

“The Gospel of John: Living Water”

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Scripture

John 7:31-39

“But many of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, **“When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than those which this man has, will He?”** The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him. Therefore, Jesus said, **“For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me.”**”

34**“You will seek Me and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come.”** The Jews then said to one another, **“Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? He is not intending to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, is He? “What is this statement that He said, You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come’?”**”

37Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, **“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.”**” But this **He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”**”

Last week -> The Hypocrites Confronted

This week -> Living Water -> **Praying for Rain**

Many have commented on about water:

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|--|----|----------------------------|
| “Thousands have lived without love, not one without water” | -> | W.H. Auden |
| “Water is the driving force of all nature” | -> | Leonardo da Vinci |
| “If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water” | -> | Loren Eiseley |
| “Water is life – no water, no life” | -> | Save Water Campaign Slogan |

Today, we will talk about “living water”

The Messianic Evidence

John 7:31-32

“But many of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, **“When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than those which this man has, will He?”** The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him.”

The crowd continues with their questions about who Jesus is

Last week, we noted they were wondering if the Pharisees knew who Jesus was but was keeping it from them

They couldn't understand why they were not taking Jesus into custody since He was overtly calling them out

"But many of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, **"When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than those which this man has, will He?"**

Isaiah 61:1-2

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD"

Jesus is fulfilling Old Testament prophecy in front of the crowds' eyes -> SOME see it and understand

Isaiah 42:1-7

"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. **"He will not cry out or raise His voice,** nor make His voice heard in the street. **"A bruised reed He will not break** and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. **"He will not be disheartened or crushed Until He has established justice in the earth;** And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law."

5 Thus says God the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it,

6 "I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I **will appoint you as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison."**

Others, however, do not understand that these are prophetic signs

"The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him."

The Pharisees hear the words of the crowd and succumb to peer pressure

Hide and Seek?

John 7:33-36

"Therefore, Jesus said, **"For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me."** You will seek Me and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come." The Jews then said to one another, **"Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? He is not intending to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks,** is He? "What is this statement that He said, You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come'?"

Jesus tells the Jews He's not going to be around forever

He will be returning to Heaven soon -> the Father's timeline will be fulfilled

He tells the Jews that they cannot come where he will be going

These particular Jews? Is He telling them that they will not make it into Heaven?

John 13:31-33

“Therefore, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately. "**Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'**”

Jesus gives the apostles the same message -> they cannot come to Heaven (yet)

Peter wants to know why he cannot go:

John 13:36-38

“Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered, "**Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.**" Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.”

Peter is told that he will come along later on -> the Father's timeline

Back to John 7 -> the Jews ask where Jesus is going and theorize that He will go into the Dispersion

“The Jews then said to one another, "**Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? He is not intending to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, is He?**”

It is interesting: the Gentiles seeking Jesus was a marker on the Father's timeline:

John 12:20-23

“Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; these then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and began to ask him, saying, "**Sir, we wish to see Jesus.**" Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip came and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, saying, "**The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.**”

When the Greeks seek Jesus, He knows it's His time to go to the cross

Jesus came for His own -> the Twelve were to reach the Gentiles

The crowd wonders what Jesus means:

“What is this statement that He said, You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come'?”

They do not understand about Heaven or Spiritual Life

So, Jesus teaches at the end of the feast:

Living Water

The Jews are not able to seize Jesus -> because the Father holds the timeline

He stands up to preach on the last day of the feast, the most populated event of the week -> the last call

John 7:37-38

“Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, **"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water"**”

Water in the Bible

Water equated with Prosperous Life:

Psalm 1:1-3

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. **He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water**, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.”

Water equated with Salvation:

Isaiah 12:1-3

“Then you will say on that day, "I will give thanks to You, O LORD; For although You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, And You comfort me. "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation." **Therefore, you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation.**”

Water associated with a Place of Refreshment:

Isaiah 49:9-10

“Saying to those who are bound, 'Go forth,' To those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' Along the roads they will feed, and their pasture will be on all bare heights. "They will not hunger or thirst, nor will the scorching heat or sun strike them down; for He who has compassion on them will lead them and will guide them to springs of water."

Water associated with a Perpetual Growth:

Isaiah 58:11

“And the LORD will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and **you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.**”

Water associated with a Place of Peace:

Psalm 23:1-2

“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; **He leads me beside quiet waters.**”

So, what does Jesus mean by “Living Water”?

In the past, Israel Rejected God

Many people have rejected God:

Jeremiah 2:7-12

"I brought you into the fruitful land to eat its fruit and its good things. But you came and defiled My land, and My inheritance you made an abomination. "The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?' And those who handle the law did not know Me; The rulers also transgressed against Me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal and walked after things that did not profit. "Therefore, I will yet contend with you," declares the LORD, "And with your sons' sons I will contend. "For cross to the coastlands of Kittim and see and send to Kedar and observe closely and see if there has been such a thing as this! **"Has a nation changed gods When they were not gods? But My people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. "Be appalled, O heavens, at this, and shudder, be very desolate," declares the LORD."**

But **God says He is the Fountain of Living Waters:**

Jeremiah 2:13

"For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water."

Israel rejected a relationship with God – and therefore looked to themselves for answers

A cistern held water for the community -> but they were broken so they held no water -> seeped into the dirt

Did Jesus teach anyone else about Living Water?

Jesus and the Woman at the Well

John 4:9-14

"Therefore, the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said to her, **"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."** She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" Jesus answered and said to her, **"Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."**

The Woman wanted this water:

John 4:15

"The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw."

John explains what Jesus meant by "Living Water"

John 7:39

"But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

John comments on Jesus's teaching -> **some 60 years after Jesus spoke them**

He learned over the experiences of his life about "living water"

In the Bible, water is also **associated with the Holy Spirit:**

Isaiah 44:1-5

“But now listen, O Jacob, My servant, and Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus says the LORD who made you and formed you from the womb, who will help you, 'Do not fear, O Jacob My servant; and you Jeshurun whom I have chosen. For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants; and they will spring up among the grass like poplars by streams of water.' "This one will say, 'I am the LORD'S'; and that one will call on the name of Jacob; and another will write on his hand, 'Belonging to the LORD' and will name Israel's name with honor.”

An Invitation to Drink

From the Old Testament:

Isaiah 55:1-3

“Ho! **Every one who thirsts, come to the waters;** and you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance. "**Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live;** and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, according to the faithful mercies shown to David.”

From the New Testament:

Revelation 21:5-7

“He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. **I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.**”

Some diagnostic questions for us:

Do you feel the Holy Spirit's presence in your life?

Do you see Him changing you to be like Christ?

Do you see the fruit of the Spirit coming out of you?

Galatians 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Are the old ways of the flesh growing weaker and being replaced by the spiritual ways?

Invitation Song -> “Come, just as you are”

Come just as you are -> Hear the spirit call

**Come just as you are -> Come and see -> Come receive -> Come and live forever
Life everlasting -> Strength for today -> Taste the living water -> and never thirst again**

Invitation Song -> “Living Water”

Prayer & Benediction