

Accepting or Rejecting the Living Water

John 7:37-52

October 30, 2022

1. Jesus Offers His Holy Spirit to the World (37-44).

a. Jesus' Invitation (37-38)

i. Jesus interrupts the last climactic day of the Feast of Tabernacles (37).

1. The 8th day was the climactic day of the Feast of Tabernacles.
2. On the 8th day, there was a water-drawing ceremony that included a procession from the pool of Siloam to the temple led by the priests who would pour out water and wine at the base of the altar.
3. The Feast of Tabernacles precedes the rainy season, so this ceremony was an expression of dependence on God for rain.
4. Likely at the very moment that the priests were pouring the water at the foot of the altar, Jesus stood up and cried out!
5. Application: Even today, Jesus has a way of interrupting our lives with the truth, often at seemingly inconvenient times. What is your response?

ii. Jesus stands and invites the crowd to come to Him to quench their thirst (38).

1. Jesus was the answer to their prayer for water; but His water was infinitely better!
2. Isaiah 55:1-3 "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."
3. The Living Water that Jesus offered to the Samaritan woman, He is now offering to all (cf. 4:13-15).
4. Jesus promises living water that flows from within our innermost being.
5. Application: Is your soul satisfied? Is your soul satisfied in Jesus?

b. Jesus' Promise (39)

i. This living water is the Holy Spirit.

ii. Those who believe on Jesus receive the indwelling Holy Spirit (cf. 3:5-8).

1. Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"
2. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

iii. Application: Have you received the indwelling Holy Spirit? If you have, are you honoring Him?

c. Final Reaction of the Crowd (40-44)

i. Some believed that Jesus was the Prophet that they had long awaited (40).

ii. Some believed that Jesus was the Messiah (41a).

iii. Others refused to believe because Jesus was from Galilee, unaware that He was born in Bethlehem (41b-44).

iv. Application: When you witness, you can always expect a range of responses to the gospel. If a majority of people rejected Christ, we should also expect rejection as part of the process of reaching souls for Christ.

2. The World Reacts with Internal Divisions and Unbelief (45-52)

a. Jewish Authorities Challenge the Temple Police (45-46).

i. The priests and Pharisees are angered by the inaction of the temple officers (45).

ii. The temple officers were arrested by the word Jesus spoke (46).

iii. Application: Never discount the power of the Word of God! It is truly the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).

- b. Jewish Authorities Challenge the Crowd (47-49).
 - i. The Pharisees shame the temple police by aligning them with the crowd which they deem to be deceived (47)
 - ii. In defending themselves, the Pharisees announce their unbelief in Jesus (48-49).
 - 1. They declared that the crowd was cursed.
 - 2. In reality, the Pharisees were under the curse (cf. Galatians 3:10).
 - iii. Application: Don't be intimidated by those who oppose your witness. God is working in them. Many of these who opposed Christ would one day accept Him! Acts 6:7 "And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."
- c. Nicodemus Challenges the Jewish Authorities (50-52).
 - i. Nicodemus comes to Jesus' defense (50-51).
 - 1. Nicodemus has been impacted by his interaction with Jesus earlier.
 - 2. Nicodemus pleads with his fellow Pharisees to give him a hearing before condemning Him.
 - 3. Application: Again, see the power of the gospel in action! Nicodemus was once the emissary sent to challenge Jesus on behalf of the Pharisees, but now he's challenging them! We should expect, and even welcome the challenges of unbelievers. It reveals the working of God!
 - ii. The Pharisees sidestep his point and ridicule him personally (52).
 - 1. They have made judgments about Jesus based on hearsay, but they refuse to acknowledge any guilt on their part.
 - 2. They try to shame Nicodemus by associating him with Jesus.
 - 3. They ignore the fact that Jonah came from Gath Hopher, a few miles north of Nazareth in Galilee (cf. 2 Kings 14:25).
 - 4. Application: We are so prone to remember only what we deem agreeable, and conveniently forget the Scriptures that don't line up with our selfish perspective.

Conclusion:

- 1. Have you accepted Jesus' offer of living water?
- 2. Are you offering that living water to those around you?
- 3. Are you willing to offer living water even at times that many see as inconvenient?
- 4. Are you surprised and even dismayed by rejection?
- 5. Do you see rejection as part of the process of reaching lost souls? Have you embraced the fact that most will reject before they accept the gospel?