



MATTHEW 25

*"I was hungry...I was thirsty...I was a stranger...I needed clothes...
I was sick...I was in prison, and you came. Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of
the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*
(Matthew 25 NRSV)

For I was thirsty and you gave me drink...

FACTS

- According to a 2014 Government Accountability Report, 40 out of 50 state water managers expect water shortages under average conditions in some portion of their states over the next decade.
- More than 2 million Americans live without the conveniences of turning on the tap or flushing the toilet. Native Americans are more likely to have trouble accessing water than any other group. (NPR, Nov. 18, 2019)
- Each American uses an average of 82 gallons of water a day at home. (USGS, Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2015)
- The average American family spends more than \$1,000 per year in water costs. The average Columbus family paid \$1,180.60 for water in 2020. (10tv report Dec. 2019)
- Columbus has an average daily use of 122 gallons of water per person. (OSU Byrd research center)

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS AROUND THE TABLE

How many times did you drink water today? Wash your hands? Flush a toilet?

Why is clean water so important to our health?

How would our lives be different if it wasn't easy to get clean water?

What Bible stories come to mind when you think about water?

Re-read Matthew 25: 31-40. How does this passage connect for you with the issue of thirst? Does it change how you view the facts above, your prayers, or actions? If so, how?

WAYS TO PRAY

Thank God for the clean water you have to drink, wash, and flush a toilet each day.

Ask God to help those who don't have access to clean water.

Pray for the 10 million people of Niger who don't have access to clean water and where Michael and Rachel Ludwig serve as missionaries.

Action Items

1. Visit the O'Shaughnessy Dam and take a walk along the Scioto River. Read the signage and think about the river as the main water source for the city of Columbus.
2. Check the storm drains on your street. Clean up any trash or debris that might have accumulated. Do not wash or dump any yard waste or spills out into the road or down into the storm drains and road ditches.
3. Plant native-to-Ohio plants in your garden this summer.
4. Install a rain barrel.
5. Write a letter to a Columbus City Council or your local officials encouraging them to protect both surface water and drinking water quality.

Please interact with the videos and websites below to engage more with the topics of thirst, water conservation, water accessibility, and clean water





Local information

Columbus water facts <https://www.columbus.gov/utilities/about/Water-Facts>

“Sustaining Scioto.” Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

https://www.morpc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/1.SustainingScioto_ExecutiveSummary_FinalUpdate.pdf

Ohio information

Lessons from the Toledo Water Crisis <https://greatlakes.org/2019/08/five-years-later-lessons-from-the-toledo-water-crisis/>

National information

“WaterSense.” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense>

How President Biden’s infrastructure plan effects water quality

<https://waterfm.com/biden-unveils-2-trillion-infrastructure-plan-water-sector-reacts/>

National Church information

Presbyterian Mission Agency - Living Waters for the World partnerships

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/living-waters-for-the-world-celebrates-1000-clean-water-partnerships/>