The Blessing of the 8th Day

John 7:37-39

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Feast of Tabernacles
- The seventh chapter of John takes place within the span of eight days.
  - It starts with a note that the Feast of Tabernacles was beginning and comes to its climax on the last day of the feast, aptly described as “that great day of the feast.”
  - It begins with Jesus going up to the feast alone and in secret, disguising his own identity.
  - But it ends with Jesus throwing back the cloak of anonymity and declaring for all to hear who he is and what he came to do.
- In order to fully glean the significance of what took place on that last day, in that pivotal moment of Jesus’ ministry
  - We need to take a look at the first seven days of the feast.
- Some Jewish writers tell us that during the observance of the first seven days of this holy holiday
  - Water was carried each day in golden vessels from the pool of Siloam, and poured out in the presence of the assembled worshipers in the temple.
  - Other Jewish authors tell us that as time passed this observance evolved to a state where
    - There was a procession of priests that, for seven days, went with empty vessels outside the city to the brook Kidron, filled their vessels with water and marched back to the Temple where they poured their water out.
      - This was a continual observance throughout the first seven days of the feast
  - There was a constant background noise of water being poured out in the Temple.
    - There was the constant backdrop of a procession of priests going to and from the Brook Kidron.
- It would be hard to do anything during those seven days without taking notice of this continual ceremony that was taking place
  - That’s the way God intended it, there was a significance to what was taking place.
    - And the observation of this portion of the feast was designed in such a way that you could not ignore it.
Everyone had to take notice of the procession of priests going back and forth and the constant sound of water being poured upon the altar.

- The ceremony served a two-fold purpose:

**First: Blessing God**

- First, It was designed to remind them that when they were in a dry and barren wilderness and they desperately longed for cool refreshing water
  - That God met their need…
  - That water flowed from a rock.
    - That wells sprung up in dry valleys
  - This constant procession of priests was an undeniable reminder to all who saw them that “God is your provider.”
    - He is the one who supplies your every need.
      - They didn’t want to ever forget that the same God that provide water in barren places
        - Could meet the needs of everyday life!
- I’ve come to tell someone in this place tonight that He is your provider!
  - Abraham called Him Jehovah-Jireh which literally means, “The God who sees ahead and provides”
    - When Abraham received the revelation of the name Jehovah Jireh, it was when he understood that, **before I ever climbed that mountain, God met my need.**
      - Before I ever arrived at the altar, God provided himself a lamb!
        - Because that’s the kind of God he is!
          - He’s a blessing God!
  - God knows exactly where you are tonight!
    - He knows exactly what you are facing.
      - He knows every problem,
      - every circumstance,
      - every situation that you face.
    - But he doesn’t just know **where** you are:
      - He knew you would be there, before you got there.
        - He knew what you would need before you needed it.
    - I’ve come to this pulpit tonight to tell you that He’s the God that sees ahead and provides for you!
  - He’s already made a way,
    - Because that’s the kind of God he is,
      - He’s a blessing God!
      - He is your Provider.
      - He is your Way-Maker!
  - He’ll make a way when there seems to be no way,
    - Because that’s the kind of God he is!
• When the situation seems impossible,
• When the odds defy your faith
  o You can trust in him,
  o He is your provider!
  ▪ That’s just the way He is,
  • He is your blessing God!
  o Israel wasn’t always faithful in the wilderness,
  ▪ but there was always water!
    • When they turned back to him, He was always there.
      o He was that constant rock from which refreshing water flowed
   ■ I’ve come to tell you tonight that you need to get your eyes off of your circumstances and place them back on him.
     o You need to see him for who he really is.
       ▪ He is that immovable rock,
       ▪ planted in your barren wilderness,
       ▪ from which your blessings flow!
       • He is your blessing God,
       • He is your provider!
     o He has a plan for your life, he has a purpose for you
       ▪ Everything you’ll ever need, you will find in him.
     o Could I tell you tonight that every good gift comes from our heavenly father?
       ▪ Outside of him there is no fulfillment
         • There is no meaning or purpose to your life,
           o outside of the will of God.
         • There is no satisfaction for your soul
           o outside of his provision.
       ▪ But in him there is rest.
         • In Him there is peace.
           o In Him there is fulfillment!
         • He is your provider!
           o He is your blessing God!
       ▪ He is the one that watches over you and always causes you to triumph!
         • I’ve been preaching this for weeks now, only in God will your life ever be complete!
     o He makes you whole, If you will put your faith in him you’ll be able to say, like David said,
       ▪ Ps 37:23-24
         • 23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.
         • 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.
• 25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

