

Parable of the Water Feature



I love the little water feature in my garden. The water is stored at the bottom and an electric pump sends it up to the top tier and it cascades down into the bowls and back into the base again. Very clever but very simple. I can stand at my kitchen window and watch the sun catch on the bubbles as they bounce on top of each water bowl and then burst. But hey, just a minute, why is there only a trickle of water? There must not be enough water in the base to cover the pump so where has the water gone???? To find the answer to this question please read the following '**PARABLE OF THE WATER FEATURE**'.

CAT. Next door have a couple of cats and one of them loves to come and drink the not-so-clean water in the water feature. The owner puts out a dish of lovely clean water several times a day but Joey prefers to drink the mucky water in my fountain instead. I think he likes to eat the little grubs that are floating around in the water – extra protein!

This reminds me of people who used to come to church but then found something more interesting to do on a Sunday instead of attending church.

SUN. When the sun shines it dries up some of the water and it evaporates and vanishes. There are some who do not find church/Jesus interesting enough and after a while they dry up and no longer want to know about Jesus.

WIND. When it is quite windy I have to switch off the fountain because the wind blows the cascades over the sides of the water bowls.

This is like those who are easily blown from one church to another and do not commit themselves to one particular fellowship or denomination. They often get fed-up with a particular doctrine or preacher or someone may say something that upsets them and then off they go on their travels to another church.

BIRD. There is a large bird that loves to stand under one of the cascades in one of the lower bowls and have a shower. He really enjoys himself and shows off, flapping his wings and flirting the water all over everywhere. He is rather cheeky too because I shoo him away and then as soon as I come back into the house and close the door he comes back again for another shower!

Have you met people who are a bit like this? They show off about how they read their Bibles or how much they pray and forget about the Bible passage that tells us to pray in secret and that our prayers are between ourselves and God and not something that we announce to everyone.

WOODLICE. The bowls are made of something similar to fibreglass. There is a double layer with a space in between so woodlice find it a lovely place to live as it is nice and dry and safe with easy access to water. In one place there must have been a bit of a weakness in the fibreglass because the woodlice managed to burrow a little hole into one of the bowls, which of course, means that the bowl leaks. I have managed to put a bit of blu-tac over the hole but unfortunately it gets dislodged by the bird's feet when he has a shower!

There are lots of folk who have a 'hole' in their body so are unable to function properly. Maybe they have an illness or do not enjoy very good health. There are also those with unseen illnesses of the mind, which can be very debilitating.

DUCK. As you can see there is a little duck floating on the top tier. This was given to me about fifteen years ago by one of the children in church. I am afraid she is no longer a nice little yellow duck because she is back to a dull plastic colour as she has been swimming around for such a long time! From her lofty position she can see everything that is going on around her in the garden. She can see the slugs crawl out when it is wet weather and the snails leaving their slime trails. She also knows when I do not get around to watering the garden and notices that some of the plants are sagging a bit through lack of water!

Jesus is able to see everything that is going on. He knows exactly what we are doing, saying and thinking every moment of our lives. He is the one person from whom we can never hide. We do not fully understand about His omniscience in this way but we believe that this is the nature of Jesus.

GNOME. My Mam gave me this large garden gnome that stands at the side of the water feature so it is very precious to me. He has also been there about fifteen years. He is rather weather-beaten and the paint has worn off his face and head. He is an extremely patient gnome because even though he has stood there a long time he has still only managed to catch that one fish!

Jesus too is very patient. He catches lots of 'fish' but is never satisfied because there are always others whom He would like to catch with His rod. He was there at the very beginning of creation, He was there when each of us was first formed and wants to be part of each of our lives. He is there to draw us into His Kingdom so that we will be in eternity with Him. He will never be weather-beaten like my garden gnome and is there waiting patiently for every one of us.

