

COME DRINK AND LIVE

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Key verses: John 7:37-39

INTRODUCTION

As you read and study the Gospel according to John, it is important that you know what his overall purpose is... it is summarised in the verses below:

John 20:30-31 ESV Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John called them “*signs*” not miracles – he wants **us to see something...** He wants us to have a revelation of Jesus. That He is the Christ, the Son of God, and that we can receive salvation and eternal life BY BELIEVING IN JESUS!

This is the very foundation of our faith – for every believer and the Church of Jesus Christ.

Can you remember what Peter said? And what Jesus’s response was?

Matthew 16:15-18 ESV He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

John chapter 7

Jesus is in Jerusalem teaching a divided crowd of listeners. Some want him arrested because they saw him as a pretender who can’t possibly be the Messiah. But others thought he was or could be the Messiah.

Over and over in this Gospel, Jesus makes plain that if you reject him as God’s Son, the Messiah, and the supreme treasure of your life, you don’t know God or honour God or love God or have God as your Father.

John 5:22-24 ESV For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honour the Son, just as they honour the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 5:39-43 ESV You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. I do not receive glory from people. But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not receive me...

John 8:19 ESV They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

John 8:42-43 ESV Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from

God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word..

Jesus makes two great claims about Himself:

1. Jesus spoke of His return to the Father.

John 7:33-34 ESV Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come."

Jesus predicted His ascension to the Father. He knows His ministry will soon come to its climax in His death upon the cross. He knows that He will then be raised from the dead and will ascend to the Father. Only then will He be able to pour out the Holy Spirit.

2. Jesus spoke of His giving the Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-39 ESV 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.'" (39) 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.

COME, DRINK, AND LIVE

The setting:

The setting for these verses was the Feast of Tabernacles (known to some as the Feast of Booths).

The Feast of Tabernacles was one of the "big three" annual feasts (along with Passover and Pentecost) for which adult Jewish males were expected to make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and it was generally the most joyous and popular of the three.

Israelites observed this festival by living in temporary shelters for seven days as a reminder of when their ancestors were in the wilderness.

At the beginning of chapter 7, Jesus' brothers suggest that he go with them to the Feast in Jerusalem and perform some of his mighty works there, to become more widely known. Jesus rejects their suggestion because his time has not yet come and because his mission was not to gain fame and popularity.

Having made his point to his brothers, Jesus later goes in secret to Jerusalem, where the crowds are already speculating and debating about him.

A water ceremony was an important part of this celebration in Jerusalem. The Temple priest would lead a parade and exit the Temple through the Water Gate holding a golden pitcher, and he would walk several hundred meters to the pool of Siloam to fill the pitcher with water. With musicians in tow, the priest would gather the water, and all would march back to the temple, and the priest would take the water from the pitcher and spill it on the altar where the animals were sacrificed. The water would form a stream of water that would flow in the direction of the city.

It was said that you have not experienced joy until you have experienced the joy of this ceremony.

It was on the "last day" of the feast during this ceremony that Jesus stood up and shouted: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink..."

Jesus continued to say: "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

THE WITNESS OF THE SCRIPTURES:

Here are some of the scriptures Jesus must have referred to.

Psalm 46:4 NKJV There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.

Isaiah 12:3 NKJV "...with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation".

Isaiah 44:3 CEV "I will bless the thirsty land by sending streams of water; I will bless your descendants by giving them my Spirit".

Isaiah 55:1 NKJV "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price".

Isaiah 58:11 NKJV "The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail".

Jeremiah 2:13 NKJV "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water".

Ezekiel 47:1-2 NLT "In my vision, the man brought me back to the entrance of the Temple. There I saw a stream flowing east from beneath the door of the Temple and passing to the right of the altar on its south side. (2) The man brought me outside the wall through the north gateway and led me around to the eastern entrance. There I could see the water flowing out through the south side of the east gateway.

Ezekiel 47:8-10 NLT Then he said to me, "This river flows east through the desert into the valley of the Dead Sea. The waters of this stream will make the salty waters of the Dead Sea fresh and pure. (9) There will be swarms of living things wherever the water of this river flows. Fish will abound in the Dead Sea, for its waters will become fresh. Life will flourish wherever this water flows. (10) Fishermen will stand along the shores of the Dead Sea.

Ezekiel 47:12 NLT "Fruit trees of all kinds will grow along both sides of the river. The leaves of these trees will never turn brown and fall, and there will always be fruit on their branches. There will be a new crop every month, for they are watered by the river flowing from the Temple. The fruit will be for food and the leaves for healing."

Joel 3:18 NKJV "... A fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Acacias".

Zechariah 14:8 NLT "On that day life-giving waters will flow out from Jerusalem..."

These New Testament Scriptures support the same theme.

John 4:10 ESV Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

John 4:13-14 ESV Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, (14) but 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."

1 Corinthians 10:4 ESV and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

Isaiah 48:21 ESV They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock; he split the rock and the water gushed out.

Revelation 22:1 NKJV *“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb”.*

LET US HAVE A CLOSER LOOK AT WHAT JESUS SAID!

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

1. IF ANYONE.

This is an open invitation. A choice needs to be made.

2. THIRSTS.

The water is free. The condition is “need”. A soul without God is “thirsty”. Your body was made to live on water. Your soul was made to live on God.

What Jesus offers will satisfy.

Counterfeit Passions. What must I do when I lose my appetite for God?

3. COME TO ME (JESUS) AND DRINK.

Jesus invites the thirsty to come and the believers to drink. The result is that those who seek eternal life are invited to believe in Jesus and to receive what He offers.

Jesus is what we drink.

Our soul and spirit can drink.

Drinking is to receive. This drinking is not something you do with your mouth and your throat. You do it with your heart. You do it spiritually. You were made to do this.

Coming and drinking are what it means to believe in Jesus. Coming and drinking Jesus is **what happens when we believe. It’s what “believe” means.** Believing is receiving Jesus.

John 1:12 ESV But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

It is received not achieved. That is what grace is! Grace requires a faith response!

Jesus is the water we need, the soul/heart does the drinking, and that is what believing means — **coming to Jesus to drink for our soul’s satisfaction.**

4. OUT OF HIS HEART WILL FLOW LIVING WATERS

The “living waters” is a reference to the Holy Spirit – **Christ’s Life.** Eternal God life!

Verse 39: Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive...”

It means that when you come to Jesus to drink, you don’t just get a single drink, but you get a spring, a fountain, a well. You get Jesus. Rivers of water will flow because a River-Maker is in you. Christ is the giver of the living water.

Illustration: Sipping from a glass of water versus drinking from a stream of gushing never-ending water source.

The verbs (thirsting, coming, drinking, believing) are all in the present tense. We are not only to come to Jesus once **but keep coming and to keep drinking because we keep thirsting.”** Jesus keeps giving, we keep receiving.

Jesus said, "From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water."

Some believe "his innermost being" refers to Christ Himself.

Others, however, support the view that "his" refers to the believer. The believer becomes a source of living water.

Either way, Jesus gives, and the believer receives the Spirit. And what the believer receives flows out of him/her the very abundant life and power of God!

CONCLUSION

This is God's invitation to you. Come, drink, and live.