



Are You Thirsty?

By Jeff Bedwell on September 22, 2021

TODAY'S READING: John 7

Each day during the seven days of the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles, one of the priests would lead a procession down through the Kidron Valley to the pool of Siloam. Out of the waters of the pool, he would fill a golden pitcher and carry it back to the temple and pour it over the altar to remind the people of the days in the barren wilderness when God gave them water out of a rock. Then the people would shout and wave palm branches, rejoicing and praising God. But on the great day, the last day, there was no such ceremony because this day had been added to the feast.

It was on this day that Jesus seized the opportunity to cry out, *"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'"* (vv. 37–38).

By this, Jesus means, "I am the Rock. I am the very Rock that those in the wilderness drank from." These words are confirmed by Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:4, *"and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ."* There in the wilderness, God was teaching the same truth that He is teaching us today -- Jesus is the Rock from which we can drink and satisfy the thirst of our hearts.

Notice Jesus does not limit the word *thirst*. People thirst for many things. Some are thirsting for significance. They want to feel they are important, that they belong. To those Jesus says, "If you thirst, come to me. You will find the very significance you seek." Some are looking for power, the ability to accomplish things. Jesus says to them, "If that is what you want, come to me. Drink of me. Listen to my words. Come into a personal relationship. Draw from my wisdom, from my strength, from my presence with you. Your thirst for power will be satisfied by my power in you."

Physical thirst is one of the most powerful drives known to man. You can deny satisfying hunger for weeks at a time, but one thing you cannot leave unsatisfied is thirst. It becomes a driving force that takes over the whole of your life and makes you think of nothing else but satisfying it. That is what Jesus means. If you feel yourself driven, wanting something, restless and thirsty and longing for satisfaction, then the invitation from Jesus is, "come to me, and drink, and by means of the Spirit, which I will give to those who believe in me, I will satisfy that thirst."

When you are overwhelmed with a longing you cannot satisfy, are you learning to bring your deep thirsts to Jesus who offers His life as the fountain of living water?

PRAYER: Thank you, Lord, that You are the One who can quench my deepest thirst. Help me today to draw from Your wisdom, strength and Your presence with me.

TOMORROW'S READING: John 8

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