  o That’s just the kind of God I serve!
    ▪ He is a provider.
      • When I was sick,
        o he was my healer
      • When I was weary,
        o he was my refreshing
      • When I was cast down,
        o He lifted me up!
    ▪ He is my blessing God!

■ Water was a precious commodity!
  o In the dry arid climate of the Middle East,
    ▪ Water was one of the foundational building blocks of life.
      • Without water, you couldn’t live in that hard, dry, barren land.
  o The processional of priests pouring their water upon the altar was a statement of their absolute trust in God.
    ▪ Nothing was as important to their success as a community as that water.
      • Nothing was as central to life as that water.
  o So when they began that long processional of priests from the Brook Kidron to the altar of the Lord they were taking that most fundamental element of life and sacrificing it upon the altar of the Lord.
    ▪ In essence, they were saying, this is how much we trust you God!
      • We are stepping out on faith.
        o If the brook runs dry this year our lives will be in jeopardy.
      • That water is more precious than anything in this life.
        o But, in an extravagant demonstration of worship, they wasted that water on the altar of the Lord.
  o What they were saying was, God we recognize that the brook is not our provider.
    ▪ The deep pool that we draw the water from is not our provider.
      • Our trust isn’t in the river, our trust isn’t in the rains.
        o Our trust is in the maker of heaven and earth.
    ▪ And, as we pour this precious water on the altar
      • We are declaring, for everyone to hear, that you are our provider.
    ▪ If the brook runs dry,
      • you are the one that will provide for us.
    ▪ If the heavens are closed and no more rain falls,
      • we are placing our faith and our trust fully in you.
Because YOU ARE OUR PROVIDER!
- Somebody in this place tonight needs to recognize that simple truth.
  - God is your provider.
    - Not your employer, Not your doctor,
    - not the government, not the economy.
  - God is the one that takes care of you.
    - If everything else falls apart.
      - If everything else fades away.
  - He will still be there,
    - he will still be watching over you
      - and, if you put your trust in him, He will still be your provider!

- I wonder what would happen, if someone in this place were to fully put your trust in the provider.
  - He is your way maker.
  - Every good gift comes from Him.
    - And if it all dried up tomorrow,
    - if tomorrow you lost everything.
      - His provision will not abandon you.
      - His right hand will still uphold you!
        - Because He is your blessing God!

- Second: More than Enough
  - There was another dimension to the sacrifice of water.
  - The second purpose of this daily ritual was to make the bold statement that God had fulfilled his promise.
    - God had brought them up out of a barren wilderness into the land of their promise
    - And, now, they had an abundant supply of water.
    - For seven days a year they participated in this reckless waste of a precious resource as a way of making a statement that, not only had God met their need, but he had provided them with more than enough!
  - It was a reminder that, not only was he a blessing God…
    - Not only is he enough to meet all of your needs
    - But He is the God of more than enough!
    - He is the God of abundance!
  - He’s the God that said to Abraham, Gen 22:17, “in blessing I will bless you”
    - I’m not just going to bless you, but while I’m blessing you, I’m going to go out of my way to bless you again!
    - I’m going to show you that I am more than enough!
  - He’s the God that promised (Deut 28:2-13):
    - 2And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you if you heed the voice of the Lord your God.
• 3Blessed shall you be in the city and blessed shall you be in the field.
• 4Blessed shall be the fruit of your body and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your beasts, the increase of your cattle and the young of your flock.
• 5Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading trough.
• 6Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out.
• 7The Lord shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.
• 8The Lord shall command the blessing upon you in your storehouse and in all that you undertake. And He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God gives you.
• 12The Lord shall open to you His good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

