

# Pour it out

## I. Preamble & Prayer

### A. Things I'm learning...takeaways since we were last together

- ❖ There are at least ten things I've am learning, takeaways of life since *we* were last together:
  1. **Life is less about being right and more about being loving**
  2. **Adding value to someone else matters far more than having value added to myself—cause doing the first will automatically bring about the later**
  3. **Traveling to places where they speak different and live differently will reshape you for the better, *if* you embrace the differences**
  4. **Some of the best lessons in life can be learned while on a boat—Why? Cause there's very little distance there between you and the water and it's swift current**
  5. **Lofty cathedrals, spacious palaces, electrifying seats of earthly power—can impress, but the small and innocent cry of a child will always prompt our Maker's response**
  6. **Walking, is hugely underrated in our over-exercise/exercise-crazed world we live in here**
  7. **Fighting for humility is something I never thought of till recently, I always felt so many times we were encouraged to flee from humility**
  8. **Bicycles in America are a hobby—in Europe they are their essential means of transport**
  9. **Finishing well and strong in this Christian life really means there is no finish line—there are always purposes or designs awaiting us as long as we have breath**
  10. **Leaving home to travel doesn't mean you leave home behind—you're always carrying the best of home with you cause it's part of who you are**

### B. Story – Subway Car Disconnect

- ❖ With our return home from places 10-13 hour time zones removed, Laura and I make it a point to stop over and bridge those time zones with a little layover
- ❖ So earlier this week we stayed in the New York City area a couple of days
- ❖ One day was Labor Day the other a regular work day there
- ❖ One of the most used means of getting around in NYC is MTA—Mass Transit Authority (a.k.a. the subway or bus system)
- ❖ We were traveling the subway those two days
- ❖ While sitting there in the subway car, traveling from station to station
- ❖ I stopped to take note of who we were traveling with—who were they, where did they live and where were they traveling to in the five boroughs of NYC?
- ❖ But as I studied them—I didn't make it too obvious mind you!

- ❖ Of the thirty or thirty-five in our one car, 80% of them were unable to engage with me...cause they were—
  - a. Looking at their phone
  - b. Listening to something on their phone with ear buds
  - c. Playing a game on their phone
- ❖ The other 20% had their eyes closed and were snoozing or meditating(trying to be fair here)
- ❖ My point—no one, except for Laura or I and half a dozen other people were not otherwise detained
- ❖ Why, my goodness, this is New York City!
- ❖ But no, we'd seen this in Berlin, and in Amsterdam too just on a different scale

### **C. Pour it out**

- ❖ I want to continue the conversation today on the topic of mentoring that Pastor Eric began to unpack last Sabbath
- ❖ First, we want to identify the “it” or the content of what it is we want to pass on to another
- ❖ We used to talk to each other, now we're lucky to text each other
- ❖ So second, we need to understand if we actually have connected or not—we need to define the “out”
- ❖ Have we really passed along and made the transfer of what it is we need to get “out” to someone else on this journey
- ❖ You see, posting something on Facebook, on Instagram, may work for some things
- ❖ But aren't we shortcutting and perhaps short-changing ourselves if we don't actually “pour” what it is we want to share into someone else's life?
- ❖ So we want understand what it means to—say it with me would you—POUR IT OUT (OS)

### **D. Song – Holy Spirit Rain Down**

- ❖ There's Someone who is just waiting to help us do just that this morning
- ❖ His name? Holy Spirit
- ❖ Would you take your voice and join mine and sing this song, this prayer to the Holy One?

**Holy Spirit rain down, rain down  
 Oh Comforter and Friend how we need Your touch again  
 Holy Spirit rain down, rain down  
 Holy Spirit rain down, rain down  
 Let Your Power fall, let Your voice be heard  
 Come and fill our lives as we stand on Your Word  
 Holy Spirit, rain, rain down!**

### **II. Message**

## **A. The Story – Pour it Out**

- ❖ There are many stories, many good ones and a number of bad ones about King David
- ❖ As a man, a human being, David was just like you and me
- ❖ Full of potential, full of abilities, very capable
- ❖ But he also had some blind spots, as do we
- ❖ The scripture lesson read this morning is one of those stories about David that should stand out for each of us
- ❖ Let's read the passage—2 Samuel 23:13-17 NLT
- ❖ TEXT: 2 Samuel 23:13-17 READ
- ❖ Imagine with me the day, some years later, when David's sons had grown
- ❖ When he, as their father, and as the King retold this story—the powerful impact this story and its lesson had!

## **B. Break it down – Pour it out**

### **Lesson #1 – Your Desires will become Somebody's Command**

- ❖ Your “it” which is your desire will become someone else's command
- ❖ David, once a shepherd, then a soldier, now a king living in an arid climate—understood the value of a fresh drink of water
- ❖ To have access to such a blessing meant you were blessed
- ❖ David knew since he was a young lad, growing up outside of Bethlehem, there was a fresh water well near the gate of Bethlehem
- ❖ Times had changed, those pesky Philistines were now in possession of Bethlehem
- ❖ And David's sentimental thought surfaced one morning and he shared it with his top Three men, Jashobeam, Eleazar, and Shammah
- ❖ Now Microsoft Word underscored each of these names in RED here in my notes
- ❖ Their names are nowhere in the Word's database of proper names
- ❖ Why? Because their names come from an ancient line of Hebrew warriors—they were part of David's inner circle of safety
- ❖ Just as Jesus had Peter, James and John—so David had Jashobeam, Eleazar and Shammah
- ❖ So David remarked with a longing in his voice—“Oh, how I would love some of that good water from the well by the gate in Bethlehem.”
- ❖ We must be careful what we say to those in our tight circle of leaders
- ❖ Cause they will no doubt act on our wishes as if our wishes were a command
- ❖ And the Three did just that—“They did the unthinkable, the unexpected, the near-impossible

