

GETTING IN OVER YOUR HEAD

EZEKIEL 47:1-12

Text:

Introduction:

1. EZEKIEL'S VISION (VS 1-2, 6-12)

A. He saw a river (A type of the Holy Spirit)

John 14:16-18

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [17] Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [18] I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

There are three ways that this river represents the Holy Spirit.

- It's source - the throne of God
- It's course - from the altar
- It's force - Notice these 4 things

1. It had no feeder stream
2. It could heal (vs 8)
3. It could revive (vs 9)
4. It could bring forth fruit and freshness (vs 12)

2. EZEKIEL'S VENTURE (VS 3-4)

Ezekiel was led into deeper and deeper waters.

A. Ankle Deep - A step of faith - (Salvation)

Acts 16:31

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Psalms 34:8

O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Illustration:

This is where the waders stay! Those who get saved and refuse to grow in the Lord are just dabblers. They spend all of their time in the shallow end of the pool afraid to wade out deeper. They miss the blessings of the deeper life. These people are in total, absolute control of their lives.

Have you ever watched the children in the kiddie pool? They remind me of a lot of church members, always yelling and screaming, wanting somebody else's pool toy. Doing their best to splash someone and push someone else under. Sounds just like many of the folk in our churches, doesn't it

B. Knee Deep - Speaks of prayer - A life that is learning dependence upon the Lord.

Illustration:

Those who are at this level know something of the power of the river. They can feel its power as it rushes past, but they aren't really affected by it. They are still standing on their own 2 feet. They are in control of their lives and aren't being supported by the river.

C. Loin Deep - A picture of strength

More of the river and less of the man is seen

John 3:30

He must increase, but I must decrease.

Illustration:

The few, who are at this level of spiritual maturity, have lost some control over themselves. They are often picked up by the river and moved a few feet at a time,

but still, they are close enough to the shore to be able to stand if they need to. They are in control.

3. EZEKIEL'S VICTORY (VS 5)

At this place Ezekiel has reached a point where the river is in control. He is at the mercy of the river.

At this point we see a picture of the highest spiritual level.

A. When you are in this deep you have gone beyond your own ability.

Philip. 4:13

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

B. When you are in this deep you have ceased to support yourself.

Ezekiel was no longer wading but resting. He was no longer in charge.

C. When you are in this deep you have given yourself up to the will of the river.

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy,

acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
[2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

D. When you are in this deep you are just happy to be carried by the river.

Ephes. 5:18

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Galatians 5:25

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

1 John 2:6

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Close:

Do you know what the secret to real revival is? It is nothing more than for God's people to get to the place where they are as deep in Him as they can get! That's what it is! It isn't for that ankle deep crowd! Those knee deep folks will get a ripple every now and then. Even those who are out there to the loins won't feel the force of God's power like they should. It is only when we throw ourselves on the mercy of the river and

allow the Spirit of God to have the absolute right of way in our lives that we can experience true and genuine revival.

Note 2 things.

- He brought Ezekiel through the water. (vs 3-4)

Ezekiel 47:3-4

And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles. [4] Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins.

Illustration:

Job

3 Hebrew Children

Daniel in the Lion's den

- The deeper you go the harder it is to jump out.

Illustration:

When you are in the kiddie pool, you can jump in and out whenever you feel like it, even when you are knee deep and loin deep, it is just a short hike back to the safety of the bank. However, when you have placed yourself at the mercy of the river, it's a whole lot harder to get back out again.

What I'm saying is that an ever deepening spiritual life is a hedge against failure. Get in as deep as you can!

Just how deep are you? Are you still in the shallows? If so, wade on out, because the water is fine! Nothing great will ever happen when one is wading. You've got to get out there pretty deep to get where your feet no longer touch the bottom. What are you going to do? Some of you have never even gotten into the water. Make this day your day to give it all up to Jesus. Will you do it?