

“ATM”

A Lord’s Flock General Assembly Topic

By: Sis Techie “Soar” Rodriguez, Elder-Founder TLF
February 13, 2021

Automated teller machines (ATM) have made our life a lot easier. We can encash whenever we want, almost wherever we are. Yet it has some drawbacks: it can get empty. But we should not worry, for there is an ATM that never runs low. It does not have encashment limit; it is always available, and more importantly, it is free! It is the Spiritual ATM: Ask the Master.

1. What does it mean to be ‘Empty’?

1.1 Emptiness can mean many things. Yet, being empty can also be an emotional state – an unpleasant, unwanted condition. Many might have already experienced this void within, and some might have tried to fill this void by seeking treasures and accomplishments. Still, none of these completely satisfies.

1.2 Even King Solomon, in all his wisdom and riches, believes that everything is meaningless (Ecclesiastes 1:2). In each of us, there is just this vacuum that nothing but only God can fill this void.

1.3 Jesus knows when we are running empty. When Jesus passed through Samaria, He did it intending to meet the Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-30). He came to address her brokenness.

1.4 Before we can hunger and thirst for Christ, we must first realize that other things in our lives can never satisfy us. Upon receiving Jesus, the Living Water, the Samaritan Woman completely forgot about her water pot, deeming it worthless now.

2. What do we do when we are Depressed or Discouraged?

2.1 Come to Jesus in prayer (Isaiah 61:1-2).

2.2 Connect with other Christians (Galatians 6:2)

3. What are the Steps to follow before Jesus can fill our Life with Overflowing Joy?

3.1. Admit that there is a Problem

Jesus’ first miracle, the turning of water into wine, offers an example on how to receive God’s overwhelming joy in our lives.

Wine is essential in Jewish celebrations – it symbolizes joy. The newlyweds might have become anxious by the mishap. Similarly, we are stressed with things that we have not anticipated. In such cases, we should be willing to admit to God that we have a problem.

3.2. Bring the Problem to Jesus

When the wine ran out, Mama Mary sought help from Jesus. Just as He was present in the wedding feast to resolve the problem, Jesus is also present among us right now. At times we might feel otherwise but we should not stop, just as Mother Mary did not, despite the seemingly cold reply from her Son.

3.3 Do whatever Jesus tells You to Do to solve the Problem

Jesus' presence in the wedding alone did not bring the solution. To truly experience His presence, He should be our Lord and Master and not just our guest. We should be willing to follow his instructions and allow Him to take control of whatever problems we encounter.

4. Conclusion

We should commit/entrust ourselves to Jesus, the Problem Solver. He recharges our weak spirit and washes away our emptiness. Hence, if we are willing to submit ourselves to Jesus and be obedient enough to follow his instructions, we will be rewarded with overflowing joy. The amount of joy we will experience is directly proportional to the amount of obedience that we give.

5. Reflection :

Is it possible to have trials and temptations and still have joy? How does this happen?

Transcriber/Writer: Bro Jerald Tristan R. Doma
Approved/Final Edited by: Sis Vera I. Tuplano

For more teachings, visit our website:
<https://lordsflock.org/teachings/readingmaterials>

Tags: #Miracles #Joy #Obedience #Emptiness
#Depression #Discouraged