



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NATE OPFER

Friday, November 18, 2022

Scripture: John 7:37-39

TITLE: Living Water

Welcome to Win the Day. I'm Nate, your coach, filling in for Pastor Nat and today we are going to talk about living waters.

We are continuing in the Gospel of John 7:37-39, which reads:

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. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" 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.

We now come to the last day of the weeklong Feast of Booths, where Jesus has been teaching the people about all things relating to the kingdom of Heaven, sin and righteousness, hypocrisy, and salvation. During this time, Jesus has dealt with those who despise Him and their attempts to arrest Him, and also dealt with the many who believe Him and follow Him.

At this moment Jesus cries out to the crowd, loud enough so *everyone* can hear Him, and gives them an invitation. "If anyone thirsts, come to me and drink."

Jesus is issuing a call to anyone and everyone who can hear Him, but especially those who have been following Him. To those who have been amazed by His teaching and His miracles. To those who are amazed by Him but have misjudged what this Messiah has come to do. He calls out to these people because just claiming to follow Jesus and marveling at Jesus' teaching, His acts of kindness, and His miracles, is not enough.

Jesus issues the call because He will only be with them a little bit longer. Here on the last day of the Festival, with so many people gathered who will soon be returning home, there is an opportunity to challenge them one last time. He wants them to hear.

Jesus is always bold, He never shrinks back from opportunities to be obedient. Now is the time to preach.

And the significance of this invitation is connected with a very particular ritual performed during the Feast of Booths. From what historians tell us, each day of the festival all the people would bring a branch from their constructed booth and make a temporary covering over the altar in the Temple area. Then the high priest would take a golden pitcher and parade down to the Pool of

Siloam, take some water, parade his way back, and pour the water out on the altar as a reminder of God providing water from the rock to the Israelites in the desert. The people would recite Isaiah 12:3; “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”

With this in mind, Jesus invites the people to draw near to Himself, not to the ceremonies or the rituals, because He is the source of water now. Those rituals were just a shadow of the things to come. Those same labors and rituals offered year after year, could never save those who drew near to them.

We all thirst for salvation, to be made perfect, to be forgiven and restored to a right relationship with God our Father. We are dry land, like the desert. We cannot find water ourselves, it's impossible. We labor for it ourselves, apart from God, trying to fill our thirst with other things but it is worthless.

We must come. Only by coming to the well of Jesus to drink can we have that refreshment and replenishment which the Law could never supply. Come to Jesus, all who labor, and He will give you rest.

We must drink. Drink and never thirst again. Accept Him. Just as the Israelites drank from the living water that flowed from the rock, those who believe in Jesus will drink from a rock, that is Christ who dwells in them: The Holy Spirit.

Promised to all who repent and believe, the Holy Spirit continually points us to Christ. He teaches us and calls us to remember all that Christ has taught us. He is our helper and advocate in life though convicting us of sin and guiding us into all truth.

This well of living water within us, He makes us fruitful and joyful ministers to the world around us. You cannot contain it, it was meant to equip you as a blessing to the world. So come to Jesus, and drink. Come to eternal life. Let that blessing flow into all the world and point others to the Living Water.