THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER

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**DATE: 8/12/2018 am**

**TEXT: John 7:37-39**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are continuing our study in John’s Gospel

We are looking at how John portrays Jesus in different ways in each chapter

In Chapter 1 we saw Him painted as the Word

In Chapter 2 we saw Him painted as the Son of Man

In Chapter 3 we saw Him painted as the Divine Teacher

In Chapter 4 as the Great Soul Winner

In Chapter 5 as the Great Physician

In Chapter 6 as the Bread of Life

This morning, in Chapter 7, we will be looking at Him as -

**“THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER”**

According to **v. 2**, the Jews were celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles

This was a feast that occurred at the end of Sept. or the beginning of Oct.

During this 7-day feast, the Jews lived in booths made of tree branches to commemorate their forefather's pilgrimage through the wilderness

On each of these seven days, the High Priest would go to the Pool of Siloam and draw out water in a golden vessel

This water would then be poured out near the altar of sacrifice

As the water was poured out, the people sang unto the Lord and shouted for joy

It was a time of great celebration and worship

This kind of celebrating continued for 7 days

The 8th day was called ***“the Great Day of the Feast”***

On that day, sacrifices were again offered, but there was no singing and no shouting

This was known as a Solemn Day of Repentance before the Lord

Another element was missing on this day as well; there was no water poured out on the 8th day

It was against this backdrop of silence and symbolism that Jesus stood up and proclaimed Himself to be the Fountain of Living Water

When He spoke, thousands would have been present to hear Him,

And everyone who heard him, would have instantly understood what He meant

Let’s pray and look at how Jesus proclaims Himself to be...

**“THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s look at …

**I. THE “RECOGNIZING” – vs. 37,38**

We see in **vs. 37 & 38** JesusProclaiming Himself to be the Fountain (Not the Water)

In these 2 verses, Jesus proclaims Himself to be the place where the Living Water is found

Jesus isn't the Living Water, but He is the Fountain where it can be found! (Hear me now)

Throughout the Bible, water is often associated with the Holy Spirit

-- You see, it’s the Spirit of God that comes to the sinners and shows him his need for salvation

**John 16:8 – *“And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”***

-- It is the Holy Spirit that applies the Word of God in conviction

**John 6:44 – *“No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day”***

-- It is the Holy Spirit that baptizes the new believer into the body of Christ

**I Corinthians 12:13 – *“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit”***

Of which Water Baptism symbolizes

-- It is the Spirit that seals that believer

**Ephesians 4:30 – *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”***

-- It is the Spirit of God that fills the believer and uses him for the glory of God

**Ephesians 5:18 – *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”***

**II Timothy 2:21 – *“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work”***

Salvation involves every member of the Godhead …

But the Spirit of God is the One who abides in us and helps us day by day

The Holy Spirit is the **“Water of Life”**

**A. The Opening of the Well – v. 38**

If Jesus is the Fountain

And the Holy Spirit is the Water that comes out

Then before the Water of Life could be dispensed to a lost and dying world …

The Fountain of that Living Water had to be opened

The opening of a well requires that the earth be opened up so that life giving water could flow forth

**B. The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

Jesus’ Death, Burial and Resurrection was just that

The opening of the Well

The horrible death He died for the sin of mankind

He allowed Himself to be mocked, beaten, spit upon, and crucified just so He could be opened up and so the water of the Spirit might be free to flow to needy men

Many feel that salvation would be more of a reality if Jesus were here in person

Even His Disciples felt this way before His death

However, Jesus told them that if He didn't go away, the Spirit could not come

**John 16:7 – *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient (to your advantage) for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you”***

The best thing that could have happened … did

Jesus died on the cross, was Buried, Rose from the dead and ascended back into Heaven

Then, The Holy Spirit came into the world to function as Living Water to all who come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

**WE NEED TO “RECOGNIZE” THAT**

**II. THE “REWARDS” – v. 38**

Let’s look at the Rewards of coming to Jesus by Faith

Of Coming to the Fountain of Living Waters

**A. ‘Salvation’ – v. 37 b**

The primary benefit of coming to Jesus by faith is that of being eternally saved by the Grace of God

Saved from what? An eternity in Hell!