- ❖ Broke through the Philistine lines, provided cover for one of the Three, whereby all three made it possible to bring an ancient Nalgene bottle filled with fresh water from the well

**Lesson #2 – You will hold blessings in your hands that costs dearly those who brought it about—all eyes will be looking –asking, “How will they treat that blessing?”**

- ❖ Above all God’s eyes are watching us
- ❖ Will we take that blessing, that treasure to ourselves, selfishly?
- ❖ Or will we be selfless in our response?
- ❖ In David’s case, the obvious response would be to drink the water; perhaps even to share it with the Three
- ❖ But David knows the sacrifice of life and limb has been given by the Three to bring this water to him
- ❖ When we have those who lead on our team, taking large blocks of time to serve; making big sacrifices to serve
- ❖ It is vital that we treat the results of their work with honor, with rightly placed value and respect
- ❖ The operative question that should surface is this—Will we think as David and consider the blessings “outside” of ourselves?
- ❖ Blessings someone else has made possible
- ❖ Question: What has been like water from the well of Bethlehem to you recently—love, friendship, spiritual blessing?
- ❖ Question: Will you take the blessing to yourself?
- ❖ Illustrate: River Cruise up the Rhine River
- ❖ I’m not sure many of you knew that Laura and I in our travels, joined about 90 other folk on a river cruise up the Rhine River in Europe
- ❖ I paused several times along the way to thank Laura for her work in planning and scheduling us for this amazing voyage
- ❖ I am blessed to be married to someone who loves to put the hours it takes to make such trip possible
- ❖ I am learning the lesson David provides us here—there is very little that I receive as blessing that I am responsible for
- ❖ Someone else has gone to the effort—I am just glad to be along for the voyage
- ❖ Let me also add, were it not for able leaders here at Valley Church, who give countless hours of service, I wouldn’t be able step away for such an extended period
- ❖ Thank you each one! The fresh water of your efforts has not gone unnoticed! AMEN

**Lesson #3 – David, like us, was holding a blessing in his hand that he had done nothing to bring about, except for hatching the idea—what would he do with it?**

- ❖ David knew from experience how good this water tasted

- ❖ As King he had the option to just chug it down and say “Thanks guys!”
- ❖ But let’s read again, the last part of 2 Samuel 23:16

*“But he refused to drink it. Instead, he poured it out as an offering to the Lord.”*

- ❖ David poured it out
- ❖ The water met the dirt and soaked quickly into it
- ❖ Supposedly gone for good
- ❖ But wait, not so fast
- ❖ Let’s read further of what David also says after he does this
- ❖ TEXT: 2 Samuel 23:17 READ

*“The Lord forbid that I should drink this!” He exclaimed. “This water is as precious as the blood of these men who risked their lives to bring it to me.” So David did not drink it.”*

- ❖ Not a drop into himself
- ❖ But every drop going out as drink offering to the Lord
- ❖ David valued this water as though it were the life blood of his men
- ❖ And as it returned to the ground, David was symbolizing the value he placed on the efforts of his men

### **III. Application**

#### **A. Mentoring – Pour it out into other lives**

- ❖ Here at Valley an amazing opportunity awaits us
- ❖ The next generation of leaders exists as leaders today
- ❖ Will we pour it out rather than take blessings to ourselves

#### **B. Three “D’s”**

- ❖ As mentors and mentees we need to practice three things to begin to make the mentoring process happen
- ❖ The three things come in the form of three “D’s”

#### **1<sup>st</sup> – Develop – Develop Situational Awareness**

- ❖ There are situations where the gifts and the gifted come together
- ❖ Becoming aware of these situations is something the Holy Spirit is promised to guide us into

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> – Discern – Discern future threats and opportunities**

- ❖ To imitate Christ as David was doing here in our story today—is to go against all human instinct
- ❖ Threats to take blessings to one’s own self and to give into the temptation to drink it in rather than pour it out will certainly rise up

- ❖ But the Holy Spirit is promised to provide discernment of opportunities to *pour it out* instead

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Disrupt – Disrupt what is with what could be**

- ❖ When mentoring occurs; the younger generation will invariably stretch and reshape the present and future
- ❖ Mentors are not looking to replicate themselves—that is why they pour it out; letting go of the blessing
- ❖ Once the ideas given to the mentor are out—the Holy Spirit will do in the mentees a work that shows it is of God and not just of mankind

IV. **Close** – While in Holland, Laura and I visited Corrie Ten Boom’s home in Harleem. It was there that Corrie and her family hid and saved many Jews from the Nazi oppression. Corrie had a hopeful phrase that I would like to apply to our mentoring project at Valley—in Dutch it goes like this ***Het beste komt nog*** **The best is yet to come**

V. **Prayer** – Lord Jesus, you said that final week of your life before your trial and crucifixion—‘a kernel wheat is remains alone, unless it enters the ground and dies...only then will many kernels of wheat come forth.’ You were speaking of Yourself. But you also spoke of us too when you said, “anyone who wants to serve me must follow me.” Help us to follow you, help us to empty ourselves and pour it out into other lives from our own. This can happen, but we need you Holy Spirit to kindle the desires in us, in these selfish hearts. Make them selfless heart we pray. AMEN