I want you to realize tonight that your God is a blessing God

  • He delights in blessing you!
    o He says, I’m not just going to meet your every need,
      • I’m going to give you the desire of your heart.
    o I’m not just going to provide for you,
      • but I’m going to give it to you, “pressed down, shaken together and running over!”
    o When I get done with you, you’re not just going to have your needs met
      • You’re going to be living in the overflow,
      • you’re going to be living in the abundance of my good favor

David’s 23rd Psalm could be summed up in four words, “I shall not want.”

  o It is an awesome testimony to the provision of God, but the capstone is at the end of the 5th verse…
    • David said
      • “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
      • You anoint my head with oil;
      • (And, as if that’s not enough…)
      • My cup runs over!”

  • Same culture. Water was a precious commodity.
    • To give someone a cup of water was a tremendous blessing.
    • To fill a cup to the brim was a sign of great favor and extravagant blessing!
• But God didn’t stop there.
• He blessed me by filling my cup up!
• But when my cup was full he just kept right on blessing me until my cup was running over!
  ▪ He’s more than just a blessing God.
  ▪ He is the God of abundance – He’s more than enough!
  o You serve a God that wants to meet your need, but he’s not interested in stopping there!
    ▪ He’ll do more than you ever imagined.
    • His plans for you are exceeding and abundantly above anything you could ever ask or think!
      o He’s got bigger plans for you than you ever imagined.
      o He wants to shower you with blessing upon blessing!
    ▪ He wants to give you more than you would ever dare to ask!
  o He is your abundant God!

■ That constant background sound of water being poured upon an altar was a continual reminder, for seven complete days,
  o that God was their provider and that, in providing for them, he had given them more than they could ever need!
  o It was an elaborate testimony of the excessive blessings of God!
    ▪ As they heard that sound of water being poured on the altar, all of Israel was reminded
      • Over and over again
      • That God had provided for them
      • That he had blessed them with an abundance.
      • That his provision was more than enough!
    ▪ They were saying, loud and long, MY GOD IS MORE THAN ENOUGH!

■ The Great Day of the Feast
  o On the 8th day it all changed.
    ▪ This final day stands in stark contrast to the previous seven, for on the morning of the 8th day there was no procession of priests.
    ▪ There was an unsettling silence that settled upon the Temple.
    ▪ The constant roar of water stopped and the silence was, in and of itself, deafening.
  o It was a feast day, John called it the great day of the feast.
    ▪ There would be celebration of the physical blessings that God had provided
    ▪ There would be plenty of food and drink, a bountiful table prepared from the abundance of God’s blessing.
The Blessing Of The 8th Day

- But the absence of the procession of priests would be on the back of every mind.

- The biggest statement of that feast was made on that 8th and final day, when the offering of the water ceased!
  - **It served as a statement and a reminder to the people of God that even though their physical needs had been met, there was a promise of a spiritual refreshing that had not yet been fulfilled.**
  - Israel wanted for nothing, she was blessed with the abundance of God’s overflow.
    - Still yet there was a **spiritual desire** that remained unmet.
  - Just as the body thirsted in the wilderness, so the soul thirsts for a spiritual refreshing
  - Even the multitude of material blessings could never quench this thirsting of the soul

- It was a sobering reminder, that there was a promised rest that had not yet been given
  - Although Israel had inhabited her physical promised land, their was a spiritual promise that had not yet been obtained!
    - Every man and woman that walked into the great feast that day was reminded again that there was a spiritual component to their life that was unsatisfied.
    - It was the though that was on every mind at the feast.
    - Every heart cried out for the day when the Lord would pour out his spirit in the same extravagant manner that the priests had been pouring water over the altar for seven consecutive days!
  - Can I tell you that all of the good things of this life will never satisfy your soul?
    - There is a certain thirsting of the soul that nothing in this life can ever quench.
    - There is a certain desire on the inside that longs for a very specific touch.
      - The bread of this world will never satisfy the hunger of your soul.
      - There is a deep, deep thirsting that will never be quenched by anything in this world.
  - That’s why you can be showered with the wealth of this world, and surrounded with friends and family and still that hidden part of your heart that feels so lonely and empty…

- It was **that** feeling that was on the back of everyone’s mind
  - I’m thirsty for something that I can’t find at this feast.
    - They were surrounded by plenty, they wer sitting among the excess
      - But every one there was thirsty for something that this life, something that this world, can’t provide!
  - David spoke for all of humanity when he said, Ps 42:1-2, **“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”**
My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"

- This is the longing that was in their soul!
- This is the longing that was echoing through every heart!

