

AD-20090101 [201]: Life Running Over
Refuge

Author: Festo Kivengere

Place:

Date:

Event:

Theme: Life Running Over ..

Text: Luke 24:13 ff.

Comment: Taken from Tape 104

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Rededicate

Luke 24:13 JH

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No closing prayer.

SIDE 2

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The Reading

Now Let us pray:

We want to express our gratitude Lord Jesus, we want to add more gratitude to what we have already said, our hearts indeed have no words to express what we feel. That when the fullness of time came, you came to us and in coming to us you met every need, there are needs to be met Lord tonight in this congregation, there are hearts which are crying for you, there are people who desperately need a fresh touch by the wounded hand, we pray Lord that no one will evade that touch tonight. We pray that no one will return with that uncomfortable emptiness when all the fullness is available to us, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

I want to praise the Lord for the days we have been together, these have been tremendous days, and I want to say that the Lord has been extra good, as He always is, when we need Him ever so desperately as we saw last night, the key to the fullness of life, is when the need is admitted, acknowledged, exposed to the love which can meet the need and the emptiness. You remember that beautiful story of a widow last night, I asked you to stand by her, and not only most of us, perhaps know the emptiness but do we know the fullness, most of us perhaps are aware of the empties in every department of our lives, life emptied of its meaning, love emptied of its reality and substance, fellowship emptied of its basis that what remains is shell after shell. So we have a certain amount of the experience of the lady, when she stood in her empty home, no husband no money, no help, but do we know her fulness? Do we really know the song of a heart, whose need has been fully met in the person of Jesus Christ? I read a story years ago, in my early days when the Lord was beginning to meet the need which he is still meeting today. But the story was about a number of sailors who run short of drinking water in the Atlantic. And who therefore begun to feel the pinch and pain of thirst, and all round them was this tremendous ocean of salty water, bitter, which if you drink ofcourse, you die. And out of bitterness and desire and longing they sent their SOS, they signalled to some ship which may be in the reach of those signals, we need water they cried, we are in desparate need of water. The message came right through to the ship and a reply came immediately back, and the reply was too simple for thos who wanted water, let down your bucket was the reply, and of course it made the sailors very angry, so back went the reply, we want water, of course we know this is water, do you think we are foolish? We would have done that, but we don't have to do it. We want water, and back came the answer, let down your buckets, let down your buckets,

*Mrs.
Sailors
from
let down
bucket
for fresh
water*

it kept coming, very simple, too simple for one, it couldn't be simpler, as simple as that! And they refused, no one did except a little child, (clear voice) children are wonderful when they are simple, it had felt the need of thirst turned to mummy with tears in its eyes, "Mummy, why don't you let down our bucket? Because that was the message and everyone was grumbling, and reluctantly the mother out of the need and responding to need of the child, and let down the bucket absolutely in doubt, /faithlessness, and drew back the bucket and the first one of course the mother did not like the child to drink because it may die, so she had to taste the water, as fresh as rain water was this water, beautiful and clear, so she put in a cup and gave it to child, the child drunk, the mother drunk and of course you could imagine what happened in the entire ship. Wherever there was a bucket was let down now, do you know what what happened, they were actually in the mouth of River Amazon, not knowingly, the river is about 200 miles wide, when it enters into the Atlantic, and they never realized that they were surrounded with the fresh water from the mountains, clear enough to quench the thirst, there they were dying of thirst and surrounded with millions and millions of gallons of water, exactly that is what is what Christians are doing, round you is the eternal River, and this river came from the heart of God who knows how thirsty you are, but how many of us would not let down our buckets? How many of us doubt, how many of us produce techniques and theological problems before we can ever let down our hearts into that eternal love, if any man is thirsty let him come to Me and drink. Not rationalized but drink, like that little child, out of the thirst, "Mummy try it, why not/let down the bucket?" Let down your hearts says the Master, if any one feels thirsty tonight, don't you only know the experience of emptiness, but come and stand by the lady, and experience the fulness of every vessel, when every department is filled with Jesus, when the Holy spirit takes messages above to the

River Amazon

Father even that part has been filled, even her emptied love is now, completely over flowing, his/her cup is running over, Jesus has been given permission to fill every department of the life, tonight I want to share with you, this is a final meeting, and there are many of us who are still unwilling to let down our buckets, whatever the bucket may be, it is your life, to let down your life, that little word let down is a very, very important point. No vessel can be filled, could be filled in that house of the woman, we talked about last night, the widow. for every vessel to be filled, it had to be lower than that which filled it. No vessel could be filled where it was higher than the vessel which filled it. There had to be a lowering of the vessel, the vessel had to be fillable in a position where it could be filled, where the oil could flow in, your heart and mine as long as we remain uplifted high up there in a spiritual pride, in a denominational pride, in the pride of doctrine in all that makes us , in all that make us the kind of christians we are as long as we are up there, we will never have a full heart until the heart is lower, lower enough to be filled. And this lower business, lower down, let down your bucket, not let up, let down, where the water is, at the foot of the cross, where my cup can be cleansed ^{then} and/be filled you don't have to utter another prayer, the heaven opened, when God sent his Son, the Eternal River came flowing in, all you need is just to be empty and in the right place. Where is the right place, down, lower enough to be filled, lower enough to be filled. When the choir was singing I was reminded of a testimony, when I am speaking tonight about a life running over, this is what I am sharing, life running over after the release, after the meeting of the need, after we have reached that point, our hearts are no longer in captivity, then the heart runs over in the presence of Jesus the heart is filled and runs over, now some of us may think that is a sweet

