

STIRRING THE WELL

I was talking recently with a young woman who has a history of drug abuse and schizophrenia. My heart ached for all she has been through including a lot of sexual abuse. As we talked about some of the trials she has been through, including multiple hospitalizations in psych hospitals, several arrests, and the like, I asked her to imagine a deep well filled with clean spring water, except that down at the very bottom was all this crud that had settled there over the years, old rotted limbs, trash and the like. I told her that our hearts are a lot like that well. There's all sort of junk that has settled in the recesses of our heart.

I then asked, "Do you know how God gets the junk up from the bottom of our wells?" He'll stir the waters, and all that buried stuff that we carry in our hearts comes floating to the surface so we can deal with it.

God often uses affliction to not only get our attention, but also to stir things up so they can be skimmed off until the whole heart is cleansed and healed.

Do you remember, in Revelation, chapter three, where Jesus was speaking to the church of Laodicea? He said they thought they were rich and in need of nothing, yet Jesus said they were poor, blind and naked and didn't even realize it. They were lukewarm and were about ready to be spit out of His mouth. What cure did Jesus recommend? He said they should buy from Him gold tested by fire. What was strong enough to purge them? It was fiery trials where they would learn to rest on Him and not trust in their worldly resources to save them. For much of the church in America we are like the Laodiceans.

It is important to honestly evaluate ourselves and call a spade a spade. There is nothing much worse than truth known too late.