

The Preacher Did Not Get His Wine 11-4-07

A mix up occurred at the Lord's Table today. All across the front of the auditorium there was no fruit of the vine available. I mean when we opened the cabinet doors, Old Mother Hubbard's cupboards were bare. Whoever was responsible for putting those little cups of wine in their place didn't achieve that this time. That has never happened before. Now what would happen because of this little mistake, this act of negligence?

When I discovered no wine on the vine, I glanced to the left and to the right, and sure enough the same thing had occurred all across the auditorium. The server to my right even came over to us looking for the much-desired juice. But he had to return to his place empty handed. I glanced behind me, and all around the auditorium, and lo and behold, every section had their wine! We at the front were the only ones without. You have heard that it was said, "There is always more room up front. It is never crowded."

Many thoughts went through my mind. What would happen to correct this phenomenon? Would they call a halt? Would we do the fruit of the vine later? Was this planned? Is it part of the sermon? I expected any minute to see God's faithful servants come a running with the much-needed juice. But no luck, all continued according to the order of worship. The prayer leader took his place. I thought surely he would announce something from the microphone; but no, he evidently didn't even know it. Wow! Let's see what happens here.

The prayer proceeded according to plan. The fruit of the vine was blessed, even for the ones who wouldn't have it. As the prayer concluded, I stepped back to the section behind me and asked the server, "Would you start at the front please, we didn't get any?" He stepped forward, two trays were passed, once across, catch those on the ends, and I stepped into place to accept the trays and passed them back to the section behind me; and all continued with the normal flow. It seemed just like it was planned that way.

Wow! That worked like it was no problem at all. There wasn't even a pause in the normal routine. However, I didn't realize until some minutes later that the preacher didn't get served. He had sat on the right back corner of my section, and I bypassed him completely in all the excitement. The preacher did not get his wine.

I don't know what happened in the other two sections. I could only take care of my own few rows of people. It had all worked out smoothly. I didn't find out until after the service that many eyes were watching me. Some people made wonderful comments.

Now, I'm not saying that I did anything. Many thoughts had gone through my mind; but God put the one there that counted. I'm not usually the quick thinker. I take my time pondering and am slow at making up my mind. What I did was nothing. But what God did was everything. He showed us that He would make accommodations for His people even when we make our mistakes. Even when we forget, even when things are out of place, God is there providing for us, making all the necessary preparations. I had submitted myself to God this morning in my prayers as I always do, and told Him that He could use me in any way He sees fit. I think when I do that it doesn't take a bulldozer to move me, just a little prompt, just a directed thought. And He accomplished a wonderful thing for all those who were watching. Everyone was delighted at the outcome. The problem was solved. No one missed out on anything. Well, almost everyone was satisfied. But the preacher did not get his wine.