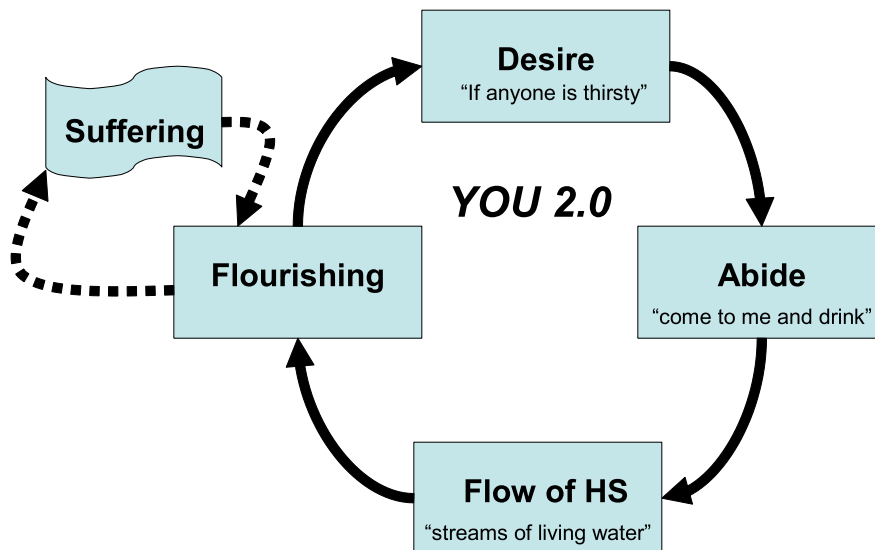


**Notes & Quotes – March 28, 2010**  
**Caution Ahead...Camels, Cups & Tombs**  
**Matthew 23**

Series: Refuel...Hydrating the soul



**“Life is shaped by the end you live for. You are made in the image of what you desire.”**  
 – Thomas Merton

*Matthew 23:23-24*

*23 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices-- mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law-- justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. 24 You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel."*

Pharisees = influential Jewish sect, separated ones, pious, deeply devoted to religious law

**hypocrites** = hupokrites (hoop-ok-ree-tace') = word literally means a pretender, someone who's playing the part but not living the life

**blind guides** = instead of guiding people to life in the Kingdom of God they were leading people astray, the ones being looked to for wisdom were offering foolishness

**straining gnat** = the Pharisees were very conscientious about making sure whatever they were eating or drinking was ceremonially clean so they would strain their wine through thin white cloth in order to sift out the gnats that has decided to take a sip or two.

**Man with Shriveled Hand (Matthew 12)**



**Matthew 23:25-26**

25 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

**Matthew 23:27-28**

27 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

**Markers for camels, cups & tombs...**

- start believing its your role to keep an eye on everyone else's spiritual life
- stop rejoicing with others over the goodness they are experiencing
- more focused on external behaviors than internal health
- life is centered around the *ought to's* over & above the *want to's*
- an atmosphere of posing, pretending & artificiality around your life
- spend more time criticizing than learning
- little compassion for others brokenness, a countenance of self-righteousness

"The spiritual life might be defined as the development of personality in the realm of faith and grace. My Christian personality is not just a vegetative existence; I am a unique and radiant center of personal

thought and feeling. Rather than living a routine existence in mere conformity with the crowd, the emerging child reminds me I have a face of my own, gives me courage to be myself, protects me against being like everybody else, and calls forth that living, vibrant, magnificent image of Jesus Christ that is within me waiting only to unfold and be expressed.” – Brennan Manning

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