**PRE-MESSAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BACKYARD REVIVAL**

**A FREE GATHERING ON APRIL 30, 2022**

**CALLING 40,000 YOUNG PEOPLE TO ASSEMBLE IN ANGEL STADIUM**

**YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS WILL COME TOGETHER, ENCOUNTER JESUS, AND LEAVE FEELING EMPOWERED TO GO AND REACH THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.**

**SEVERAL WAYS TO PARTNER: PRAY, GIVE, INVITE, VOLUNTEER, GO**

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The Gospel of John  
**7.5—RIVERS OF LIVING WATER – JOHN 7:37-39 (Pt. 2)**

**LET’S OPEN OUR BIBLES TO JOHN 7**

**INTRODUCTION**

Have you ever been through a spiritually dry season? A season when you know something is lacking? Maybe you’re going through one now. It may not be that you don’t know God, but that there is a serious deficiency of His presence in your heart and life. On the other hand, have you ever been full of God? So full of Him and His goodness that you can’t keep it to yourself? If anyone got too close to you, what you had inside would somehow spill onto them.

In today’s reading, we’ll see Jesus interrupt a large religious ceremony that was going on with many thousands of people, and speak to every spiritually dry person. It wasn’t that the ceremony was wrong or inappropriate. But He knew that it wasn’t providing to the people what they really needed. We’ll see Jesus not only offer to fill their hearts with living water, we’ll also see Him express His desire to fill them so much that others around them will begin to receive the living water as well. As we read and study this short but powerful portion of Scripture, I invite you to hear the invitation of Jesus to come to Him and be filled with living water.

**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.

* The Feast of Booths is celebrated each year at the end of the dry season. No rain normally falls in Israel for six or seven months so by the end of the summer, the springs begin to dry up; the cisterns are empty, and the water that remains has gone bad.
* Each day during this festival a priest would walk from the temple down to the Pool of Siloam at the south end of the “City of David” to draw water that came from the ancient spring of Gihon (1Ki 1:33; 2Ch 32:30; 33:14). It was a distance of about half a mile, and as he walked, a joyous procession of people accompanied him. He would carry a golden pitcher large enough to contain about two pints of water, and when he arrived at the pool, he would fill it with water and carry it back to the temple. Rams horns and silver trumpets announced his return, and then the priest would walk to the great altar of burnt offering and pour the water out before the Lord.
* So by pouring out this pitcher of water onto the altar, the priest was symbolizing three things: **First**, it reminded everyone that God had provided water in the desert during the Exodus (Ex 17:1-7; Nu 20:11). **Second**, it was a prayer for rain at the end of the dry season (Dt 11:8-17). By pouring out water the priest was saying, “God we pour out this water because we trust You to provide more water by giving us the rain we need.” And **third**, it was also a prophetic symbol of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which the prophets said the Messiah would pour out on God’s people at the end of the age

V37.1 – “the last day of the feast, the great day”

* John now takes us forward in time to “the last day, the great day” The last, or seventh, day of the Feast of Booths is called “Hoshanah Rabba” which means “great praise.”
* The last day would be the Grand Finale… praising God for His faithfulness to bring rain to them in the past, and praising Him for the rain He’s about to provide.

V37.2 – Jesus “stood up and cried out”

* Remember, Jesus is not the priest carrying the pitcher of water. He’s not even one of the Levitical priests.
* His voice must have startled the worshipers and outraged the religious leaders.
* Ordinarily the temple guard would have immediately arrested anyone who dared to interrupt the services, but they, along with everyone else, were profoundly moved by His words (Jn 7:40-47).
* And yet, in the midst of that ceremony that involved water, Jesus couldn’t help but offer a different kind of water—living water.

V37.3 – “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.”

* Jesus believed He had the kind of water that their hearts were really thirsty for.

V38-39.1 – “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.”

* **Joel 2:28 (ESV)** “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy…”

V39.2 – “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.”

* **Acts 1:4–5 (ESV)** 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.”
* **Acts 2:4 (ESV)** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
* **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**.
* **1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (NKJV)** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: **8** for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

**EX –** In Acts 3, the Holy Spirit flowed through Peter to give a lame man a “gift of healing.”

**EX –** In Acts 4, many believers were gathered in a home to pray… they were all refilled with the Spirit and “spoke the word with boldness”

**EX –** In Acts 5, God used Peter to give Ananias and Saphira a word of (divine) knowledge that they were lying about part of the story behind their financial gift… and then he gave a prophecy that they would die because they lied to the Holy Spirit.

**EX –** In Acts 6, it says Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit, and then in verse 8 it says he was “doing great wonders and signs among the people.”

**EX –** In Acts 8, Philip, who was also full of the Holy Spirit, performed miracles in Samaria… and then Peter and John came and laid hands on people and they were filled with the Spirit.

**EX –** In Acts 9, Ananias laid his hands on Paul (still called Saul) and his blindness was healed and he was filled with the Spirit.

**EX –** In Acts 10, Peter went to Cornelius’ house and while he was still preaching, the Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles for the first time, and they’re all filled with the Spirit and began speaking in tongues.

**I THINK YOU GET THE PICTURE… THIS IS WHAT OUR LIVES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE… IT’S ALSO WHAT JESUS MODELED FOR US…**

* **John 4:7–19 (ESV)** A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” **8** (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) **9** The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) **10** Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” **11** The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? **12** Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” **13** Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, **14** but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” **15** The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.” **16** Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” **17** The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; **18** for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” **19** The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.

**EX - First time I remember a manifestation of the Spirit through me… at a JH Camp… “Father”**

Let me read again verses 37 & 38…

“**37** 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.’ ”

**TODAY, WE HAVE A CHURCH SERVICE GOING ON… BUT LET ME TELL YOU… JESUS IS STANDING AND CRYING OUT… HE’S SAYING, IS ANYONE THIRSTY, LET ME COME TO HIM AND DRINK…**