



Rivers of Living Water



On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

-John 7:37-39 NRSV

Once I was working with the Federal Electric Company up on the mountains in Mexico. I was with a crew of workers in a new project to bring electricity through the mountains between two states. We were putting up those very tall steel transmission towers for High Power lines. One afternoon we were walking for a few miles amid the pine trees, and I started getting thirsty. Suddenly, I saw a spring of water coming out from the rocks. I started drinking from that cool fresh water from the stream. Right now, I still can feel the fresh water I drank that moment. It tasted so good that I just sat there and enjoyed that cool water for several minutes. But then, it came to my mind the words from this biblical passage in John 7:37-39 and I realized what Jesus’ words actually meant. Indeed, that was such a refreshing experience.

In the book of Exodus, we find the amazing story about the water coming out from the rock at Mount Horeb. The story tells us how as Israel was moved along the wilderness, eventually they camped at Rephidim, a place where there was no water for the people to drink. So, once more, they complained against Moses, “Give us water to drink!”

they demanded. “Quiet!” Moses replied. “Why are you complaining against me? And why are you testing the Lord?” But tormented by thirst, they continued to argue with Moses. “Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Are you trying to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?” Then Moses cried out to the Lord, “What should I do with these people? They are ready to stone me!” The LORD said to Moses, “Walk out in front of the people. Take your staff, the one you used when you struck the water of the Nile and call some of the elders of Israel to join you. I will stand before you on the rock at Mount Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come gushing out. Then the people will be able to drink.” So, Moses struck the rock as he was told, and water gushed out as the elders looked on.” (Ex.17:1-6).

John also tells us when Jesus was inviting to all the people gathered outside the temple in Jerusalem to come and to believe in him during the Festival of Booths. He offered them to drink the living waters of the Spirit. “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,” he said. He keeps inviting to drink the living water he offers to those who believe in him. I just want to tell you this world still keeps offering you all kind of drinks, but I can assure you, there will never be a real satisfaction for you. Just as the Rolling Stones group used to sing in 1970s, “I got not satisfaction,” you will always be thirsty despise other drinks the world offers to you as well. Yet, if you come to Jesus and drink the living water that He is offering you, the only one you really need, you will be thirsty no more. Only Jesus can truly fill you up with the Holy Spirit living water. You can find the inner satisfaction that you keep seeking in this life if you truly surrender your heart to Jesus. I won’t forget the day when he filled me up with the Spirit living water. Indeed, I felt the Spirit flowing within me like rivers of living water. Let me tell you, the fullness of the Holy Spirit is a supernatural experience that will satisfy your

spiritual thirst. Believe in Jesus and he will give you to drink the Spirit living water today.

Now, if you believe you are already full of the Holy Spirit living water, then it means you are not thirsty. In that case, you just ignore Jesus' invitation. But Jesus still is crying out his powerful invitation to this world, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scripture declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.' "As we may also read in Isaiah 55:1, "Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink—even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk—it's all free!" Sometimes you may feel the same way David experienced when he wrote in Psalm 42:1-2, "As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him?" He also sang on Psalm 63:1. "O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirst for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water." Would you like to echo David's words right here and right now? Join me in prayer please:

Gracious Lord, we are so thirsty today. We cannot find satisfaction in this world's waters. They are so polluted and impure by the sinful pleasures. We come to you with faith and praying for the Holy Spirit living water. Make the rivers of your Spirit flow within us and satisfy our soul with you love and grace today. Amen.

Rev. Jaime Farias