

Sunday, August 26, 2018

Water – Speaker: Dave Solmes

Text: John 7:37-39

On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.' (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him.)

Our text finds Jesus in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Shelters (Tabernacle) in Jerusalem. The daily liturgy during this festival included the Celebration of Water. The celebration of water was central to the festival of shelters because of God's interest to keep in the forefront of their minds the many water miracles that manifested God's protection and care in the wilderness. Two of the most significant being: Exodus 14 & Exodus 17.

Jesus was not just another person in the crowd: Jesus invitation in John 7 shows He is far more than just a prophet or an agent. Here we have God himself offering life. Inviting all people to come and drink.

Jesus is asking the most important question:
What is going on in your heart?
Are rivers of living water flowing from your heart?'

Jesus always made it about matters of the heart.
Psalm 44:21 - since he knows the secrets of the heart?
Luke 16:15 - but God knows your hearts.
Acts 15:8 - God, who knows the heart
Romans 8:27- He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit,

Jesus reaches out with an invitation:
#1. "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink!

Jesus in a very profound way asks each in the crowd: Are you spiritually thirsty?

If you believe I am the true source of living water come and find life in a relationship with me. Suggesting that you and I, all people, are to find in Jesus the source of Life. We find in Him that which we find nowhere else. ARE YOU THIRSTY?

#2. "For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'

Jesus shares an abundant promise. His statement would have been contrasted by the hearer with the what was thought to be miraculous healing waters from the pool of Siloam and the high priest's water jug. This river he was introducing would flow from the heart! Abundantly!

Question: How does this actually happen?

Isaiah 58:11 The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring.

#1. He will Guide You

Psalm 23:2 - He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths.

Psalm 25:5 - Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour.

Psalm 25:9 - He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

#2. He will Give to You

We are to take our longing, craving, our needs, concerns to Jesus so He can meet us in the midst of these most basic needs. The word used for "water" here references every form of water, ie. moisture, dew, rain, sea, river, spring. He promises to meet all our needs according to His riches.

#3. He will Grow You

We will export. Going forth to share and serve. God's great interest is to nourish you and I, as well as all the people of the world. He longs for His world, His earth to be teeming with life.

Questions:

Are you spiritually thirsty?

What are some things that we can do to find spiritual nourishment and replenishment?