

**The Word Became Flesh**  
**Week 22**  
**John 7:37-8:1**  
**“Streams Of Living Water”**

**Introduction**

**“The one who believes in Me, as The Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.”** **John 7:38**

As we finish our study of **John Chapter 7**, I would like to do things a but different than usual. The chapter continues to show the different debates going on among the people as to the identity of Jesus. Some claim that He was a deceiver of the people. Others said that He was a good man. Some accused Him of being demon possessed, while still others believed in Him. The same is true today. People are all over the spectrum, when it comes to Christ, but those who truly come to Him by faith are forever changed as a result.

Jesus is a divisive figure to say the least. After all, it is He who even divided time itself from B.C. (Before Christ) to A.D. (anno domini, meaning the year of our LORD). Those who refuse to accept Him and would like nothing more than to erase Him from history completely have changed those letters to BCE and CE (meaning before common era and common era), but still it is Jesus, The Son of God Who divides the two. He is the divider of both time and of mankind itself.

**“I came to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already set ablaze! But I have a baptism to undergo, and now it consumes Me until it is finished! Do you think that I came here to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on, five in one household will be divided: three against two, and two against three. They will be divided, father against son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”** **Luke 12:49-53**

You see, everyone must decide for themselves Who Jesus is. There can be no neutrality on this issue. And making that choice is what shall separate the sheep from the goats, the lost from the saved. It all comes down to this one question, that everyone will ultimately answer one way or the other:

**“But you,” He asked them, “Who do you say that I AM?”** **Matthew 16:15**

There were many opinions in Jerusalem that week, when Jesus appeared in the Temple courts to speak the very words of God. But only one of them was truth: Jesus is the Great I AM, The Son of The Most High God. He came to seek and to save that which was lost (**Luke 19:10**). And there is no other Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (**Acts 4:12**).

The ruling council of The Jews (Sanhedrin) sent their temple guards to arrest Jesus while He spoke at the Temple, but even they were astonished at His teaching. When those servants returned empty handed to their masters, they reported that Jesus was a far better teacher than any of them! Oh, how that must have simply “delighted” the Pharisees and Sadducees to hear that the one that they so despised was far better at doing their job than they ever could!

**“The servants answered, “No man ever spoke like this!”** **John 7:46**

But again, there is a big difference between those who believe and those who do not. On the final day of the feast, Jesus made a promise to any who would come to Him by faith. They would have streams of living water flowing from within them. It was a promise that is still true today. If you have Christ, then this water will not only flow into you, but will go out from you as well. Please allow me to explain.

**Water Flowing In (vs. 37)**

***On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink."*** **John 7:37**

Imagine if you went to a very traditional church this Sunday morning. The Choir is singing and the service is so neatly arranged and ordered. The bulletin that was handed to you at the door spells out in great detail every single moment of the service. It has been scripted down to every song, when the offering will be taken, and even down to when the last prayer will be spoken. The pastor's sermon topic and scripture reading is neatly listed for you as well. So, you are completely aware of every single thing that will take place.

Most of us have attended such a service. I cannot help but think about a pastor that I knew getting up before church one Sunday morning and saying, "LORD, please let something happen here today that isn't in the bulletin!" I knew exactly what he meant by that. He wanted God to have His way in the service, and this pastor wanted our Heavenly Father to know that He was free to interrupt the proceedings at any time. After all, we were gathered there in HIS NAME!

Now, I want you to picture what the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles was like in Jesus day. It was the last and most important day of the feast. There was a ritual that took place to bring into remembrance the blessings of God among His chosen people. This ritual was known as the "water libation ceremony". The high priest would lead a procession to the Pool of Siloam to dip a golden pitcher into the water. Then he, with the people in tow, would return to the Inner Court, where he would pour the water out into a silver basin. As he poured, the choir of Levites would sing the Egyptian Hallel (**Psalm 113-118**) as the people celebrated in worship.

The symbolism of this "libation offering" was two-fold. First it was to remind the people of the time when God provided for His people in the wilderness by bringing water out of the rock (**Exodus 17, Numbers 20**). And secondly, it was a celebration of the coming rains that God would provide for the next year's harvest. The Feast of Tabernacles was a fall celebration that looked to God's provision for His people, both in past times and in the future. So, this final day of the festival was a very special time of worship indeed.

