



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- December 20, 2022

The Lord be with you.

I have a question for you. Where have you seen Jesus coming to you recently?

I ask you about seeing Jesus coming to you recently because we are, after all, in the season of Advent, and the word Advent means coming. This is a time that we celebrate Jesus first coming to us as a baby in the manger at Bethlehem. We celebrate Jesus second coming to us in power and great glory, but we also celebrate Jesus coming to us in our everyday lives. Jesus speaks of this coming to us in our everyday lives in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 25, wherein Jesus says, "Then the righteous will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" Jesus is coming to us daily in the persons that we meet.

In his poem, *How the Great Guest Came*, the American poet Edwin Markham tells of how the Son of God comes to us in his oneness with humanity.

Edwin Markham's poem is a story about Conrad a kindly cobbler and how the Lord Jesus appears to him one morning with the promise, "I'm coming your guest to be." So Conrad springs to his day, eagerly preparing for the great guest coming. Conrad scrubs the floor, polishes the counter, spreads a generous table while keeping an eye on the front door. But Conrad was never so busy in preparation for the great guest that he did not care for the three strangers who knocked on his door- A cold beggar, a hungry woman, a homeless child. Quickly Conrad's day came and went, ebbing down to the end, and the great guest had not yet come. Confused and sadly disappointed, Conrad the cobbler knelt to pray, what is it, Lord, that your feet delay? Did you forget that this was the day? But then in his heart, Conrad heard the great guest speak. Three times I came to your friendly door. Three times my shadow was on your floor. I was the beggar with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave to eat. I was the homeless child on the homeless street. Like the great guest speaks to Conrad, so the Lord Jesus Christ speaks to us in today's scripture in Matthew 25.

Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. Jesus promises that when we do for the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the prisoner, that we are really doing it for our Lord Jesus Christ. It might be tempting in these days of inflation, social unrest, and holiday busyness to forget our responsibilities to others. Yet as followers of the great guest Jesus Christ, we know that we are not to run from the world, but to seek Jesus' presence in it.



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As Jesus, the Word became flesh and he dwelt among us, teaching us, truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

This is the glory and grandeur of the incarnation, of the Son of God taking on our humanity. In that Jesus confronts us in each person we meet. As we share in Christ, so we share in and we see Christ in those around us. Have a blessed Christmas.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.