

A Well-Watered Garden

Scripture: Isaiah 58:9 - 12

Listen to this verse from the book of Isaiah 58:11 - 'The Lord will guide us always. He will satisfy our needs in a sun scorched land and he will strengthen our frame. We will be like a well-watered garden. We will be like a spring whose waters never fail.'

I have chosen these words today because I am wondering if you are a well-watered garden. Are you watered with the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ? Does Christ always guide you? Does Christ always satisfy your needs even in the sun scorched land of this world?

Christ can give you strength for your frame. Are you truly like a well-watered garden? Are you the kind of person who others always seem to want to come back too?

I have always felt good about myself and life. I have been given a wonderful gift of sharing God's love. My smile is welcoming and my eyes may have been grown older and dim but the love in my heart seems to shine bright!

How about you? Have you always felt good about yourself and life? Have you shared the wonderful gift of God's love? Is your smile welcoming and are your eyes reflecting the love of Jesus Christ?

A garden hose can develop a kink in it. When a garden hose gets a kink, we encounter a problem getting water out of the hose. How many times have you had to struggle with a kink in your garden hose? Oh, we pull and tug on the hose, but most of the time that just makes it worse. We try to stretch it out farther, but the water we need for the garden just trickles out the end of the hose because it has a kink in it.

Aggravated, we trace the hose back until we find the kink. We gently untwist it and, lo and behold, the water starts flowing again. We then continue our watering.

Many times in our lives these occurrence happens with the Living Water Christ gives us. We go along being filled with the Lord for a while, but then we start struggling and pulling to go our own way. The Living Water within us, which is the love of Jesus, cannot flow because we have a kink in our life.

We must pause and trace our hose of Living Water back to see where the kink is. Then, and only then, when we find our kink and straighten it out - the flow of Living Water is restored. We then become again like a spring whose water bursts forth. We become like a bubbling source of merriment and love. We then can proclaim the goodness of the Lord.

I knew a person who was like this – Ruth Woolcock was one of those rare people I have met in my life who seemed to never have a kink in her hose of love. In my visits with her in her late stages of life, she often would help me find my kinks and straighten them out. And she did this without trying. Her garden hose of love through Jesus Christ could stretch a long way.

Have you ever met a person like Ruth who made you feel the Living Water of Jesus Christ through their hose of life? If you have, your life was blessed having known him or her!

What I wants you to know is that we need to fix the kinks in our hoses of Living Water that Jesus supplies because we all need help with our gardens. We need to step up and become gardeners for Jesus.

In three weeks it will be Labor Day Sunday. On that Sunday, I would like to lift up all those people who had well-watered gardens in their life and who shared their faith of Jesus Christ with you so that your kinks in your hose of Living Water flowed stronger.

Enclosed in your bulletin is a little slip of paper on which I would like you to write down the name or names of those people living or dead who helped your garden of faith and helped you with your kinks in your hose of Living Water.

Let me pause for 5 minutes to give you time to write down those names. After 5 minutes, I will come around with a basket for you to put your names in.

For those watching virtually, please email me or text me or call me or the church to share your names of those people living or dead who helped your garden of faith and helped you with your kinks in your hose of Living Water.

Amy, would you play some music while we wait.

Let us pray:

O God, we thank you for the people you send our way as examples of love and selfless service for Jesus. And thank you for fixing the kinks in my hose of Living Water. AMEN.