

Fresh Water for Dry Souls

John 7:25–44

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Hot, dry summers to help us understand the message of this passage.
2. There are moments in life when we suddenly realise just how thirsty we really are.
3. During a prolonged dry spell, everything begins to suffer.
4. A good soaking rain changes everything. There is a freshness, new life, a renewal.
5. What is true physically is also true spiritually.
6. There are times when our souls become dry. Joy seems thin. Strength feels low.
7. While we continue doing what we always do, something inside us feels empty.
8. That is the kind of experience Jesus speaks into when we read John 7:37-39.
9. He **stood** and **cried out**. This was not a quiet suggestion, but a public proclamation.
10. Jesus knew there were thirsty people in that crowd, just as there are here today.
11. So this morning I want us to consider three things:
 - **The invitation Jesus gives.**
 - **The water Jesus provides.**
 - **And the life that water produces.**

B. THE SETTING: THIRSTY PEOPLE AT A JOYFUL FEAST

1. The Feast of Tabernacles was one of the great Jewish festivals.
2. It was a celebration of God's provision & faithfulness during their desert travels.
3. Water was a particularly powerful symbol during this feast.
4. The feast was filled with joy, celebration and worship.
5. In the midst of all this, Jesus cried: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me & drink."
6. That tells us something important.
7. **You can be surrounded by religion and still be spiritually thirsty.**
8. You can attend the services, sing the songs, & participate in the traditions.
9. You can appear to have everything together, but still be dry on the inside.
10. The people at the feast were celebrating God's provision of water.
11. But Jesus was offering them something far greater. He was offering living water.
12. He was speaking to the thirst beneath the surface. He still speaks to that thirst today.

C. THE INVITATION JESUS GIVES

1. "*If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.*" What a wonderful invitation!
2. Notice the first two words: "***If anyone...***" That means the invitation is open.
3. Jesus does not say when you are perfect & have it all together to earn the right.
4. He simply says: "*If anyone thirsts...*" The invitation is for thirsty people.
5. But Jesus does not say, "**Fix yourself, then come.**" He says, "**Come.**"
6. Your thirst is not a barrier to Christ. **Your thirst is the reason you need Christ.**
7. Then Jesus says: "**Let him come to Me...**"
8. Notice where Jesus directs us. He says: "Come to Me."
9. Not to religion. self-improvement, possessions, success, pleasure or relationships.

10. The answer to our deepest spiritual thirst is not found in **something**.
11. It is found in **Someone**. Jesus Christ.
12. We see something similar in Jn 4 when Jesus spoke with the woman at the well.
13. She had tried many things, but nothing could satisfy the deepest needs of her heart.
14. Jesus offered her living water. Her circumstances didn't immediately disappear.
15. But her life was changed. Only because she had encountered Christ.
16. The same Jesus who met that woman at the well still meets thirsty people today.
17. Then Jesus says: "**And drink.**" Drinking is an act of receiving.
18. And there comes a moment when every person must personally respond to Jesus.
19. But we must accept the invitation & come to Christ and drink.

D. THE FOUNTAIN

1. Jesus goes beyond satisfying our thirst. He wants His life to flow through us.
2. Religion can become something we do; Christianity is something God does in us.
3. We are meant to become a channel through which God's blessing flows to others.
4. Jesus says the Spirit's life within us is intended to overflow into every area of life.
5. The question is not simply: "**Am I being refreshed by Christ?**"
6. It is also: "**Is the life of Christ flowing through me to others?**"

E. JOHN EXPLAINS

1. The living water is a picture of the Holy Spirit, enabling us to live for Christ.
2. The Christian life is not lived in our own strength. God is our source.
3. That gives us a wonderful picture: Thirst → Come → Drink → Overflow
4. The Christian life is not about how much spiritual water we can produce.
5. It is about how much we are willing to receive from Christ.
6. Come honestly; drink deeply & let the river flow
7. God refreshes us so that we can refresh others.
8. Speak encouragement and show kindness
9. Share Christ. Our task is to point thirsty people to the Source.
10. Trust God even when you don't feel different
11. Our feelings are not the measure of God's faithfulness.

F. CONCLUSION

1. "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink." He still gives that invitation.
2. Jesus says: "**Come to Me.**" And then: **Drink.** Receive the life of the Holy Spirit.
3. And then allow what God has poured into you to flow through you.
4. And the Spirit is able to turn dry souls into life-giving streams.
5. So the question this morning is simple: **Do you need to be refreshed?**
6. Jesus still says: "**If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me & drink.**"
7. May we come. May we drink. And may He flow **in us and through us.**