

HE-BREWS THE BEST

DH 11.28.11

It was the worst of pots...

I waited..., and I waited..., and I waited some more. Imagine if you will, a freight train starting down the tracks, picking up speed, getting louder as it comes closer...yet never actually arriving at its destination. But how could such a small thing make so much racket, and take so long? I never really knew what I was up against until one day...

I HAD HAD ENOUGH!

After waiting for about an hour for four cups of coffee to brew, the coffee maker finally came in for a landing. I had put in six cups of water, but only about four cups came out. Somewhere in that machine, I can only assume, the other two cups were being held captive:) The coffee was as dark as coal and almost as thick as motor oil. I was so desperate for coffee after waiting so



Dirty coffee maker makes dirty coffee...yuch!

long that I actually poured myself a cup. I had to use about a half a cup of creamer just to lighten the color to a dark brown. Not really sure what would happen, but desperate for my first cup of coffee of the day, I slowly, carefully raised the cup to my lips and took a sip...words cannot adequately describe how nasty that was! Needless to say, I had to go find coffee elsewhere that day. It was the worst pot of coffee my fancy thirty-five dollar coffee maker had ever brewed. It was bitter and believe me, so was I.

The coffee maker had begun to deteriorate about two months before. Sure, I had noticed that my coffee was taking ten times longer than it should have, and sure, I noticed the machine was making strange and unusual breathing sounds like Dr.

Who's telephone booth spaceship right before it would take off, but I was in denial that there was a problem:). So, I just kept on making coffee, day after day, pot after pot until that fateful day when I came to my senses and decided to either buy a new coffee maker or clean the old one. I chose the latter.

THE CLEANSING PROCESS

Armed with pure, white vinegar, I went to work. I knew it was bad, so I poured about four cups of straight vinegar into the machine and pressed 'play.' (start:) What came out in that first pot, I can't even describe to you. And to think that for at least a month and a half I had been drinking coffee that was going through all that sludge! I don't feel so good even writing that. Well, the second pot was better, but still had a bunch of sediment and little chunks of something in the bottom of the pot. Then I ran out of vinegar and started the process of running clean water through the machine. On the first clean water run through, the coffee maker was back to its speedy self, and brewed twelve cups in about three minutes! Ok, so here's my point:)

Our spiritual lives are a lot like that dirty coffee maker. Because of a lack of maintenance, we can get gunked up. Sludge starts to develop in us. Spiritual sediment caused by things like: bitterness, unforgiveness, lying, gossip, anger, lust, jealousy, pride, fear, condemnation and the like. We start to deteriorate in our hearts. Our spiritual walk is so slow that it's more like a crawl than a walk. What comes out of us can be ugly to say the least, and even hateful at times. We make a lot of noise, but never actually make any good progress. Instead of 'rivers of living water' flowing from us, it's more like a stagnant, stinky, oosing sewage pond. Ouch! I know that sounds harsh, but according to Hebrews

12:15, I'm fairly sure that God is quite serious about His children staying spiritually clean. He warns us of what can happen when we harbor bitterness, and it's not pretty.

We all sin, that's for sure, but when we do, we should go immediately to Jesus and ask forgiveness. 1 John 1:9 says that confessing our sins (as they happen) is the way to be cleansed from ALL unrighteousness. So the vinegar here would be confession of sins and faith in Jesus' blood that was shed on the cross. And as cleansings go, we'll probably need to repeat the process many times to make sure it's all gone:)

IT WAS THE BEST OF POTS

Not only did my coffee brew faster than the speed of light (and oh, so quietly too:), but the coffee also tasted better than when we first bought the machine! The cleaning process made it better than before!

It's the same way with us as Christians. Once we are cleansed from unforgiveness, bitterness, and sin of all kinds, we are taken to another level of quality in our walk with Christ because now we are clean pots that Jesus can work with. As Philippians 2:13 says, "for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." **When we let Jesus make the coffee through us, everyone around us will know that HE-BREWS the best!** Peace, Denise

O taste and see that the LORD is good!
Psalm 34:8

SIDE NOTE: I find it curious that while Jesus was on the cross, they gave Him vinegar to drink (Matt. 27:48, and Psalm 69:21)

On the cross, Jesus who knew no sin BECAME sin for us! (2 Cor. 5:21) Vinegar cleaned the sludge from my coffee maker... Humm, very interesting... :)

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; Hebrews 12:15