

## Week 18

### Rivers of Living Water

John 7:32

The religious leaders thought that they finally might get an opportunity to get rid of Jesus, but they underestimated the people's response to Him. Everyone was not against Him as they supposed, or hoped.

John 7:33

Here is a clear statement that His death was under His control, they could not take His life, He would lay it down.

John 7:34

For these people there was a time when they could not see Him, even though they would seek Him. They are still seeking their Messiah; they missed Him due to unbelief.

Luke 17:22

Jesus said "the days are coming when you will long to see the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it". Some of those who rejected Jesus would want the time back when they could know Him, but the opportunity was missed and would never again be possible.

Here is a warning for us. There is a time when you can seek your Messiah; you can note Him drawing you to Himself. There also may come a time in life when He will no longer draw you. There may be conviction of sin, desire for peace, and anxiety about dying, fears of hell. For everyone who rejects Him, when they die, there is no more opportunity, they will find out the truth too late. The bible says "every knee will bow and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is LORD". If this is after you die, too late. Heed the word of God "today is the day of salvation", if you hear His voice, respond".

I cannot imagine rejecting the wonderful offer of salvation, don't let your pride steal away from you the opportunity for relationship to the living God and eternal life with Him.

The door of mercy is open today

John 7:35

This dispersion or "Diaspora" is the term to describe the Jews scattered throughout the Roman Empire. They were wondering if Jesus was going to

start travelling to teach. The term Greeks was sometimes used to describe any Gentile. This is exactly what the Apostle Paul did, he went out to teach the Jews of the Diaspora and then taught the Gentiles as well.

John 7:36

There will be a time when it is too late to come to Jesus.

John 7:37

Throughout the 7 days of the Feast of Tabernacles a special priest had carried water in a gold pitcher from the Pool of Siloam to be poured into a basin at the foot of the altar by the High Priest. It symbolized prayer for rain, always scarce in Israel, and it looked forward to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the people of Israel. Until the time of the outpouring, the Holy Spirit came to certain individuals to make it possible for them to accomplish some special task for God. You can read of these incidents all through the Old Testament.

On the last day of the Feast, the day we refer to here, when Jesus spoke, the water pouring was accompanied by priests blowing gold trumpets, choirs singing and the people repeating the Hallel or Psalms 113-118 which concludes with "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD".

In the midst of this water pouring, trumpet blasting, palm waving and singing, in the presence of all 24 of the priestly divisions, Jesus cried out "If anyone is thirsty, let him keep coming to me and drinking. Whoever trusts in Me, rivers of living water will flow from his inmost being." In other words Jesus is saying here; "I am the answer to your prayers" And friends, make no mistake, many understood what He was saying as we will see in verses 40-43.

Here is the question "is anyone thirsty?" Many people thirst for power, money, prestige, and are totally indifferent to the condition of their soul.

Jesus asked a spiritual question, the thirst He mentioned is spiritual thirst and it means anxiety of soul, conviction of sin, and desire for peace. It suggests a person who wants forgiveness and freedom from guilt.

Have you ever experienced spiritual thirst?

The beginning of true Christianity is to discover that we are guilty, needy, sinners.

### Matt 5:6

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled". Put aside all confidence in your own goodness and worthiness and come to Jesus by faith as a sinner.

Jesus said, "Let him come to Me". These words show how a person can have peace with God. To come to Christ, means to believe in Him and to keep on believing. Does this seem too simple? There is no other remedy. People now seem just as adverse to this as the people who heard Him personally invite them.

### John 7:38

All who come to Christ by faith will find in Him great and abundant satisfaction. Believers will not only have enough peace and forgiveness for themselves but plenty to share with others.

The fulfillment of this promise could be testified by thousands of living Christians today. They would say that when they came to Christ by faith, they found in Him more than they expected. I have found grace in abundance according to my needs, strength when I needed it, peace and love. I have never been disappointed in Christ. So Jesus has said "If anyone feels his sins, let him come at once, straight, direct; not merely to church but to Christ Himself".

### John 7:39

This is John's commentary, which we have often seen throughout this study. By these words John means that the promised Holy Spirit, Who is now made available to those who trust in the finished work of Christ, had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet finished His work on earth, that is dying, being buried and then resurrected.

### John 7:40-43

Some of them knew something about their Messiah and some did not. They knew He was to come from the line of David and that He was to come from Bethlehem. Notice, Jesus never talked about being born in Bethlehem, He always pointed to having come down from heaven, His divine origin. In an earlier study we talked about "the Prophet", who was to come, promised by God and prophesized by Moses. And of course, as always, there was division, some believed some did not.

### John 7:44

The time God planned for Him to die was not yet.

#### John 7:45-46

These were temple police, not the Romans. There were so many minute rules and regulations heaped up by the Jews that temple police were required to enforce if necessary. Interestingly enough, in spite of their entire minutia, they could not find a reason to arrest Jesus.

Although they had orders to arrest Him they came back empty handed. These guards were evidently moved by Jesus' teachings and said they had never heard anyone teach like Him before.

#### John 7:47-48

This arrogant statement was meant to say "since we, the educated elite, do not believe on Him that is all the proof you need to know He is not Messiah".

Many well-educated and elite people in America have the same opinion today. Knowledge without wisdom is dangerous. Pride is holding them back from eternal life.

The Pharisees didn't want to hear it. Their argument was that if Jesus were the real Messiah, they of all people would know it and believe in Him. Judging their people for their supposed ignorance of God, they had judged themselves.

#### John 7:50-52

The Pharisees didn't know their scriptures and so they were about to make the biggest mistake anyone can make, reject Jesus. In fact the scriptures do speak of a Prophet in Isaiah 9:6 and a "great light" for Galilee, "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali in Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Isaiah 9:1-2

As far as no Prophet coming from Galilee, Jonah and Elijah both came from this region.

Do you remember where we met Nicodemus? In Chapter 3 of John, he was the teacher of the law who came to Jesus at night. He was told that all his rules and rituals would not gain him eternal life but that he must be born again.

Evidently Nicodemus had been born again and here we see him speaking out for Jesus in the Sanhedrin, reminding them that they were not keeping their own laws. He had a lot to lose and he bravely risked it all.

It appears that the Pharisees were losing ground. First of all the temple guards did not arrest Jesus because they were so impressed with His teaching. Then the Pharisees had to listen to Nicodemus remind them of their own laws, exposing their hypocritical behavior. Their pride was being wounded and to save face they would become obsessed with getting rid of Jesus. What was right no longer mattered.

John 7:53

Evidently they saw that they could not put Jesus to death as easily as they imagined and so they went home to wait for a better opportunity. You may be assured they were angry, their pride injured because they had publically failed to stop Jesus. Just like when they tried to stop Him after the healing at the Pool of Bethesda, they were publically defeated.

There is no fence sitting when it comes to Jesus Christ. By this point in the gospel of John, it is already clear that picking and choosing what we like from the teachings and life of Jesus is not going to work. We are never given that option. Claiming to accept the teachings of Jesus includes accepting what He said about Himself. He said over and over He is Messiah, He came down from heaven, He is God.