

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday December 30, 2024 - Psalm 119: 114

114 You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.

Read Psalm 119 for meditation and inspiration.



Christmas Tide

Living Water

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

"Happy is the man who does not lose faith in Me" (Matthew 11:5).

There is the story of a man crossing the desert in the days of the early American pioneers. He had run out of water and was dying of thirst. Suddenly, he spotted a water pump near an abandoned shack. He inched his way to the pump, mustering enough strength to work the handle, but nothing happened; no water came. Then he noticed a jug near the pump with a note attached. The message read: "There is just enough water in this jug to prime the pump, but not if you drink some first. This well has never gone dry, even in the worst of times. Just pour all the water from the jug into the pump and then work the handle quickly. After you have satisfied your thirst, refill this jug for the next person in need."

What should the man dying of thirst have done? The contents of the note called for complete trust in the person who wrote it. But if the dying man followed the instructions, he ran the risk of pouring all the water from the jug into a pump that might fail. He was being asked to put his trust in the message unconditionally. He was being asked to respond to the message in complete faith. He was being asked to accept, without reservation, the absolute truth of the message. And in so doing, he may save the next dying person to come along.

That is not unlike the situation of Jesus' disciples in our Gospel. Jesus has been telling them to pour all their resources into their call to be His disciples and hold nothing back. They did and “Living Water” poured forth, for themselves and those that they gave the water of life.

Jesus gives us love that sprouts and grows out of His love within us.

The Spirit of the Christmas Miracle goes on, and on, and on - forever.

Christmas Love to you and yours,



Roger