The Bible tells us that from birth we’ve gone astray

**Psalm 58:3 – *“The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies”***

**Psalm 51:5 – *“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me”***

Everyone is condemned and doomed from birth

**John 3:36 – *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him”***

**Psalm 9:17 – *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God”***

However, when that same person believes the Word of God and receives Jesus by faith,

That person is Saved from Hell, Delivered from Death and Protected from the wrath of God

**John 5:24 – *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”***

The soul that has placed its faith in Jesus for salvation need never fear ever again about being lost

**Romans 5:9 – *“Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him”***

However, be sure that what you claim to possess, is a reality

**II Peter 1:10 – *“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:”***

**II Corinthians 13:5 – *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”***

Can you honestly echo the words of the great Apostle Paul in **II Timothy 1:12 …**

***“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day”***

If this were the only benefit of coming to Jesus?

It would be worth it!

Because, salvation will change our lives and bring us into a place of blessing in the family of God …

And it guarantees you that you will go to Heaven when you leave this world

But, there's much more!

**‘Salvation’**

**B. ‘Satisfaction’**

Notice that it is from the ***“Belly”*** that these ***“rivers of living waters”*** flow

When the Lord uses that term, He is talking about His life

His giving of His Life

But the ***“belly”*** is also that part of man that is never satisfied

We feed it and soon thereafter, it cries out for more

Yet, Jesus says that if we come to Him,

He will give us Satisfaction for our most pressing needs

This world, and those in it, are seeking for those things that can never truly satisfy

Just ask the addict, ask the drunkard, ask the gambler, ask that person addicted to sex, money, possessions

The pursuit of these things leaves someone empty and always looking for more

Jesus, on the other hand, abundantly satisfies the soul of man!

No more does someone need to scratch their religious itch by participating in empty rituals and dead religion

But he now has a true Relationship with his Creator

He has tapped into a Fountain of Living Water

One that abundantly satisfies!

If you don’t believe me, just come to Jesus and see

for yourself

**Psalm 34:8 – *“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him”***

**Psalm 107:9 – *“For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness”***

**Humor:** The commercials tell us to eat Snickers. Because, *“it really satisfies”* But you can eat one today and tomorrow you will be looking for another

However, one trip to Jesus seems to eternally satisfy those who are truly saved by faith in Him

-- Don't you want to lay your head on your pillow in peace at night?

Jesus is the only One that can make that possible!

-- Don't you want to know for sure where your soul will spend eternity?

Jesus is the only One that can make that possible!

-- Don't you want to know the true joy of contentment?

Jesus is the only One that can makes that possible!

-- Don't you want to be free from the pull of the world?

Jesus is the only One that can make that possible!

All these things, and many more, are available to anyone who will come to Jesus

 Because with Jesus we also receive of His Spirit

And it is the Spirit of God in our hearts that gives us unending joy and peace!

**‘Satisfaction’**

**C. ‘Strength’**

These Living Waters Never Abate / Stop - ***“Flow”***

It is always there and it is constantly refreshing the life of the believer

This Living Water is that which gives us Power, gives us Joy and gives us Hope amidst this wicked world

There are many who say that they could never live a Christian life

That’s true!

Nobody, in their natural state, can live the Christian life

However, when the Spirit of God moves in

**John 14:16 – *“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever;”***

 … And lives through us

**Galatians 5:16 – *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”***

… He makes all things possible,

**Philippians 4:13 – *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”***

You see, the Spirit knows my needs and intercedes on my behalf

**Romans 8:26, 27 – *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” “And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God”***

It is the Spirit of God that makes Christian living possible

**Galatians 4:6 – *“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father”***

How does one get the Holy Spirit?

By Receiving Jesus … You come to Christ,

**Romans 8:9 – *“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His”***

**‘Strength’**

Another Reward is …

**D. ‘Service’**

The Bible makes it clear that when the Water of Life is placed within us

It forms a mighty river that flows out from us, and touches those around us

What the Lord is saying is that we will be sufficiently satisfied and that He will use us to reach others for His glory!

