

11/11/2018

Living Waters

John 7:37-39: ³⁷ *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him **come to Me and drink**.* ³⁸ *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."* ³⁹ *But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

This story happened at the end of the Feast of Tabernacles, or Sukkot (v.2). This was the last day of a Jewish feast that goes on for 8 days. This feast was instituted to commemorate among other things, the miracle of water gushing out of a Rock in Meribah (Exodus 17). Just like every one of the feasts of the Jews, this one also pointed to Jesus:

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 - *Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, [...] ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.*

This is probably one the most profound invitations of Jesus, because we see it interwoven in the scriptures literally from Exodus to Revelation.

Revelation 21:6 *And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*

Revelation 22:17: *And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*

From the beginning of the Bible to its last book, we see Jesus revealed and an invitation extended for everyone to come and drink.

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On the last day of the feast, the priest would leave the temple area and would go with a procession of people to the pool of Siloam (which actually means 'the Sent One' – another sign pointing to Jesus).

This pool was fed by a natural spring. In Jewish culture 'living water' always referred to the kind of water from a spring, or a flowing river - never from a cistern or a reservoir.

On this day, the priest would take a jug and dip it into the spring and then would take it to the temple area to be poured out before the Lord, on the altar. Precisely at the

moment the priest is pouring the water, Jesus stands up and with a loud voice invites all to come to Him and receive living water

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

What a shock that must have been to those in the temple. But what happened to the invitation? - some accepted, some rejected:

V.40-41 - *⁴⁰ Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” ⁴¹ Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee?*

In the same book of John, we see Jesus extending the same promise of water to a woman and she accepted it!

John 4:10,14-15 - *¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”*

¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”

Therefore, many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the prophet”. Others said, “This is the Christ”

To the Jews waiting for the Messiah, this was one of the greatest signs that indeed Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for. Some identified Him immediately.

Isaiah 55:1 – *“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters” ...*

But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee?”

Some believed and accepted but some rejected. Jeremiah, the prophet prophesied about that:

Jeremiah 2:13 - *For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.*

Jeremiah 18:14 - *Will a man leave the snow water of Lebanon, which comes from the rock of the field? Will the cold flowing waters [not stagnant] be forsaken for strange waters?*

We'll return to Jeremiah in a moment but for now, let us go back to our opening text in the book of John. In **John 8:1-12** we see that Jesus went back to the temple the next morning and they brought to him a woman caught in adultery.

As the crowd waited for a response, Jesus started writing on the earth. What was He writing?

Let us go back to Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 17:13-14 - ¹³ *O Lord, the hope of Israel, all who forsake You shall be ashamed. “Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters.”*

Jesus was writing about their rejection of Him, or possibly even the very names of those same men.

They were ashamed. They realised the implications of their rejection of Jesus because there is more hope for a sinner *with* Jesus, than a religious person *without* Jesus!

With Jesus there is always forgiveness, with Jesus there is always a second chance. With Jesus there are living waters, the quenching of thirst, satisfaction, the Holy Spirit, power and life. Outside Jesus there is only religion, cisterns that can't hold water and the stench of stagnation.

Today, the invitation still stands. If you believe His invitation and receive it, the Holy Spirit will flow out of your live, like a river that can't be stopped, a life-giving river and you will never thirst again.