

Sermon on Come Drink Christ's Living Water

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Text:

John 7:37-39 ³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 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.

1 Introduction

1.1 Water is essential to Life

Water is the basic component of life. Life cannot be sustained without water. Human beings are made largely of water. All forms of life die in the absence of water. When scientists want to investigate the existence of life they look for the existence of water. In order to determine whether life exists on Mars they have been probing to find water. Water is therefore essential to life.

In our passage Jesus takes this reality of life and brings it into the spiritual realm. He offers Living Water as the essence of your spiritual life – your soul. That is Christ's Living Water is the basic component of your soul. Your soul cannot be sustained without Living Water. All souls will die in the absence of Christ's Living Water. Christ's Living Water is essential to the life of your soul. I call upon you today to come drink Christ's Living Water. I call upon you today to let the Holy Spirit fill you completely.

1.2 Christ offers Living Water alternative to the drink offering of the Tabernacles Festival

The account in our passage takes place at the Festival of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. “It had become the custom during the Feast of Tabernacles for the priests to bring a vessel of water each day from the Pool of Siloam and pour it out at the base of the altar in Jerusalem. The ceremony was a symbolic confession of physical thirst and looked forward to the end of the dry season and the coming of the winter rains. For seven days the libations were made. The eighth day (“last day”) was observed as a Sabbath and no water was poured.”¹ “On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.’” (John 7:37)

The audience at the festival would have understood that Jesus’ proclamation was related to the festival’s ceremony of drink offering. But Jesus was offering them a spiritual alternative and I also proclaim the same to you today. Jesus Christ alone has the Living Water that you should thirst for – water that is not seasonal, water that never dries out, water with healing power, water with protective power, water with provision power, and water with salvific power. So come drink Christ’s Living Water. Come and gorge on Christ’s Living Water. Drench yourself in the Living Water. Soak yourself in the Holy Spirit.

2 Your intense thirst will lead you to Christ’s Living Water

2.1 Thirst causes a search for water

If you are thirsty then you will want something to drink otherwise you will not be interested. In fact, when you are extremely thirsty you will go to all kinds of extents just to find water. Being composed mostly of water, the human body needs water to survive. So when deprived of water you will search intently for it until you find it. When I was young every so

¹Hughes, Robert B. ; Laney, J. Carl: *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House Publishers, 2001 (The Tyndale Reference Library), S. 474

often the Water Department will shut off water sometimes for days. We will travel far just to fetch water because we cannot live without water. Our need for water caused us to travel that far. O, that we will be willing to inconvenience ourselves to get Christ's Living Water – water that nourishes our soul and prevents our soul from getting sick from Satanic attacks. But many people want their coming to church to be comfortable and convenient – bad weather, transportation, work, sleep, party, and others prevent them from coming to church!

Now, imagine you are walking in a dry hot desert and you come across an oasis with a sign that says “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.” Would you go in and drink? You would if you are thirsty. It is foolish to take the risk of finding another oasis down the road. Your thirst is what causes you to drink.

Sometimes on the highway, there is a sign that says “Last Gas on Highway.” When you see that sign would you buy gas or go on? If you think you will need gas for the rest of your journey you might buy the gas. It is foolish to take the risk of finding another gas station on the highway.

I call upon you to develop a thirst for the Living Water.

2.2 Only those who thirst can accept Christ's offer of Living Water

What Jesus call is telling us is simple. Unless someone thirsts in his soul for God he would not consider the call. If you thirst you will have a strong desire for the object of your thirst. When the ground is parched dry it is very porous and therefore highly absorbent. Any water you pour on it is immediately absorbed. Your soul needs to feel a certain dryness that makes it porous and ready to absorb Living Water then and only then would you be able to take this Living Water. That is why there are some people who cannot receive the gospel, some who cannot stay in church, some who use easy excuses to stop coming to church, and some who come

to church to do the pastor a favor. I was once that way. I accepted the Lord as my personal savior when I was 15 in a formal altar call but I did not thirst for God. It wasn't until later on in life that I began to thirst after God. You thirst should be like that of the sons of Korah who said in Psalm 42:1-2, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"

Are you thirsting after Living Water? Is your soul yearning for this Living Water? If you do not yearn to pray, to study the Bible, to seek God's will, to do what is right by God, to obey his Word then your soul is not thirsting for Living Water. Ask your soul to long for God. Ask your soul to desire Christ's Living Water. Position your soul to need Christ's Living Water.

3 You benefit from drinking Christ's Living Water

3.1 Christ's Living Water prospers you

Jesus continues his call and says, "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." (John 7:38) That is, anyone who believes in Jesus and his call to drink, will drink that Living Water. And as Jesus told the Samaritan woman, the Living Water "will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14) This Living Water as a well will also become a source of water flowing from the well. Wherever water flows in a controlled manner there is fertility. Fertility leads to productivity. Productivity leads to profitability. Profitability is a key ingredient of prosperity. That is why Psalm 1:3 talks about the person with Living Water this way: "He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers." So come drink Christ's Living Water. Come drink the water of your soul. Come quench the thirst of your soul.

3.2 Christ's Living Water makes your soul healthy

And our passage goes on to comment on itself explaining that the Living Water refers to the Holy Spirit. What you drink affects your health and complexion. Some stand by a preventative treatment called Water Therapy. In Water Therapy you drink lots of water within a short amount of time each day. This presumably washes your insides and makes you feel healthy and look healthy. If you drink Christ's Living Water it washes your soul and makes your spiritually healthy. This manifests itself in your aura so that people perceive some glow and peace about you. This is because the Holy Spirit is fully activated in you to produce his fruit when you drink Christ's Living Water. The Holy Spirit in you then produces his fruit of godliness: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23) So, come drink Christ's Living Water. Surrender your soul completely to the Holy Spirit. Lose yourself in the Holy Spirit. Give your soul up to the Holy Spirit.

4 Avoid drinking dead water

Jesus calls the water he is offering Living Water. This means that there must be some water that is "dead water." In fact, scientifically there is a concept of dead water – water that cannot sustain life. The Dead Sea in Israel is an example of this type of water; it is so salty that it cannot sustain life. "The sea is called 'dead' because its high salinity means no macroscopic aquatic organisms such as fish or water plants can live in it, though minuscule quantities of bacteria and microbial fungi are present."²

If Jesus is offering Living Water then someone else is offering dead water. But many ignore the Living Water and go instead for the dead water. Such water has been decorated to

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_sea#Flora_and_fauna

attract people. It is what the false prophets and false miracle workers are offering. It is water that gratifies the human flesh rather than the soul. It is water that poisons the soul because of the impurities in it. It is water that produces what the Apostle Paul calls acts of the sinful nature: “sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.” (Galatians 5:19-21)

This calls for self-examination. If you are consistently exhibiting one or more of these behaviors then you must be drinking dead water because Living Water cannot but produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Avoid drinking dead water. Come drink Christ’s Living Water.

5 Conclusion

Just as water is essential to the human body so also Christ’s Living Water is essential to the human soul. And so at the Feast of Tabernacles Christ offered Living Water as an alternative to the drink offering on the last day of the festival. Unless you thirst in your soul you will not seek for Christ’s Living Water. But if you thirst for it you will find it and receive many benefits. This is because Christ’s Living Water prospers you and makes your soul healthy.

Jesus Christ alone has the Living Water that you should thirst for – water that is not seasonal, water that never dries out, water with healing power, water with protective power, water with provision power, and water with salvific power. So come drink Christ’s Living Water. Come and gorge on Christ’s Living Water. Drench yourself in the Living Water. Soak yourself in the Holy Spirit.