I think of the Rock in the desert

**Exodus 17:6 – *“Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel”***

When the Rock was opened up, the water flowed forth (in the desert) and refreshed all who came into contact with it

So, it is with us

When we are saved and willing to be used of God

He will allow us to pour forth the Living Water into the dry desert of this world

**Mark 1:17 – *“And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after Me, and I will make you to become fishers of men”***

**THE “RECOGNIZING”**

**THE “REWARDS”**

**III. THE “RECEIVING” – v. 37 …**

If … this sounds like what you need in your life,

Then, there is a way to get it

These verses tell us all about the Benefits of coming to Jesus,

But they also tell us How to come

Notice How you can drink at the Fountain of Living Water

**A. Have an Appetite – *“thirst”***

You have to be Thirsty

**A Thirst** *is a conscious desire for something not in one's possession*

I’m afraid that most people aren’t very thirsty

I don’t see many people coming

People are content with their status quo

Even if you are saved, you should never be satisfied with were you are in your walk with the Lord

We should be always striving to be closer

***“Just a closer walk with Thee”***

As long as we are satisfied where we’re at, and content with his life

Then we minimize God

However, when we see ourselves as lacking

And Jesus as the only fulfillment of that lack

Only then will we do something about it!

**Proverbs 27:7 – *“The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet”***

If you are full of the world and sense no need of God,

You will not come to Him

But, when the soul is empty and the heart is hungry, even the bitterness of conviction feels sweet, and the path to Jesus seems a blessed thing

What a difference a Thirsty heart makes in a person’s life

Is your heart Thirsty today?

Do you long for true peace?

Have you been searching everywhere for things that simply cannot satisfy the soul?

Why not come to Jesus today?

He’ll make all the difference in a person’s life

He’s what you have been Thirsting for!

**An ‘Appetite’**

**B. An ‘Approach’ – *“come”***

Jesus invites all the Thirsty to come unto Him

Let’s notice several aspects of Christ's cry

**1.** The Invitation

Jesus says here **– *“come”***

**Isaiah 55:1 – *“… every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, …”***

**Revelation 22:17 –*“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely”***

**2.** The Availability

These Living Waters are available to ***“any man”***

Again **John 6:37 –*“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out”***

**I John 5:1 *– “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth Him that begat loveth Him also that is begotten of Him”***

**Romans 10:13 *– “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”***

**3.** The Access

***“let him come unto Me, and drink”***

The Way is always open unto Jesus!

His Well is never dry, if you will only come to Him,

He will demonstrate His great power in your life

He loves you more than you could ever know

**Jeremiah 31:3 – *“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee”***

**Romans 8:38,39 – *“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,” “Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”***

He longs for your Fellowship

All He requires is that you come to Him

**Matthew 11:28 – *“Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”***

**C. The ‘Appropriation’ – *“drink”***

If I am Thirsty, I can Satisfy my Thirst with water,

But that only works if I drink

I can fill a glass, but it does me no good in the glass

It is only when I place the glass to my lips, tilt that glass and allow the water to enter my body that I can receive the benefits of the water

Jesus is the same way!

He is available to us, if you see the need

He longs to help and desires to redeem us from sin and Hell

And, He will if you will only come to Him

I’m afraid that many see the need and know about Jesus,

But they stop just short of Receiving Him, calling upon

Please, don't be guilty of doing that same thing

No one is ever saved until Jesus is received into the heart and life

**Revelation 3:20 – *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me”***

**John 6:47 – *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life”***

**Romans 10:9,10, 13 – *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”***

Remember, to believe is not an attitude of the mind,

But rather, an exercise of the heart

In **Exodus 12** Israel was commanded to put the blood of the lamb on the door post

Someone’s could not be saved until it was applied

Any family could have slain a lamb and eaten the flesh,

But only when the blood was applied was there safety to those abiding in the house

**Exodus 12:13 – *“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague …***

***… shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt”***

So, it is with our lives!

Only the Blood of Jesus grants salvation to the human soul

**Hebrews 9:22 – *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission”***

**I Peter 1:18,19 – *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;” “But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”***

Are you under the blood today?

**CONCLUSION**

Where do you stand in regards to your Relationship with the Lord?

You may be a church member, maybe faithful in attendance

Maybe you’re a visitor

Maybe you see yourself as a good person

Maybe you think you are beyond hope

Whatever your situation today, rest assured that if you will leave your place and will come to Jesus …

He will receive you by His power and meet your need

All that is required is that you come and that you believe on Him

Will you do just that today?

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