

LIVING WATER

Wednesday, March 22

Reading: John 7-8

John 7:37 *On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to Me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in Me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." 39 By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

About six months have passed since Jesus' last confrontation with the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem (Passover is in April; Tabernacles in in October). Jesus had spent this time in Galilee but His return to Jerusalem stirred up controversy again. While the religious leaders want to arrest Jesus, the people had split opinions about Him.

The last day of the Feast of Tabernacles was filled with joy and ceremony. A priest would draw a pitcher of water from the pool of Siloam to symbolize God's provision of water in the wilderness. He would then carry it into the Temple with much pomp and a chorus of priests singing the psalms. As he approached the altar the people would shout the words of Isaiah 12:3: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation."

The climax of the ceremony was when the priest poured the water onto the altar amidst the joy of the assembled people. It is at this moment that Jesus stands and loudly proclaims: "Let anyone who is thirsty come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

Jesus is echoing the promises of God in the Old Testament and applying them to Himself. He is the Source of salvation and hope for the soul that thirsts for God.

Isaiah 55:1 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters...2 Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to Me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. 3 Give ear and come to Me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, My faithful love promised to David.

Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring, and My blessing on your descendants.

Jesus' debate with the religious leaders comes to a climax when the Jewish leaders claim they are children of Abraham and Jesus responds that their father is actually the devil. He then proclaims that "Before Abraham was, I am." By this clear reference to the name of God (Exodus 3:14), Jesus is stating that He is eternal God. The religious leaders understand this and try to stone Him for blasphemy but He escapes.

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. Are you thirsty for the things of God? Has your soul been satisfied with the living water found only in Christ? Jesus was speaking about the Spirit who would indwell all those who put their faith in Him. How are you experiencing the Spirit's power and presence flowing through your life?
2. Jesus said the actions of the religious leaders showed who their true father was. Our lives should show who our true Father is as well. When someone looks at your life, are they able to see your heavenly Father? How do your thoughts, words, actions, and attitudes resemble what God is like? Or do they blend in with the ways of the world that is controlled by Satan?

READING THE STORY: Mark 7-13