The Gospel of John
**7.7—PREPARE FOR AN OUTPOURING – JN 7:37-39 (Pt 4)**

**LET’S OPEN OUR BIBLES TO JOHN 7**

**LET’S READ JOHN 7:37-39**

**John 7:37–39 (ESV)** On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. **38** Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ” **39** Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

**INTRODUCTION**

Explain the last two months with the Senior Leaders, and the three days with the Regional Pastors, Campus Pastors, Senior Leaders and a few others this past week.

1. God moved on us in a special way.
2. He poured out His Spirit on us.
3. We heard clearly from God, and we all knew and agreed that this direction was from Him.
4. He has called our entire church—The Rock—to a time of preparation for an outpouring of His Spirit.
5. God wants to pour out His Spirit on us.
6. He wants to bring breakthrough where you need breakthrough.
7. He wants to bring release.
8. He wants to reset things.
9. He wants to put your feet on solid ground.

**LOOK AT JOHN 7:37-39 AGAIN…**

V37.1 – Jesus is crying out to us

V37.2 – if anyone is thirsty for this outpouring, come to Me… to Jesus

V38 – This is a lot of water… not just a drink, but an outpouring… riversss of (supernatural) living water

* God is saying, “I am ready to pour out My Spirit in abundance… there is so much that there will be an overflow for others to drink.

V39 – (John said) Jesus was talking about an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that came after Jesus had been raised from the dead and ascended to the Father.

**Read Acts 1:3-8**

**Acts 1:3–8 (ESV)** He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. **4** And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” **6** So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7** He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

V3 – Jesus appeared to them numerous times during 40 days

* Jesus is calling us to a “40-day period” during which He will meet us, pour out His Spirit on us, and speak to us about the kingdom of God.

V4.1 – “ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem”

* Jesus gave them specific instructions to prepare themselves for this outpouring

V4.2 – “wait for the promise of the Father”

* Wait for “the promise”… God is ready to fulfill “the promise”

V5 – “you will be baptized with (plunged into) the Holy Spirit not many days from now

V6-7 – “they asked, ‘Will you at this time restore the kingdom?’”

* Often when God speaks, carnal people start asking questions about other things… things that may be important, but that distract from what God is saying now.
* Jesus responded, essentially saying, “Though that’s important, that’s not what we need to focus on right now.
	+ I’m not talking right now about a political move
	+ I’m not talking right now about the Antichrist and the mark of the Beast
	+ I’m not talking right now about a virus and vaccines

**THEN WHAT IS JESUS TALKING ABOUT?**

V8.1 – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you”

* I’m calling on you to take time to prepare yourself so that I can pour out My Spirit and My power on you.

V8.2 – “and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea…”

* My power will be so strong that it will make witnesses out of you… in your own city and neighborhood… in your county… in the next county… and eventually around the world

**Acts 1:12–14 (ESV)** Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. **13** And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. **14** All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

V12 – “they returned to Jerusalem” … just like Jesus said

V14.1 – “were devoting themselves to prayer”

V14.2 – “Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers”

* God was working in Jesus’ own family… even the brothers that didn’t believe in Him
* What God is about to do is for you and your whole family

**Acts 2:1–6 (ESV)** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. **5** Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. **6** And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

V1.1 – “When the day”… God has a specific day in mind to pour out His Spirit on you and your family

V1.2 – “suddenly there came from heaven”… something from heaven is coming to your home

V1.3 – “it filled the entire house”… this will fill your entire home

V2 – “divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one”

* Why were they divided? Because God wants each person in the house to experience the power of the Holy Spirit

V4 – “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit”

* Every single person in the house
* Every single person began to speak in other tongues
* This included those family members that didn’t use to believe

VS 5-6 – This outpouring will quickly begin to affect your sorrounding

**Acts 2:14–18 (ESV)** But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. **15** For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. **16** But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: **17** “ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; **18** even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

VS16-18 – Peter said, “this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel”

* I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh
* your sons and your daughters
* young men and old men
* male and female servants
* They’ll all prophesy… rivers of living water

**Acts 2:37–40 (ESV)** Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” **38** And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” **40** And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”

V37 – “what shall we do?”… we need to know what to do

V38.1 – “Repent and be baptized … for the forgiveness of your sins”

V38.2 – “you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”

V39 – “For **the promise** is for you and for your children and for all”

* God wants everyone to have the promise of the Holy Spirit

V40 – “Save yourselves from this crooked (NKJV perverse) generation”

* We are living in a wicked generation… so much lying and deception.
* God is offering to save you and your family from this perverse society

**CONCLUSION**

1. God is calling us to prepare for an outpouring of His Spirit
2. He’s calling for 40-day period of fasting and prayer
3. During these 40 days He is going to visit us… and prepare us—**and our families**—for what’s ahead

**Isaiah 58:6 (CSB)** Isn’t this the fast I choose: To break the chains of wickedness, to untie the ropes of the yoke, to set the oppressed free, and to tear off every yoke? **(LEAVE THIS SCRIPTURE UP UNTIL I GET TO #8)**

1. God wants to break the chains of wickedness
	1. God knows that before the big breakthroughs happen, He has to deliver His own people—**and their families**—for from the **spiritual bondages** of sin
	2. As you fast God wants to deliver YOU and cleanse YOU—**and your family**—from every demonic spirit of wickedness that has a grip on you
2. God wants to untie the ropes of the yoke
	1. Those patterns, habits and lifestyles that keep you—**and your family**—for tied to the bondages… and during this fast God wants you to be changed
3. God wants to set the oppressed free
	1. Many of God’s people are under the oppression of certain people or circumstances… they want to fully serve God but are being weighed down and oppressed… and during this fast God wants you—**and your family**—to be free from that oppression
4. And God wants to tear off every yoke?
	1. These yokes include things like sicknesses, financial debt, as well as certain relationships and alliances that hold you back from doing what God has called you to do… and during this fast God wants to tear those yokes off of you **and your family**
5. This is to be a time of DIVINE RESET
6. This is God giving His people a chance to start over… with Him as their Shepherd and Guide
7. He wants to put your feet—**and the feet of your family members**—on solid ground.
8. And He wants to reveal things about His plan for your lives and callings
9. The 40-day fast will be from **March 21 – April 29 (PUT ON SCREEN)**
10. By the providence of God, the following day is Backyard Revival… a prophetic event about God bringing revival to your own backyard… the city, neighborhood where you live or work or go to school… amazing!
11. God is calling us to prepare for an outpouring of His Spirit…

**WILL YOU COMMIT TO GIVE GOD 40 DAYS BEGINNING MARCH 21?**