Jesus came to Jerusalem, to the Feast of Tabernacles, for one purpose and this was it.
- He was waiting, patiently, for this moment when every heart was focused on a spiritual thirst that nothing in this world could satisfy.
  - He was waiting for this moment when everyone sat down to a feast in celebration of the abundant blessings of God,
    - while on the inside,
    - in their heart of hearts they were struggling with the realization,
    - I’m not satisfied…
    - “My soul is thirsty for you, oh God!”

It was against this backdrop that Jesus stood and cried, “If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink…
- All over that place, hearts came to attention,
  - they knew what he meant!
  - They understood what he was saying!
    - He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

We put so much emphasis on blessing, and blessing upon blessing.
- But could I tell you this evening that more than he wants to be all of that to you, and more!
  - God wants to satisfy the longing of your soul!
    - He wants to quench that thirsting on the inside
      - That’s the blessing of the 8th day.

You see the first 7 days were just an illustration, a type, of what God would do on the 8th day
- The constant pouring of water was a powerful illustration of the coming outpouring of the Holy Ghost!
- More than he wants to bless you physically,
  - more than he wants to provide for the needs of your life,
  - more than he wants to shower upon you material blessings
    - God wants to pour himself into your soul
- In that same abundant overflowing manner that he provided physical water
  - He desires to pour upon your soul that promised living water
    - That rest and refreshing that Israel longed for but never received!
      - That’s the blessing of the 8th day!
- Jesus declared on the 8th day, no longer will you thirst in vain, no longer will you seek and not find,
  - I have come that you might have life, and that more abundantly!
■ In that moment Jesus projected himself to the Day of Pentecost when that promised refreshing would finally come!
  ○ He was saying to all that would hear,
    ▪ The blessing of the 8th day is on its way!
      • With the roar of a mighty rushing wind amidst the tongues of fire
      • There is a blessing coming like none you’ve ever known!
    ▪ It’s the blessing of the 8th day!
    ▪ John realized all of this in retrospect when he penned the book and he adds the parenthetical explanation in the 39th verse:
      • 39(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

■ Close
■ Sometimes it is so easy to get caught up in life, surrounded by the multitude of God’s blessing
  ○ That we allow ourselves to spend extended, prolonged, amounts of time outside of the presence of God
  ○ Before too long, if you are not careful, you will find yourself in the same place as those individuals at the feast that day
    ▪ Surrounded by blessings, showered with the abundance but dry and empty on the inside
  ○ Even worse, you will find yourself doing just what they did
    ▪ Going through the motions,
    ▪ pretending to celebrate,
    ▪ having church just like everyone else
      • While on the inside something cries out, I’m not satisfied….
        ○ I’m thirsty, my soul longs for a refreshing.
  ■ Usually it’s the fear of what others will think that keeps us from falling across an alter and weeping in the presence of God as he fills our soul with that certain refreshing that only comes from him.
    ○ Instead you just go through the motions, make it through another service and slip out that door, everybody thinks you’ve got it all together
      ▪ Nobody has any idea just how dry you are on the inside,
        • But you know…
          ○ Your soul is thirsty.
    ○ Right here, in the middle of the feast, in the midst of the overflow, there’s a thirst that hasn’t been quenched…
      ▪ This service is just for you tonight, for every one of you.
        • The living water is in this house, and he’s making an invitation…
    ○ Tonight, it’s the 8th day and the blessing is in the house
- If any man thirsts, let him come unto me!
  - No questions asked, nobody is going to judge you
- Tonight we are all the same, just poor thirst souls in the presence of the only one that can satisfy
  - Is there anybody that would come for a drink tonight?
  - Is there anyone that would take advantage of the blessing of the 8th day?