

The Teacup Story

By Mike Riley

The story is about a couple who took a trip to England to shop in a beautiful antique store to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. They both liked antiques and pottery, especially teacups.

Spotting an exceptional cup, they asked, "May we see that? We've never seen a cup quite so beautiful."

As the lady handed it to them, suddenly, the teacup spoke, "You don't understand. I have not always been a teacup. There was a time when I was just a lump of red clay. My Master took me and rolled me, pounded and patted me over and over, and I yelled out, "Don't do that. I don't like it! Let me alone," but He only smiled and gently said, "Not yet."

Then WHAM! I was placed on a spinning wheel, and suddenly I was made to suit Himself. Then He put me into the oven. I had never felt such heat. I yelled and knocked and pounded at the door. "Help! Get me out of here!" I could see Him through the opening and read His lips as He shook His head from side to side, "Not yet."

After I cooled, He picked me up, brushed, and painted me. The fumes were horrible. I thought I would gag. "Oh, please, stop it, stop, I cried." He only shook His head and said, "Not yet."

Then suddenly, He put me back into the oven. Only it was not like the first one. This was twice as hot, and I just knew I would suffocate. I begged; I pleaded; I screamed, I cried. I was convinced I would never make it. I was ready to give up. Just then, the door opened, and He took me out and again placed me on the shelf, where I cooled and waited and waited, wondering, "What's He going to do to me next?"

An hour later, He handed me a mirror and said, "Look at yourself." And I did. I said, "That's not me. That couldn't be me. It's beautiful. I'm beautiful!"

Quietly He spoke: "I want you to remember. I know it hurt to be rolled, pounded, and patted, but you'd have dried up if I had just left you alone. I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled. I know it hurt, and it was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn't put you there, you would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but you never would have hardened if I hadn't done that. You would not have had any color in your life.

If I hadn't put you back in that second oven, you wouldn't have survived for long because the hardness would not have held. Now you are a finished product. You are what I had in mind when I first began with you."

The moral of this story is this: God knows what He's doing for each of us. He is the Potter, and we are His clay. He will mold us, make us, and expose us to just enough pressures of the right kinds that we may be made into a flawless piece of work to fulfill His good, pleasing and perfect will.

—Author Unknown



STERLINGTON Church of Christ



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Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

12/11/22

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshipping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Elders:

Todd Chapman
Paul Simpson

Deacons:

Wayne Fowler David Garris
Billy Granger Buddy Hollis

Preacher:

Don Delukie

Those to Serve Today

Announcements- Travis Rogers **Lord's Table-** Lyle Russel
Opening prayer- Charles Fricke **Closing Prayer-** Matthew Fricke

December 18th

Announcements- Wes Chapman **Lord's Table-** Wayne Fowler
Opening prayer- Jerry McDonald **Closing Prayer-** Paul Simpson

Announcements

—**Question & Answer Series: January 1st** will be our next Question and Answer Series. Please submit your questions via the church email address SCOC2006@att.net or to Don.

—**Children's Home Collection:** Our kids classes are collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. The list of needed items is in the foyer.



Please Pray For:

Carol & Billy Granger, Tommy Franklin, Caroline Jones, Lazelle Flowers, Wendell Jackson, Ronnie White, Edwin Lowery, Kelli Fatheree, Olive Buckley, Sharon White-Ross, Gail Sewell, Shelia McMannus.

Bereaved: Families of Lilybeth Weatherford, Carolyn Griffin, Youlandra Lowery, Woefud Conatser, GW Harris.

Continue to Pray For:

Linda Garris, James Johnson, Shirley Goodwin, Bobby Barker, Bobby Simmons, Max Aubel. Roosevelt Rogers, Tricia Muse, Donna Head, Debra Mike, Virginia Royal, Elizabeth Hollis, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross, Charlie McDaniel Jr.



December birthdays

5 - Joanie Franklin
7 - Emma Morgan
14 - Wayne Fowler
15 - Jonah Scharf
22 - Brad Farrington
24 - Louvenia Dickson
26 - Matt Scharf
27 - Rick Cook
27 - Gary Guice
30 - Dwain Flowers

December anniversaries

3 - Gary and Lisa Guice
5 - Dan and Ethel Ross
10 - Rick and Sandy Van Loon
18 - Gary and Sharon Harris
27 - Leo and Shirley Goodwin
28 - Tommy and Joanie Franklin

