

Title: If Any Man Thirst

Text: John 7:32-~~39~~

Let us turn to the Gospel of John. The Gospel of John chapter 7 and we will begin with Vs 32. John chapter 7 verse 32.

(Read John 7:32-~~39~~)

Join with me in a moment of prayer

(20) We have been looking at this tremendous reaction building against ~~to~~ Jesus, ⁽³⁰⁾ especially as we are confronted here at the Feast of Tabernacles.

(10) In the first 13 verses we examined some of the circumstances involved. And we learned that even his brothers did not believe in him.

(20) Then we notice the conflict that he had with Jewish leaders in verse 14-24. ⁽³⁰⁾ And then the concern even of the citizens of Jerselem. The people themselves over what he was saying and over what he was claiming. Much like the divisions among people today over the question of who Jesus is.

(10) I would like you to notice, beginning with ~~the~~ verse 32 three things about the coming of these officers to take Jesus

(1) First, the reason they were sent. It says in Vs 32 that that reason was the motivation which sent the Pharisees. The Pharisees heard the multitude muttering things about Jesus. There was a growing tide of resentment. And yet, many of the people believed on Him, according to vs 31. And the Pharisees, of course, seeing this support, they sent the officers along with the chief priests. They weere in this too. The officers were Temple officers. We are not talking about Romans. And they sent them to take Jesus. And this was a religious arrest. He was claiming things and teaching things that was against the O.T. law. And they saw the crowds gaathering around Jesus. And they took this as an opportunity to seizw him.

(2) The second thing that I want you to notice here are the remakes that Jesus made to them. These remakkes are to the officers. And it might help you to understand why Vs 46 says, when the officers reported back, "Never did a man speak the way this man speaks."

And here is the reason. This is what he said ^{to} them.

Vs 33.. "For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent me. You shall seek me, and shall not find me; and where I am, ~~then~~ you cannot come."

What a thing to say to those who had come to arrest him. And I believe there are three things that Jesus emphasizes here.

One, he emphasizes his presence amongst them. I am here now. But in a little while I will no longer be here. And that was literally true. For just a few days later, approximately 6 months, some say less, Jesus Christ would leave them.

Secondly, I notice he spoke of the place that he was going. A place where they couldn't come. "Where I am, you cannot come." There is no way you are going to get there.

And the third thing, he emphasizes that their pursuit of him was going to be in vain. He said "You will seek me, but you will not find me." And this caused some reaction among the Jews.

(3) And that is the third thing that I want you to notice. I want you to see the reaction of ~~the Jews~~ to what Jesus said. He had just said that they couldn't find him anymore, and that he was going to some place that they could come to, and even though they would seek him they wouldn't find him. And so the Jews concluded this. Vs 35 "Where does this man intend to go that we shall not find him? He is not intending to go to the dispersion."

Now that word "dispersion" is speaking of the Jews that were living outside of Palestine at that time. If you will remember, James wrote his epistle to those Jews who were scattered abroad. The Jews of the dispersion.

And so they thought: "Maybe what he is saying is that he is going to them. Or, maybe to the Jews in the dispersion who are living among the Gentiles. And maybe he will even teach the Gentiles. Maybe that is what he is going to do.

But the thing that bothers them, according to Vs 36, was when he said: "You will seek me, and you will not find me."

If he was going to the dispersion, surely they could find him if they were to seek him....Right?....

So, what did he mean? What matter of saying is this? That you shall seek me, but you shall not find me?

Well, friends, Jesus was quoting from the O.T. He quoted from several passages. In Isa. 55:6 it says "seek the Lord while He may be found." The Messiah spoke those words.

Also, in Proverbs chapter 1 verse 28. It says, "Then they will call on me but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they shall not find me.".....Through out the O.T. you find this prediction. The Bible ~~predicts~~ predicts that people will want to seek the Lord, but will not find him.

