

FREEDOM IN A CUP by Laura L. Shaw

My kids loved the movie Open Season. One of their favorite lines from the movie is when Elliot drinks some coffee that he found in the dumpster and says, "(sip) Ew. (sip) EW. (sip) EW! (*flying off the handle with the jolt of caffeine*) ***It's terrible and wonderful at the same time! It's freedom in a cup!!!***" Now, being the coffee connoisseur that I am, that line has stuck with me. It could also be that all 3 of my kids have taken turns quoting this line in character, oh, let's say a hundred times or so, but whatever the case, it's an interesting line...

Although with no comedic tone, I say something similar in my mind almost every time I read the following verse in each of the gospel accounts:

***"He went away a second time and prayed,
'My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away
unless I drink it, may Your will be done.'"***

Matthew 26:42

Ew. Talk about being terrible and wonderful at the same time. Terrible for Jesus, wonderful for us. Terrible that He knew how painful it would be to die on the cross. Wonderful that He did the will of the Father anyway. The cup of obedience to death meant freedom to live for us.

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

John 8:36

***"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then,
and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of
slavery."***

Galatians 5:1

What should we do with this freedom then? LIVE like we've been freed, that's what!!! Before we were slaves to sin, now we're not, if we are saved ones! It says so in 1 Corinthians 10:13: ***"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."*** SEE, Even when we're tempted by sin, we've been given the power and the freedom to escape it! Praise the Lord!

WHAT CUP HAS HE GIVEN YOU TO DRINK RIGHT NOW?
ARE YOU WILLING TO SUBMIT YOUR WILL TO HIS WILL?

Remember His cup and ponder your own each time you sip your terrible but wonderful at the same time java (or tea) each morning... It's so easy to keep the knowledge of our Savior's sacrifice tucked away in the corner of our minds, but if we reflect on it day after day, it will surely soak in and change us from the inside out as a result. As we receive pleasure according to His will, thank Him! As we endure pain according to His will, follow Christ's example! Let's live, breathe and obey in freedom as FREED ones, friends. It's the only thing better than a coffee buzz!

*"For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead,
He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him.*

*The death He died, He died to sin once for all;
but the life He lives, He lives to God.*

*In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin
but alive to God in Christ Jesus."*

Romans 6:9-11