

KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT LIVING WATER

John 7:37-39

ATTENTION:

- *Anyone here ever remember hearing the old expression, "I can hear the dipper banging against the bottom of the bucket."*
 - What do you think it means?
- What if I said, "*Church, I can hear the dipper banging against the bottom of the bucket?*"
 - Across the country churches (believers, Christians) find themselves where they've never been before.
 - There is the familiar disbelief, but now there's been added an animosity that for the most part is unfamiliar.
 - We're not used to being considered an enemy, by prominent people.
 - We would love to place blame on something or someone!
 - We believe it would help us get our minds around a solution
 - *"If X is what got us into this mess then simply reverse X and all will be well."*
 - *But we are discovering that it's not so easy.*
 - We haven't been able to preach, pray, study, sing, or even guilt ourselves enough to make it go away.

ATTUNE:

• But Then There Is This!

³³ Then Jesus said, "I am only with you for a short time. Then I'm going to the one who sent me. ³⁴ You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come."...

³⁷ On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him." ³⁹ He said this about the Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit, for the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

John 7:33-39

- Spoken by Jesus to people who were unaware of the future and the means by which God was carrying out His plan.
 - Spiritually dry and empty
 - The central figure in their lives was leaving them - afraid
 - Jesus reassures them by telling the Spirit is coming.
- We have much to learn of life with the Holy Spirit at work within us!
 - In my opinion we've been more afraid of the Spirit working than we are of the Spirit not working!
 - ...more afraid of what the Spirit may do than what the Spirit may not do.
 - We must not believe in such a way as to be devoid of the person and power of the Holy Spirit at work - active
 - The Holy Spirit is the ***wherewithal*** of life and ministry!

BODY:

• The 21st Century Church Must Submit To The Purpose & Power Of The 3rd Person Of The Trinity - Holy Spirit!

- Otherwise we will be wishing for a change that will not come!
 - The change cannot come if God is wishing to work through us while being within us!
 - The modern Church has unintentionally replaced the power of God with the performance of man!
 - Trusting in our own power as did Israel in the wilderness will lead to the same result - death of faithless
 - *Instead of singing, "Holy Spirit breathe on me," we are saying, "Watch this, Lights...cameras...action."*

• The Setting Of Jesus' Words Amplify Their Meaning.

- The occasion was the Feast of Tabernacles, (Sukkot, Feast of Booths - Oct. 13-20)
 - 3rd in a series of Jewish Feasts.
 - In the Feast lasted 7 or 8 days.
- The guidelines for the Feast are found in [Leviticus 23](#).
 - People were required to leave their permanent residences and build booths of willows and palm branches.

- During the Feast of Tabernacles, they would live in these booths as a reminder of their nomadic days in the wilderness.
- A time of remembering God's wonderful provision.
- Jerusalem and the Temple area were filled with booths.
- At the heart of the Feast = daily procession.
 - Priests carried Golden Pitchers
 - Leading a parade/procession through the city to the pool of Siloam
 - Singing the words of [Isaiah 12:3](#)
You will joyfully draw water from the springs of salvation,
 - Everyone would parade back to the Temple
 - The Priests poured the water from the pool of Siloam upon the Altar and the people shouted and waved palm branches.
 - On the last day the procedure was repeated with a significant difference:
 - When the parade of people returned from the pool of Siloam, the Priests would march around the Altar.
 - Priests would raise the golden pitcher as they had done each day, but this time there was no water
 - To signify that God had given water they could not provide for themselves.
 - Instead of a shout and the waving of palm branches as the people had done each day, they now stood in silence.
- During the feast and possibly in this silence Jesus cried out.

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- Jesus had watched the people go through the motions, perfectly following every directive, but there was little or no meaning, no power, no life.
 - They found themselves right where they had started. Nothing was any different.

- It was a great crowd who gathered annually for this Feast.
 - Think about their lives, homes, jobs, and their Jewish communities need for a refreshing dip in a bucket full of the water of life.
 - They brought with them to the great Feast:
 - their obedience, willingness, etc.
 - What did they take away when went homes/lives?
 - Were they any different?
 - Were they just go through motions of practice?
 - Were they enriched, inspired, determined...
- What likely happened to that crowd still happens to people today.
 - People go to church desiring to be filled with something of God and all too often they go away unfulfilled and empty.

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PROJECT:

- Church, are we going away empty?
 - Do we live in search of the Eternal, Living Water
 - Only to hear the clanging dipper in an empty bucket.

PRAYER:

- Lord open each and every heart that is here this morning.
- Make us thirsty for the spiritual water of life - the Holy Spirit of God
- Moisten our parched hearts preparing us for an awakening of living water
- Flood our minds with longing thoughts of refreshment.
- Forgive us dear Father for our contentment with dryness and bring us to the place where the spring of life is flowing like a river.
- Please bless us with your Holy Spirit, alive within each of us enlivening, invigorating, energizing and refreshing us your people!