

Behold the Lamb of God Series

IF ANY MAN THIRST

JOHN 7

Text: John 7:37

John 7:37

³⁷ *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.*

Introduction:

Did you know that you can survive for weeks without food, but you can only go 3 or 4 days without water? Have you ever been thirsty?

I'm not talking about grabbing a bottle of water after a walk in the park. I'm talking about Real Thirst?

So thirsty that you had to get something to drink?

Here in John 7 is One of The Great Invitations of the Bible.

Jesus says to the Thirsty Come & Drink! And here in the midst of their religious festival, the Jews came to the water but failed to drink.

The Jews were so caught up in their TRADITION that they Failed to Grasp the TRUTH.

They were wrapped in Symbolism but failed to see the Savior.

For 7 Days, the Jews would come together and bring offerings, blow trumpets, recite scripture, sing the psalms, shout it out, and go back home, Religious but LOST.

I'm convinced this describes Christianity today.

Notice:

1. THE FOCUS OF THE FEAST

From our text we can see they were caught up in Tradition of the Feast. Would you listen with an open ear and see just how close these thirsty souls came so close to the Water of Life, but they walked away without drinking?

Review the Feast of the Tabernacles

It was first mentioned in Leviticus 23

The Feast itself was like our Holidays.

The Feast of Tabernacles was like our Christmas.

It was said to be their favorite.

The whole FOCUS of the Feast was a Reminder of TWO THINGS

- A Reminder of God's Protection

When the children of Israel wandered through the wilderness, God was their Protection.

While they traveled through the desert they lived in tents.

That symbolized this life was just temporary.

They were only passing through. During the Feast of Tabernacles, they moved out of their houses and lived in Tents for 7 days!

It was a reminder of God's Protection!

- A Reminder of God's Provision

As the children of Israel journeyed from Egypt to the promise land they became Very Thirsty. Remember they were traveling through the desert.

Exodus 17:1-6

¹ And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their

journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink.² Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?³ And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?⁴ And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.⁵ And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.⁶ Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Notice not only the Focus of the Feast But Also:

2. THE FORMALITIES OF THE FEAST

A. They Were Drawn From the Old Testament

Leviticus 23:34

³⁴ *Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.*

Leviticus 23:40-43

⁴⁰ *And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.* ⁴¹ *And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.* ⁴² *Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:* ⁴³ *That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.*

B. They Were Developed Over Time

In addition to the ceremonies originally prescribed at the institution of the Feast of Tabernacles, were several others of a later date.

Among these (there) was the daily drawing of water from the pool of Siloam. Every morning at day break, the priest would leave the temple.

He was dressed in a white robe and carrying a golden pitcher. He would lead a procession of people down to the pool of Silom, where he would fill the golden pitcher with water.

On returning to the temple, he was welcomed with three blasts from a trumpet, and, going to the west side of the great altar, he poured the water from the golden pitcher into a silver basin, which had holes in the bottom through which the water was carried off.

On the 7th Day he would perform this 7 times.

As the priest poured the water onto the altar the people would cry out.

There would be leaping, and dancing, and shouting, and singing, and great hallelujahs would fill the air.

It was right at this climax of the feast that the Lord Jesus stood up in that crowd, and cried out, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink" (v.37b).

John 7:37

³⁷ *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus*

stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

C. They Were Distracted Over Tradition

The Water they were singing about represented LIFE. They knew how important that water was.

It sustained life in the desert. And when Jesus cried out, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink, they knew what he was implying!

But because of tradition they failed to accept his offer.

Notice not only the Focus of the Feast and the Formalities of the Feast But Also:

3. THE FOUNTAIN AT THE FEAST (VS. 37-38)

John 7:37-38

³⁷ *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. ³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*

Jesus waited till the last day, the climax of the feast and as they were settling down from their celebration, Jesus stood up!

Which was unusual, because the priest normally sat down?

Jesus standing up showed Importance!

It showed Urgency!

A. It Signified a Thirst – “If any man thirst”

Jesus knew that all men have a thirst!

- Man has a PHYSICAL Thirst

We all have a built in thirst for water! If we do not have water we will die.

- Man has a WORLDLY Thirst

A thirst for pleasure...money...fame!

Jesus said of these, whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again!

- Man has a SPIRITUAL Thirst

Just as every man has a thirst for water, every man thirst for forgiveness!

Forgiveness over the SINS they have committed.

Forgiveness from the Guilt they carry!

B. It Signified a Saviour – “let him come unto me”

That word “Come” is one of the simplest words in the English Language!

It signifies an approach! To Come to Christ means you do with your heart what you would do with your feet!

You come to Jesus By FAITH!

C. It Signifies a Supply – “a drink”

Are you thirsty for something?

Drink!

There’s HELP in the Lord!

There’s HOPE in the Lord!

There’s HAPPINESS in the Lord!

Just drink!

D. It Signified a Satisfaction (vs. 38)

John 7:38

³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

We're not only to be a Reservoir, we are to be a Receptacle!

We're not only to be a sponge; we are to be a SPICKET!

What he is saying is the as the Water of Refreshing comes Down!

As The Water of Revival comes DOWN! We are to be an OASIS for those weary souls we come in contact with and share some of the Water of Life with them!

Close:

Have we drank from the fountain of water He provides?