



February 16, 2025

*Jesus at the Festivals*

## THE FEAST OF BOOTHS (PART 2)

John 7:37-39



### 1. Opening Discussion Questions: (in a group setting you may not want to use all of these)

- a. Describe a situation in which you found yourself extremely thirsty, perhaps after working in the yard on a hot summer day or while on a long, strenuous hike. How important was water to you at that time? Would you have turned down a glass of water expecting a better beverage to be available later?
- b. First impressions are important, but have you ever met someone who, despite those impressions, you could not decide what they were really like? What factors influence you when determining if someone you've just met is a person with whom you want to associate or someone you would rather avoid?
- c. For most of us in America, clean, safe water is available at multiple home locations simply by turning a faucet handle. How would your view of water change if you lived where it was necessary to walk a mile or more to a dirty community well and then carry all the water you would use back home in a recycled container? How do you think you would feel if that well periodically dried up?

### 2. Sermon Outline/Key Points

- a. Jesus Used the Feast's Water Pouring Ritual to Promise Believers the Holy Spirit
  - i. The Feast of Booths featured a daily water pouring ritual
  - ii. Jesus explained how He fulfills everything that ritual pointed toward
  - iii. Living water comes through the Holy Spirit
- b. The Holy Spirit Is Sustaining, Transforming Living Water for You!
  - i. The Holy Spirit is for you!
  - ii. The Spirit is given to utterly transform you!
- c. Don't Quench the Spirit, Be Filled with the Spirit!
  - i. In Christ, you have the living water, but are you choking off the flow?
  - ii. Let the living water flow by practicing Five to Thrive

### 3. Study/Discussion Points:

- a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon, set aside some time to ponder these questions prayerfully:
  - i. What one thing stood out most to you in this sermon?
  - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
  - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
  - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
  - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

**b. Monday:**

- i. There are some verses following last week's scripture and preceding this week's focal passage that set the stage for what Jesus will teach and ask the question each of us must ultimately answer: "Who is this man called Jesus?". Begin the week by reading these intermediate verses: John 7:25-36.
  1. As you read these verses, what four groups of people does John describe?
    - a. How did each group identify Jesus?
    - b. How do you see this same response to Jesus in people today?
- ii. What captured the attention of people in verses 25-27? Were they more concerned with what Jesus taught or what their spiritual leaders believed? Where do you see similar situations in our society?
  1. What is the implied answer to the question at the end of verse 26?
  2. What logic do the people use to justify this implied answer?
- iii. How did Jesus' answer in verses 28-29 show that they really did not know where Jesus had come from?
  1. What does Jesus claim in these two verses?
  2. How does the beginning of verse 30 show that the Jewish leaders understood what Jesus was claiming?
  3. Compare Jesus' answer with Matthew 11:27 and Luke 10:22. Taken together, how do these verses invalidate the claim of many liberal scholars that Jesus never claimed to be God?
  4. Despite the uncertainty of some, what is the result of Jesus' teaching (see verse 31)? How does this result validate Jesus' claims in John 6:44-45 & 65, and 17:6-12?

**c. Tuesday:**

- i. Read the focal passage, John 7:37-39, several times (from different translations if possible), meditating on Jesus' message.
  1. Compare this invitation to that He gave to the Samaritan woman in John 4:10-13. What is similar, and what is different?
  2. What do you understand the words "thirsty" and "drink" to mean in verse 37?
  3. On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, the water ceremony of drawing from the Pool of Silom, carrying the water to the Temple, and pouring it out on the altar was repeated seven times.
    - a. When the water was being drawn from the pool, a choir sang Isaiah 12:3. Read Isaiah 12. What does the use of verse 3 during the water ceremony tell us of its meaning and significance?
    - b. While the water was carried to the Temple, the crowd would sing Psalms 113-119. Scan through these Psalms (or, better still, read them completely). What is the main theme? Given the event taking place, why were they particularly relevant?
    - c. As the Priest poured the water on the altar, the people would chant Psalm 118:25.