And when I read those passages I find that what we have here in John is a little insight into prophecy. Because the Bible tells us that the day is coming on this earth, when men will long to find the answers to ultimate reality. They will want to know God. They will want to know His word. But it will not be found. And there will be a famine of the Word of God such as have never been in the history of the World. The Bible predicts that there is an age coming upon the whole world that will even effect the nation of Israle in which men will want to seek the Lord, but they will not be able to. They will not find him.

Now, I think that is true, also, in terms of our personal reactions to the Lord Jesus. The Bible says that the Sprit of God will not always strive with men. The Holy Spirit of God works with people, according to the Bible. He convicts us, and he leds us to Christ. But that Spirit can be resisted and quanched according to the scripture. And one day it will come to all of us when we have been worked on by the Holy Spirit of God and we refused, and we resisted, one day we will want to seek him and we will not find him.

It is really a sad thing when you read this in light of O.T. prophecy because it is predicting that the day is coming.

And the point of the prophets is: NOW IS THE TIME....NOW IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TURN TO THE LORD BECAUSE THE DAY IS COMING WHEN YOU WILL NO LONGER HAVE THAT CHANCE.

And Jesus quotes this about himself. I am here now. And my arms are reaching out to you. But, I am not going to be here all the time.

One day you are going to seek me, and you will never find me. That was true when he ascended. But his real point is in the prophetic picture. That will be true about the future as well.

(4C) Now, beginning at Vs 37 we have what I believe is the most important thing that happened at the Feast of Tabernacles. Here we see the comments of Jesus on the last day of that feast. There are several things here that are very important.

The Bible says in Vs 37 that "on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out."

Now, he wasn't just talking in his regular voice. Oh, no...he was shouting, according to the Greek. He is shouting as loud as he can. He wants to be heard by all that were in that great crowd.

And I ask myself the question...WHY?...

(10) The first thing I want you to understand is the importance of that day. The importance of that way. ~~WHY?~~ ~~The last day of an eight day feast.~~ WHY IS IT IMPORTANT? WHY IS JESUS SHOUTING ON THAT DAY? WHY IS HE TRYING TO GET THE CROWDS ATTENTION?

You have to go back into Jewish custom to find out what the situation was. The Jewish custom, which is still being done by Orthodox Jews today, was to go down to the pool of Si'lom, which is located on the south wall of the ancient Temple area. And you can go down to the pool of Si'lom today. There is still water in that pool.

And the Jewish custom is to go to that pool and draw water and bring that water to the Temple area and then ^{The Priest would} pour it out in a special ceremony. And the point of the ceremony was to remind all the people of the time in the wilderness when God gave them water out-off the rock. I trust you remember the story. God told Moses to strick the ~~rock~~ rock in the wilderness. And when Moses struck the rock water came out. And the people had water to quench their thirst.

So, on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles the people would remember that event. They would remember how God provide water for the thirsty.

And on that last day, all the Priests would gather together; and all the people would gather in that Temple area for this special celebration.

And ^{Jesus} believe as the Priest ~~were~~ pouring out that water... At that very moment Jesus, in the midst of all of those thousands of people, cried out. He shouted at the top of his voice. "IF ANY MAN IS THIRSTY, LET HIM COME TO ME AND DRINK."

SOFTLY

Now, if you can just picture what the average Jewish mind would have thought when Jesus cried out at that moment on the last day of the great feast of tabernacles, you will ^{understand} the importance of those words of Jesus.

(2D) The second thing that I want you to notice is the invitation that Jesus gives ... "If any man is thirsty, let Him come to me and drink."

And their minds must have gone back to the wilderness. ~~They were thirsty.~~ ^{Jesus equated himself to water that came in the wilderness} ~~They were hungry.~~ But God took care of them with manna from heaven and water ^{from the Rock}

(3E) Third, I would like you to notice the imperative of believing. And this is the whole meaning of coming to ^{Jesus} to drink. Vs 38 says: "He who believes in me, as the Scripture said, From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water."

Now, I would like you to notice two things here, about this imperative of believing in Jesus.

