

“RIVERS OF LIVING WATER”

John 7:37-39

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

However, it is still possible for some people to respond positively to His person, teachings, and work (vv. 37-39). Those who do so will find genuine refreshment and life. They will also become a source of blessing to others.

As the Feast of Tabernacles is coming to an end, Jesus watches the crowds as they mill about accomplishing all of their various activities. *Have you ever watched the multitudes in a busy city and thought about the general purposelessness and emptiness of most of the lives represented. Have you ever thought about what will be the tragic end result of most of those lives.* People go through the motions of their lives—but for what? Where will they end up? What is the point of it all?

Jesus must have had some such thoughts as He watched the bustling crowds. Finally His spirit allowed Him to be silent no longer. He had to speak out—forcefully. He called their attention to Himself and made them an offer that no one should refuse, an offer that only a “fool” would refuse.

In this passage John shows us that the *thirsty one* must become the *believing one* by drinking from the **living water** offered by the *Holy One*, in order that he might be receptive to the *Indwelling One*.

If the Holy Spirit does not indwell you, you are not a believer and you still suffer from an unquenchable thirst. If that is your condition, you must come to Jesus Christ and drink! Once you do, you MUST BE A SOURCE OF BLESSING TO OTHERS!

I. THE HOLY ONE (Jesus—v. 37)

A. He assesses the need

1. He waits for the opportune time: “the last day, the great day of the feast.”
Cf. prophecy in Haggai 2:6-9—spoken near where Jesus was, and likely about the same day of the month as Jesus—21st day of 7th month.
2. He recognized the need of these people, and knew that nothing they were doing could meet that need—only He could do so!

B. He addresses the multitudes.

1. His visible position
2. His emphatic speech: “Cried” (cf. v. 28).
3. His first **recorded** teaching at this feast, and in the city of Jerusalem.

II. THE THIRSTY ONE (Unsaved—37b)

A. His Condition—**thirsty**

B. His Coming (Cf. Is. 55:1; Rev. 22:17)

The coming is the repentance and faith in Christ.

C. His Drinking

The drinking is the partaking of Christ—the benefits of the salvation He offers.

III. THE BELIEVING ONE (saved—38a)

A. The object of Faith—“Me”, i.e. Christ.

B. The Promised Results—OT scriptures

C. The Actual Results

1. Indwelling Holy Spirit

a. Out of “his belly”—i.e. inmost being, heart. Compare Pr. 20:27, etc.

b. “Living water” [See chapter 4.]

The Spirit must be there first before He can flow outward!

2. Out-flowing Holy Spirit

a. Rivers--abundance

b. Flowing to others—not inward focus, but others focus.

The believer who receives the blessing of Salvation in the Spirit becomes a secondary source of blessing to others.

THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE HAS AN OUTGOING NATURE.

3. These waters **don’t dry up**. Their source is in the *divine life*.

God uses the believer to bless others.

IV. THE INDWELLING ONE (the Holy Spirit—39)

“This He spoke of the Spirit.”

A. He lives in Believers.

B. They “would soon” receive Him.

C. He had not yet “been given”—i.e. from the Father

D. He Came at Pentecost.

E. He came after Christ’s Glorification—Jesus had not yet been glorified. Notice the union of the Cross and Ascension in John’s view!

CONCLUSION

Yes, Christ’s gift of the Holy Spirit is **divine in origin**, is **channeled through the believer**, and is in **superabundant measure**.

The full manifestation of the Spirit was made possible by the Ascension and Glorification of Christ. The Spirit couldn’t be to us the “life of Jesus” until after Jesus’ resurrection.

We now live in the “era of the Spirit.” **Do you have the Spirit? Does He flow through YOU?**