

Rivers of Living Water

5-12-24

John 7:37–38 (ESV) O/H

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ”

Jesus has exploded onto the scene in human history and Jewish culture. Basically, HE has told the people that HE is the Christ and everyone who believes in HIM will never die. This is causing quite a stir among the population and the religious leaders. Many of his disciples stop following HIM. From John 6:30 through all of John Chapter 7, the people’s convoluted statements and understanding about Jesus are presented. Their convoluted understanding is the same convoluted understanding present today. Nothing is new under the sun. In all this confusion, Jesus knew who did not believe and who would betray HIM. At this time the Jews were celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles which celebrates God providing for them during their desert wanderings. Over the years the Jews “embellished” the feast by adding a ritual of pouring out water by the priest. It is at this time, Jesus stood up in front to everyone and cries out in a loud voice: If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Jesus is saying, “Come to me! I am your life and sustenance.” Jesus also saying that this is more than a different belief system. Jesus is revealing NT transformation. This is what Jesus meant when HE previously told Nicodemus that he must be born again. Jesus went on to explain:

John 3:6 (ESV)

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Everyone born is physically alive, but spiritually dead. We must be born again to be spiritually alive. This means that spiritual birth is effected by the Holy Spirit. We are not just people with a different belief system. We are alive with Christ living in us. The Apostle Paul preached this truth.

Colossians 1:27 (ESV)

This mystery, which is Christ in you.

Later on, when speaking to the Woman at the well, Jesus relates this life-giving experience to drinking life giving water.

John 4:14 (ESV)

Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

The gift of the Spirit will be something experienced continually like a spring of water welling up within them. What Jesus told the Woman at the well, HE is now telling everyone.

John 7:37–38 (ESV) O/H

³⁷ If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'

Brothers and sisters, when we come to Jesus, we receive the Holy Spirit and out of our own hearts will flow rivers of living water. This is more than a belief system or religion.

Overhead: “We become fountains of Living Water!”

No doubt Jesus is talking about the Holy Spirit.

John 7:39 (ESV)

Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Holy Spirit is the reality of every believer in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit transforms us and flows out from our heart like rivers of living water. The OT gives us a picture of the Holy Spirit flowing out from each of us.

Isaiah 32:2 (ESV)

“Each” will be like a hiding place from the wind,
a shelter from the storm,
like streams of water in a dry place,
like the shade of a great rock in a weary land.

Each believer will be “like streams of water in a dry place” giving life and encouragement. Jesus gives us examples.

Mark 13:11 (ESV) O/H

And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Fact: We are fountains of the Holy Spirit.

Question: How do we let the waters flow?

Answer: “ASK!” For me personally, I have searched the Scriptures and I have seen only one way to release the rivers of living waters. “ASK!” Jesus said:

John 14:26 (ESV) O/H

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

From the very beginning Jesus promised to forgive us and give us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38 (ESV) O/H

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Forgiven we become fountains of the Holy Spirit!