(1A) One, is the proof of Scripture ..Jesus said: "He who believes in me, as the Scripture said." Now, remember;....he is shouting at the top of his voice, he is asking people to come to him and drink....and this means believing on him...which is quite an assumption...that **He** was worth of such belief and confidence....**He** is claiming to be able to give them water.....just like the water in the wilderness....so come to me.

And he uses the proof of scripture. O.K. WHAT SCRIPTURE?.....

and

Take you Bibles, please, and let's turn to a few. First, Isa, chapter 12. There are four passages, here in Isa., that I want you to see. There are others. But ^{these} four passages will illustrate that the O.T.taught that God was going to give people spiritual drink.

Isa. 12 verse 3... "Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation."....Spiritual water, obviously....

Isa. 44, please. Isa. 44:3... "For I will pour out water on the thirsty ~~in~~ ^{land} and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants;"

According to John 7:39 when he spoke of the water coming out of you, it says that he spoke of the Spirit. ~~That was not in conflict with the O.T.~~ Here is a passage. Pouring the water upon the thirsty is pouring the Spirit upon his ~~offspring~~ ^{OFFSPRING} says ~~o~~ Isa. 44:3.

Look at chapter 55, please, vs 1. Chapter 55:1.... "Ho! Every one who thirsts, ~~come~~ ^{come} to the waters; ~~And you who have no money come, buy and eat.~~"

What a statement! Everyone who is thirsty come to the waters. And one last example: Isa. 58. Many believe this is a direct quote. Jesus is quoting this directly. ~~Isa. 58:11~~.....

~~He~~ ^{Jesus} spoke of a spring of water in you, where the waters don't really run out. They just keep coming, overflowing. Well, this idea is found in Isa. 58:11 where it says "the Lord will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places."

Do you have a bearen spote in your life right now? It is like a scorched place? You are needing refreshment from the Lord. You need spiritual life and instruction. Like scorched places, the Lord will satisfy your soul in that time. ["And give strength to your bones; And you will be like a watered garden; and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail."]

Jesus said that the Scripture taught that out of you will be a spring of water that is just bubbling up and overflowing. And the O.T. says that the Lord can give you this kind of satisfaction. And it will be like a spring of water whose waters never run out. ~~They~~ ^{It} will never fail. It will be there all the time.

O.K. let's come back to John chapter 7... Jesus said, "If anyone thirst." You want spiritual ~~drink~~ ^{water}. Then come to me and drink. He said, "this is what the scriptures have said. So, we have the proof of scripture

(2F) Now, the second thing about this imperative of believing is the promise of an overflowing life. There is no reason for the believer to think that his life will ever run dry. Dear friends, let me tell you..what God is going to do for you when you drink from Jesus is that you will never run out of spiritual vitality. You will not have to face the problem of a burnt-out life. If you do, it is said. Because there is no reason for it. God has given you the presence of the Holy Spirit for an overflowing life to serve the Lord.

(3E) Fourth, this brings us to the instructions in Vs 39 about the Holy Spirit. Vs 39 says, ""he spoke this of the spirit, whom those who believe in Jesus were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

When Jesus ascended into heaven He promised that the Holy Spirit would be revealed. And He would be another comforter. Jesus told the disciples in John 16 that the Holy Spirit would be in you forever. And John 7 says that everyone who believes in Jesus receives the Holy Spirit.

Time after time I am amazed at people who try to say that one does not receive the Holy Spirit when he believes. That it must come at a later time. That it is a second blessing. That is not the teaching of the Bible. The moment you believe in Jesus, you receive and you are filled with the H. S.

Some folks says "Well, you don't receive him in His fulness. And they like to use the illustration of a cup of water. You get a little bit of the Spirit when you are saved, but you receive the fulness of the Spirit at a later time. BALONY...You do not receive the Holy Spirit in small portions. OH, LISTEN, the Bible teaches that when you believe in Jesus you receive the Holy Spirit.

The problem is not whether we have the Holy Spirit, but does the Holy Spirit have you. The issue is one of control. The filling of the H.S. means control by the H.S. A super, abundant, overflowing life is speaking of the Spirit like a well of water. He just controls your life and blesses those who come in contact with you.