Now, with this in mind, picture what it must have been like for the people that day, when right in the middle of all this ordered ritualistic activity, a voice boomed from the crowd to interrupt the proceedings. The LORD shouted to the top of His lungs above the singing and worshipping crowd:

***"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink!"***

Oh, how I would have loved to have been there to hear that! The Priests and all the singers would have been shocked, and safe to say, quite perturbed at this upstart from Galilee, Who had interrupted the proceedings. But doesn't God have the right to speak at His own celebration. These priests would have done well to pray, "LORD, please let something happen here today that isn't in the bulletin!" And then, when God spoke, they should have listened.

Jesus made an offer that day that was really the point of the whole feast. For you see, that Rock from which God brought water in the wilderness was none other than Christ Himself!

***"...For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ."*** **1 Corinthians 10:4b**

Now, just think about that Rock for a moment. It gave the people water on two separate occasions. The first time, God commanded Moses to strike the Rock, and when he did so, it gave water so that the people might live. This is a picture of Jesus being smitten for our sins. He died upon the cross, so that we might have everlasting life.

The second time this Rock gave water, Moses was commanded to simply speak to it. God did not want this stone to be struck a second time. We all remember that Moses had a bit of a tantrum and hit the Rock again. And for this, He was not allowed to enter the promised land.

The significance of this is also simple. Because Jesus has been smitten once and for all (**Hebrews 10:1-18**) to give us salvation, all that we need to do is come to Him and ask for it (*Speak* to the rock). To refuse this offer is to “strike the Rock” a second time. Anyone who does so will never enter into the promised land. So, when Jesus stood up and gave the offer that last day of the feast, it was completely appropriate and perfectly timed. God showed up and spoke at His own celebration, and He was accepted by some, but rejected by many. Any who will come to Him by faith will be given living water.

The living water that He gives is none other than The Holy Spirit, Who indwells every believer. John reminds his readers that the first “outpouring” of God’s Spirit into the followers of Christ occurred at the feast of Pentecost after Jesus had died and rose again (His glorification **vs. 38**). So here is the promise to all who believe: The Spirit of The Living God will come into you and fill you, and by this Spirit you will receive new life in Christ.

**And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as others were also. BUT GOD, Who is rich in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!”** **Ephesians 2:1-5**

If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Christ and taste the living water of The Spirit. He will come into you and give you new life.

### **Water Flowing Out**

**“The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.” He said this about The Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive The Spirit, for The Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified.** **John 7:38-39**

Not only does the living Spirit of God flow into the believer, He also flows OUT of them. For you see, to be in Christ is to also have the personality of Christ coming out of you. *The Bible* calls this, “The Fruit of The Spirit.”

**But the fruit of The Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.** **Galatians 5:22-23a**

For it is impossible for a person to be changed on the inside and not changed on the outside! Simply put, if Christ is within you, then Christ will come OUT of you! Streams of living water (The Spirit of God) will flow from deep within you. In other words, to have Christ is to share Christ! There is no such thing as a Christian who is only living for themselves. Rather, we have been called to die to self and live for Christ. And living for Him causes us to share with others.

**I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.** **Galatians 2:20a**

So there you have it. Those who believe in Jesus and come to Him by faith will be given the living water of The Spirit of God. That water will flow into and out of you. This is the promise of Christ Himself.

Some of the people believed in Jesus that day at the festival. Many would “strike the stone a second time” by refusing the living water that He offered. Even the temple guards were torn between the

message of Christ and the foolish declarations of their masters in the Sanhedrin. Nicodemus was, however, feeling himself ever drawn to the Savior. He even started to defend Him in front of the ruling council. And he was met with scorn and derision for his efforts. We know that Nicodemus became a follower of Jesus, however, for this is the only way that John would have ever known of the discussion that day that took place in the council meeting. Nicodemus took his stand for Christ, even though he would become an outcast for his faith.

The break between the end of Chapter 7 and the beginning of Chapter 8 is unfortunate. For there is an important truth that we should all notice. At the end of Chapter 7, it says that everyone went home. While at the beginning of Chapter 8, we are told that Jesus went to The Mount of Olives. For you see, He, The Son of God, had no home on this earth to return to. While everyone else was at home sleeping in their warm beds, The Savior was left out in the cold. Could someone in the crowd that day not have invited Him in?

Which brings me to ask you this question today: Have you ever invited Jesus into your home? Has there ever been a time when you asked Him to come and stay with you forever? Don't leave Him out in the cold my friends. Invite Him in. Taste the Living Water and never thirst again.

And let all who were thirsty and came to Jesus say... TRUTH!!!