- i. What do you think they were asking of God (remember that this was an agricultural society dependent on crops grown locally)?
  - ii. Note the first sentence of the next verse in Psalm 118. Where is this phrase heard (see Matthew 21:9 and 23:9)?
4. With these customs in mind, how would you explain the significance of Jesus' remarks in verses 37–39?
- ii. Interestingly, the “great day” of the Feast of Tabernacles would be the 21<sup>st</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the Jewish calendar. Read Haggai 2:1-9.
  1. How does this prophecy relate to the Feast of Tabernacles?
  2. Hebrews 12:26-29 quotes verses 6-7 as applying to the future return of Jesus and tells us to be thankful and worship God. The Feast of Tabernacles gave thanks and worshipped God for what He had done in the past. Why are we to give thanks and worship Him?
  3. Haggai 2:5 tells the people being addressed to “not fear.” What rationale is provided for this command?

*d. Wednesday:*

- i. Read John 7:37-39 again today.
- ii. While Jesus does not specifically quote any Old Testament passage with His invitation in verse 37, Jews, who knew the Old Testament well, may have been reminded of several as Jesus made His opening statement in verse 37. Read these passages and discuss how they relate:
  1. Exodus 17:1-7
  2. Isaiah 12:2-3, 44:3-4, & 58:1
- iii. Compare Jesus' invitation in verse 37 to Isaiah 55:1a.
  1. How are they similar? Is there any difference?
  2. How does the rest of Isaiah 55:1 illustrate the nature of the gift God is giving (see Ephesians 2:8-9)?
- iv. The invitation Jesus gives is repeated in many scripture passages. Read:
  1. John 3:14-21
  2. Acts 13:39 & 16:31
  3. Romans 3:21-26 & 10:8-13
  4. 1 John 5:1, 5, & 10-12

*e. Thursday:*

- i. Read John 7:37-39.
- ii. Unlike verse 37, in verse 38, Jesus refers to the Old Testament. While there is no single verse that says what Jesus does, many point to His statement as perhaps a composite of these verses:
  1. Psalm 78:16
  2. Isaiah 43:19, 44:3 & 58:11
  3. Ezekiel 47:1-11

## 4. Zechariah 14:8

- iii. Verse 38 would be difficult to understand if John had not provided verse 39. With John's explanation, which of the above Scriptures do you feel best aligns with Jesus' statement?
  - 1. What is implied in Jesus' promise about springs of living water?
  - 2. What significance does John's explanation have to you personally?
  - 3. When coupled with John's explanation, how does Jesus' invitation and comment in verses 37-38 serve as an answer to what the crowd was praying for?

f. **Friday:**

- i. Read the focal passage, John 7:37-39 again.
- ii. After telling us that Jesus was speaking of the Spirit, what additional information does John provide?
  - 1. How do John 2:22 and Acts 2:1-3 support John's statement?
  - 2. What did John mean by saying Jesus was "not yet glorified"? How do John 12:23 and 13:31-32 relate to John's explanation?
  - 3. Read John 14:16-17 and 16:7. What important information about the sequence of events is provided? What do these verses suggest as an answer to people who say they wish that Jesus was here with us now?
- iii. Read Ephesians 1:13-14. What do these verses tell us about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

g. **Saturday:**

- i. Finish the week by reading John 7:25-37.
- ii. What is the most personally significant truth you see in these verses to you?
- iii. What message from these verses would you most want to share with others?

4. **Application:**

- a. Apart from Pentecostal groups, the Holy Spirit is often seen as the third member of the Trinity, where the third is seen as a relative order of importance. Thus, He is often given less recognition and attention than the Father and the Son, yet in passages read this week, Jesus elevates the Spirit and tells us we are better off having the Spirit than Jesus Himself. As Baptists, we must be cautious not to fall into the trap of minimizing His importance in our lives.
- b. Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me." Every time we read or hear that phrase, we should call to mind Romans 10:13-14. We may not all be Preachers, but we all have the responsibility to preach the Good News of the Gospel.

5. **Prayer Points:**

- a. Adoration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
- b. Confession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
- c. Thanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
- d. Supplications – Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19