Surprise

Do you want that kind of life? Well the Holy Spirit can bless you.

The Bible says that the Spirit of God is given to those who believe in Jesus Christ. If you have never received Christ, you don't have the Spirit. You might have spirits, if you know what I mean.. [Some people ^{try} to create it. Act like they have it. ^{Listen carefully} ~~but~~ the Holy Spirit is not seen simply because you are happy or simply because you seem to be spiritually high.

No way The Spirit of God may be blessing and overflowing even in the midst of tragedy and sorrow and sadness. God's Holy Spirit ministers at all times. And the overflowing life of the Spirit is not subject to the varying emotions of people OH, NO, the Spirit of God is working and overflowing in every aspect of ^{a person's} ~~man's~~ life. No matter what the trial... No matter what the blessing. The Spirit of God has promise to overflow your life.

So, I am asking you the question ^{Christian} is that your experience? right now?... And that spring of water is inside of every believer. But one of the tragedies is that many believers do not experience that overflowing life. It is in you. ^{There} is a well. But, and pardon the illustration because an illustration doesnot walk on all fours, but it is kind-off like the old farmers ^{well} ~~well~~. His land is dry and barren. Because he hasn't taken the time or made the effort to pump the water from the well ^{to water the land}. And that is like many believeaers. The Holy Spirit is there in your life. But you haven't taped the well. You are not experiencing the blessings of the Spirit filled life. ^{It} It is there. It is in you, if you are a believers.

If you are not a believer, you need to believe in Christ before you will ever have the Holy Spirit living in you. But he may be there and you are not experiencing a blessing ^{because you are not tapping the well}

SIN - I 10:19

Now, in I Corinthians chapter 10 verse 4 we learn the meaning of this passage in John 7. Turn there, please. I Cor 10:4 we learn the meaning of John chapter 7. Remember the Feast of Tabernacle is celebrating the Jew in the wilderness. In I Cor 10:4 we read "that all drank the same ^{spiritual} ~~spiritual~~ drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was christ."

Now, we learn the meaning of John 7. In the O.T. when Moses hit the rock with his rod, it was Jesus in typology. ^{and} The water ^{coming} ~~came~~ out-off the rock, was the Holy Spirit. It was spiritual drink.

It was H₂O

Now, in the wilderness was that literal water? Of course it was. But it was, also, a symbol of a spiritual truth.

So, understand the symbol. Moses was ask to ^{struck} ~~struck~~ the rook in the wilderness. In Isa. chapter 53 we read about the Messiah that he was smitten of God. You see, in order for the HOLY Spirit to ~~be~~ ^{come}, in order for the water to flow, the rock had to be struck with the rod of Moses. And as the rod of God's judgement was poured out on Jesus at the Cross, he died, he was smitten of God, that made possible the overflowing life of the Spirit. ^{But you} You must believe in Jesus...that he died on the cross for your sins...OR, that rock will never produce ~~for~~ ^{The} water ^{you desire} ~~until it is smitten.~~ ~~Do you understand?~~

Sol 124

Jesus ~~already~~ died. He died on the cross and paid for all of our sins. And the moment you come to him and believe in him, you can drink, now, freely of the water. Because the rock has already been smitten. And the water is now flowing and it is available to everyone of us.

Isn't that thrilling? The spirit of God is available to you. You can drink of Jesus and experience spiritual life. You can come alive spiritually

The Bible say

Some people are dead, spiritually. Oh, they may know a lot of facts. But they are dead. They have never come alive. They have never put their faith and trust in Jesus. In the spiritual rock that was smitten. It is not that you just believe that Jesus existed. It is that you believe that He died for you sins and paid for them. That is very important. And ~~it~~ is exciting to know that Jesus paid for all sins. And there is nothing we can do to earn salvation. God isn't asking you to be better then you are right now. He is not asking you to bring up your goodness. Or, wor that matter, to bring up your unworthyness. Non of that is important. The important issue is that Jesus paid far ~~it~~ ^{so}. God wants you to believe in Jesus, not in yourself. Not in your ability to cleanse yourself. But in Jesus...In JESUS ALONE....HE IS THE WAY...^{The Truth, The Life} And the moment you believe that, you are saved and you have the Holy Spirit in you....^{Cleanse & Purify} ~~(Let's Cleanse & Purify)~~

