

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015 1:18 PM

**Subject:** Last Nite's MOB Study

Men--It was a "great nite" last nite to get together to discuss Lesson #18, from John 7:37-52, on "Jesus, the Living Water!" Let me tell you why it was such a great nite!

Our text starts off with John's words that Jesus was there--in Jerusalem--on the last day, the "great day" of the Feast of Booths (or Tabernacles). He was there to deliver a great message! At just the right time (God's timing is always "just right!"), He "stood up and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, "from His innermost being will flow rivers of living water!" Wow! Was anyone there who didn't need, or wasn't "thirsty for," or wouldn't want, the kind of living water that He was offering?

This was a dramatic, monumental disclosure by Jesus which most of them didn't really understand! He was, in effect, fulfilling the symbolism of that part of the feast which celebrated how God had provided for the needs of the children of Israel in the wilderness, many years ago! And specifically for their need for water--an essential for life--which would come from the "rock" (see Exodus 17:1-7)--and which God, in His mercy would provide, despite their "grumbling and rebellion against Moses (which was really against God)! As Jesse said Sunday, it was all "goggusmos!" (Check it out on Goggle!) More significantly, Jesus was fulfilling something even greater--the coming of a "Redeemer," or Savior--God's own Son, whom He would send down from heaven, into the world to provide "redemption," and restore the relationship between God and man, which had been broken by sin and the fall! In doing so, Jesus was also fulfilling all those Old Testament prophecies about "the springs of living water," etc. etc.

Like in Isaiah 41:17-18, where Isaiah, the prophet wrote--"The afflicted and needy are seeking water, but there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst; I, the Lord, will answer them Myself, as the God of Israel I will not forsake them. I will open rivers of the bare heights and springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land fountains of water."

Or Isaiah 58:11, "And the Lord will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose water does not fail."

Or, my favorite, Isaiah 55:1, "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters!" You can almost hear Jesus "crying out" with these words in our text last nite!

And others that could be cited--but you get the drift!

This wasn't the first time Jesus offered "living water"! Remember our lesson, in John 4, about the "woman at the well"--the Samaritan women--to whom Jesus said: "whosoever drinks of the water that I give him shall never thirst; but the water will become in him a well springing up to eternal life!" She responded by going into the city of Samaria and proclaiming to all that she had

found "a man who told me all the things that I have done! Is not this the Christ?" she asked! Great question! Which only begs for a big "Yes!"

Some of the people who heard the words of Jesus (back at the feast) probably could see some kind of connection between what He said and the stories and imagery of Old Testament writings. Certainly the religious leaders should have grasped it, one would assume! And yet most of them were apparently so hardened of heart, and stuck by their "religiosity" and political agendas, that there was no way they would ever submit to Christ and believe! (But never say never!)

But there were other reasons for the doubts and questions about Jesus as well! They really didn't recognize, or make any effort, apparently, to discover who Jesus really was! He was qualified in every way, as it turned out, to be the long-awaited Messiah! He was a "son of David" (see Matthew 1:1-16), and He was actually born in Bethlehem of Judea, as was prophesied by the prophet Micah (in 5:2), even though He grew up in Galilee and was called a "Nazarene"! And He offered all kinds of miracles and signs that would seem to confirm His credentials. But, basically, they were looking for a "political Messiah"--someone who would stand up to Rome and establish an earthly kingdom for the nation of Israel alone, right then! And that wasn't God's plan!

But John gives us an even better reason, I think--in verse 39--where he points out (kind of parenthetically), that Jesus, in speaking about the "rivers of living water that would flow into their lives," was actually speaking about the Holy Spirit, "who those who believed in Him were to receive, for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified!" And that was in accordance with His plan!

And so, the time was not right yet for them to fully understand and believe, and commit themselves to Jesus! Jesus had first to endure the cross! Even the disciples didn't fully understand His words and what was going to happen! But their hearts were being prepared and there would come a day--after Christ died and was resurrected, and ascended back to His Father--that He would send the Holy Spirit--as promised--and many would see and believe, and become followers of Christ and make up the early church, and live out their lives for their Savior and Lord! And that would doubtless include a man named Nicodemus who had a special "divine encounter" with Jesus (in John 3) and, I'm sure, was never the same!

And so the words that Jesus spoke on that great day at the feast would be remembered and take on new meaning to those hearing them as well, and many would ultimately consider it worth it all to follow Jesus and even die for the cause, if necessary! The Spirit of God would do His work in their hearts and it would all come together! John himself would later record Jesus telling His disciples, as further preparation for them in view of His planned return to the Father (14:25-26) that the "Helper, or Holy Spirit, whom the Father would send in His name, would teach them all things, and bring to their remembrance all the things that I said to you!" I think that would include the words He spoke at the feast, and I doubt they were lost on anyone!

Well, unlike those people at the feast--and in retrospect--we now have an advantage--the great advantage of the sacred and divinely inspired words of God which are given in the gospel of

John, and in all of Scripture, and it all fits together so beautifully for those who truly seek Him! At least for believers who have "seen the Light" (which we'll talk more about next week)!

So, looking back at what we studied in John 7, we can see more clearly now why it was such a "great day" in Jerusalem--at the great feast--when Jesus announced that "whoever believes in Him, as the Scripture said, "from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water!" And it was a "great nite" last nite to be able to see, from the Scriptures, how Jesus fulfilled all those Old Testament prophecies--but, more importantly, about how He provided for our redemption and assurance of eternal life!

Let me wrap it up again with what John wrote in his gospel, through inspiration of the Holy Spirit (after He was given--at Pentecost!), as his reason for including what he did in his gospel: "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written (basically for unbelievers!) so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life in His name!" And isn't it "great" that John included in his gospel, the message about the "living water" which Jesus announced on that "great day" of the feast! And it all flows so well!

But I've got to add something else! As you all know, John wrote others books in the Bible, called epistles--again under inspiration of the Holy Spirit! And he wrote one of them, I John, to give believers confidence and assurance--that they have eternal life! He said in I John 5:10-13: "The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life!" Wow!

Well, it was a "great nite"--and today, and every day, is a "great day" to be a believer! We have a purpose for living and the hope for the life to come! No more "goggusmosing" (again, to use the word you can "blame" on Jesse!) necessary--or appropriate any more, right?

Well, there's more good stuff, in Lesson #19--"Jesus, the Light of the World," as we continue this "great study" in the Gospel of John!

Have a great week, men!

Lowell