveScience. The University of Reading's Ken Dark, who led the field survey, believes the town might be identified as Dalmanutha, which is known only from the New Testament. According to the Gospel of Mark, after Jesus miraculously multiplied seven loaves of bread and a few fish to feed a crowd of 4,000, "immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha" (Mark 8:10). The 2,000 year-old Galilee Boat discovered in 1986 was determined to have been found on the shoreline of a newly discovered town by the Sea of Galilee. *Courtesy Berthold Werner.*

Evidence indicates that this newly discovered coastal site was a thriving fishing town in the first century. Writing in the most recent issue of the journal *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*, Dark reports that the archaeological team found weights and stone anchors, while the presence of vessel glass and amphorae suggest some residents were prosperous. The researchers additionally determined that the so-called Galilee Boat, the famous 2,000 year-old boat discovered in a drought-stricken Sea of Galilee in 1986, was found on the shoreline of this fishing town. The southern side of the town lies only 500 feet away from the ancient town of Magdala, which may have been Mary Magdalene's hometown. While the Identification of Dalmanutha remains tentative, the name has yet to be associated with any known archaeological site around the Sea of Galilee.