*vessel
to fill*

experience, if the running over is only when the weather is fine, and when the wether is dark and threatening there is no fulness that is, not no New Testament running over. One day the Lord blessed me, he has done that many many times, but let me give you a little testimony which I was reminded of when the choir sung, loved with everlasting love. That, we sung it together and my brother sung the verse, that hymn just hit back my wife and I had a terrible experience. We have^{got} four daughter but actually we have five, the fifth is in glory. I was in the mission field years ago in Tanzania, my wife was 30 miles, expecting a baby, another baby, and I was at home with two little girls one was two, and one was one and a half, and one of them was taken suddenly ill and her mother was away, in a matter of few hours, the little beautiful girl died, of malaria a terrible disease, it was a terrible killer. A shock, I did not know how I could have controlled that, it would even kill me, and also kill my wife. I was in the hospital surrounded by moslems, this was a predominantly moslem area where we were walking, working, all I am going to share with you is how the spirit of God can come and fill you when you are desperately in need, I was desperately in need, in that hospital as I stood there, very weak, trembling and cut-through, and I stood by that bed, and do you know what happened, I uttered a desperate little prayer, and the Holy Spirit, the dove of heaven was there to answer I had hardly finished the little prayer of despair and pain when heaven opened, and as I stood there by my bed, there was no christian to sing I was surrounded by moslems but heaven opened, my little girl had gone and as I looked at her and the Spirit the comforter the helper the one who fills the empty experience like that one, that is one of the most empty things you can be in. Unexpectedly, he brought in the Lord Jesus, He was my Savior I knew that, but at this particular point of time, heaven just

Testimony
death of
Festo-chiko
in Tanzania

came down, and my heart was filled, and heaven became so close, and it was as if my little daughter had not died, I turned round and gave a testimony to the moslems to the moslems, some of them wept in the hospital, I don't know how I did it, but my cup which was empty was filled and then why the song. I prayed that my wife may experience the same, she was thirty miles away, the very day the daughter died, another daughter was born, we call her Joy. So I sent a message to be taken by a runner, 30 miles away and kept humbly praying, thinking, as soon as that message reached that wife, I thought she would die. I knew how she loved the little girl, and I knew I just couldn't see how she could cope, she loves Jesus, the comforter went immediately before the runner got there the Holy Spirit had come to the bed of this mother. When the message came, the unexpected took place, what my wife could never have done, she did. She got up, she prays God, she even told the patients, up to this moment, they have never forgotten that, because many of them hadn't seen the child, that a mother could go through that, with a heart comforted and released. This was just beyond any human ability. However, she was able to cope with that, she wasn't, she was made able. God blessed her soul, heaven again came near, when she came, I went to fetch her from the hospital, with a friend's car. And I found her bubbling of, I had never seen her so free in the Lord so full, it was as if the death of the little girl was taken by the Holy Spirit and blessed to us, so we went to the cathedral one day and we sang that song which you have just sang. Loved, in our mother tongue, loved with everlasting love, I shall never forget the experience. There we stood and we sang again things which used to threaten me, now they are no longer a threat in that eternal love, even the death of a beautiful loved child has been taken by the Lord of Glory, changed not into a catastrophe and tragedy into a mighty blessing, hearts were overflowing.

To me that was an experience I can never forget, that the Holy Spirit could come and meet us as we walked in our a ^{MARA'S} ~~marous~~ experience, for that day for me was as empty as the two disciples, when they walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus, aimlessly perhaps, for Luke doesn't tell us why they walked, may be they decided, to walk from it all from it all, we do that don't we. When something is completely beyond you, don't you decide to take leave? Get, get away from it all, haven't you ever had that kind of thing? Haven't you ever experienced your empty Emmaus walk? Leave Jerusalem behind, leave the cross behind, it was all tragedy, the good Friday was a terrible Friday, and there is no hope for the resurrection and they talked endlessly, back and forth and back and forth and no answer came. And they had very heavy steps, going almost to where they did not know why they went, except in utter misery, running away from the dark happenings which took place in Jerusalem. A dead Savior, a completely darkened future, a haunting past, a meaningless present, so they walked to Emmaus, just perhaps they may forget of course they never forgot, because they kept talking about it. And the more they talked the darker it became, the more confused it became, the emptier they felt, but do you know? Good News came into it, how hearts, so called these two disciples, so hopeless these two disciples so disappointed, these two disciples, everything round them spoke of disappointment, disappointment we hoped, we hoped, we hoped, hopelessness. We had hoped that he would, but he didn't, we had hoped he would save, he didn't save, he died as a criminal. We had hoped he would lead Israel into victory, he is defeated, we hoped, we had hoped, no hope now. Hopeless disciples, walking to Emmaus, looking at Jesus as the hopeless one decaying in the grave, they even misinterpreted the testimony of the women, they said, later as you read, some of our women folk, they went and they saw visions of angels and they came and they told us,

*Emmaus
walk
experience*