

Jesus' Festival Message:

"Come and Drink"

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #26)

John 7:37-39

A. We're all acquainted with physical thirst. We have all been thirsty

1. Deprive your body of necessary fluids and your body will tell you
2. Deprive your soul of spiritual water and your soul will tell you
3. Treat your soul as you treat your thirst. Take a gulp!

B. Where do you find this soul nourishing water?

1. Jesus invites his listeners: "*Are your insides shriveling? Drink me!*" "Me!"
2. What water does for your body, Jesus does for your soul

THE INVITATION (7:37)

A. Jesus promises the gift of the Holy Spirit under the simplest of conditions

B. 7:37 - "*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink*"

1. You are an "*anyone.*" All are welcome
2. You simply have to follow his instructions: "*Come and drink*"
3. All one need be is needy. All one need feel is unworthy

C. How is it done?

1. First, by acknowledging your thirst
2. Second, by drinking good water
3. Third, by drinking deeply
4. Fourth, by drinking often

D. Jesus teaching on the filling of the Holy Spirit is simple

THE INCENTIVE (7:38)

"Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, 'rivers of living water will flow out from within them.'" (John 7:38)

A. The word "believes" (trusts) John uses refer to salvation, eternal life, and rebirth, he now uses for the filling of the Spirit

B. The word "rivers" is translated "floods" in Matt. 7:25,27 and Rev. 12:15-16

C. This living water "will flow" (not "may" flow but "will" flow!)

1. Okay, but then explain my weariness, irritability, anxiety?

2. God answers that in Ephesians 5:18 - "*Be filled with the Holy Spirit*"

D. The "them" is both the giving Christ and the receiving Christian

1. In John 4, both Jesus and the Samaritan woman overflow with living water

2. In John 7, both Jesus and the thirsty drinkers become "rivers"

E. Stale and stagnate, non-flowing water (lit. non-living water) is burdensome

THE INDWELLING (7:39)

A. The Spirit has not yet been given because Jesus has not yet been glorified

1. When John uses the word "glorify" he is talking about the cross of Christ
"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son that your Son may glorify you."
(John 17:1b)

2. Jesus didn't die just so we could be saved; he died to open the floodgates so we might live and become like Jesus

3. We're to be a conduit bringing the "living water" to a parched world

4. Don't wait until you've died to enjoy the blessings of believing

B. On Easter, Jesus gave his disciples his Spirit by breathing on them (20:22)

1. At the cross, Jesus' blood (symbolizing his atoning work) and the water (symbolizing the gift of God's Spirit) come together

2. Believers need only admit their need to Jesus in order to be breathed on and to drink from his Spirit (The Gospel is not complicated!)

C. The Father gives his Spirit so the "living water" never stops flowing

1. The Father has placed us in a thirsty world and told us to "*flow like a river*"

2. John Bunyan: "*There was a man and the world did think him mad. The more he gave away; the more he had.*"