Now, Then

Holy

And let me close by saying this to believers: Once you have the Spirit,

that is no guarantee that you are experiencing John chapter 7:36. It is no guarantee. And this is almost like a paradox. How a christian could have the Holy Spirit in him, and yet, not be overflowing with the Spirit's life. Again, don't be confused, don't equate being happy all the time or emotional with the filling of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit may just turn you on with so much joy that like the day of Pentecost people may say: "These men are full of new wine."

softly

Or, it maybe that you are in deep sorrow and anguish, but the beauty of Christ's life is seen in you. The confidence and trust you have in God is overflowing in your life. A sweet peace is coming through the tears as they flow. And you know that the Holy Spirit of God is giving you that assurance. He is there witnessing with our Spirit that we are the children of God.

You can know that overflowing life, Christian. But the Bible teaches that believers can quench and resist, and grieve the Holy Spirit of God.

You ask: "WHY DO WE DO THAT"? HOW DOES IT HAPPEN? what is it that is grieving? Well, the Bible tells us what it is that grieves the Spirit. IT IS SIN....

And especiall according to Eph. 4, it is sins of the tongue, bitterness and angry. It is grieving the Holy Spirit.

vid Gerson

Quenching the Spirit has something to do, I believe, with the will of God. The Bible says that in everything give thanks for this is the will of God....Quench not the Spirit....

God tells us what he wants us to do in his word. And when we don't, we are grieving the Holy Spirit. And we are quenching that well that is within us and the water is not flowing freely.

Word

And Galations 5 says that when we are walking in the Spirit we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. And it says that the works of the flesh are evident. And there is a whole list there. And if as a pattern of life are finding yourself in that list, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit of God is not controlling you. Your old sin nature is controlling you.

you

You see
 Christian, there is so much that God wants to do in ~~your~~ ^{our} life. So much that ~~you~~ ^{we} would experience, in the way of blessings, and fruitfulness and effectiveness. But it maybe that you are quanching or grieving Him, or maybe your are fulfilling the lust of the flesh and thus the Spirit of God is being quanchad and your well is runing dry. You have the Holy Spirit alright But he is being quanchad. *The H.S. Doesn't know you* *How sad - How Sull* *That many Christian settle for* *Second Best*

And maybe ~~on~~ this moment you are realizing that, beaause God has spoken to you. Right now you know that is true about you. And you know that you are being controlled by your old sin nature.

I just want to ask you: Do you want to be controlled by the Spirit? Do you?.....Now, I know that God wants you to. Isn't that exciting. He wants to control you more than you want to be.....

SUPPLY

He wants to control you. He wants to use you. He wants you to be fruitful. But the issue is sin.

If there is sin in your life, you know it. And that sin must be faced. But as long as you follow and let that sin control you, the Holy Spirit of God will be guanchad in your life.

How do I deal with that sin? By facing it...by acknowledging it...by confessing it. ^{I John 1:9} And then by building your life on the Word of God...And let the Word of God fill your life.

The Bible teaches that when you renew your mind in the Word of God the Holy Spirit will transform you into the image, ^{like Jesus} and beauty of Christ. ^{The Question is - That is the issue}

Christian you can have an overflowing life. DO YOU WANT IT?....A lot of us don't want it. We are ~~to~~ busy with other thing. And the cares and the lusts of this world are chocking the Word. And christians become barren.

Confess that sin. Acknowledge it before God. And forsake it. And let us ^{build} our lives on His word. His word will cleanses us, says the Bible. And we will know the overflowing life of the Spirit of God.

LET US CLOSE WITH PRAYER