

May 25, 2008

The Headwaters of Grace

Ser #301

John 7:37-39

John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. **38** "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" **39** But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Hiking up the inlet to Pinecrest

It has been said that there are some passages which deserve to be written in gold - J.C. Ryle believes the text we are considering to be one of those.

I THE SETTING

Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast,

Feast of Tabernacles

October – end of the harvest

Happiness – end of the hot summer months

Made booths

Jewish tradition → Walls thin enough to let some light in, roof had to allow one to see the stars –REMEMBRANCE –Egyptian Bondage and how God brought them out with a mighty deliverance

Observances

Each morning – Jews would gather with a citrus fruit in their left hand (ehtrog) and in their right hand they had a small stick that was woven from palm, willow and myrtle (lulub)

Priest would hold up a pitcher walk to the pool of Siloam (blind man was to wash his eyes) fill the pitcher with water walk back to the altar circle it once and pour the water on the altar. An honor to see the water poured. (**Isa 12:3** cited “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation”) – On the last day of the feast the order would be the same save two details –

1 with an echo of Jericho --the priest circled the altar seven times.

2 wine was mixed with the water

On this last Day Jesus appears and makes this most profound statement

II THE PROCLAMATION

Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

A The necessary condition supposed

If any man is thirsty

Woman at the well – John 4:14

Spiritual thirst

Anxiety/excitement/anticipation of the soul

Starts with an awareness of personal sin – guilt for that sin and the offense it has been to God – sober recognition of one's just judgment before a holy God

The very first step toward heaven is to be thoroughly convinced that we deserve hell.

---J.C. Ryle

A cry by necessity proceeds from that awakening and says:

How can I be saved?

What must I do to inherit eternal life?

God have mercy upon me the sinner?

B The singular solution proposed

let him come to Me and drink

Not a statement of permission – as if to say *if any of you see someone out there who is thirsty don't hinder them from coming to me*

It is a personal command

If you have this thirsting in your soul...*if you are burdened with your sin and the guilt is weighing you down... if you long for forgiveness and satisfaction of that thirst COME, COME TO ME and drink*

Not a all roads lead to the top of the hill

Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.

III THE INTERPRETATION

A Believing in Christ is coming and drinking

38 "He who **believes** in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'

Personal trust

1 Trust that is biblically influenced not "faith in general"

He who believes in Me, **as the Scripture said**

DANGER associated with worshipping God according to your own preferences
Nadab and Abihu - **Numbers 3:4** But **Nadab** and Abihu died before the LORD
when they offered strange fire before the LORD in the wilderness of Sinai; and they had no
children.

Not enough to invent our own preferential way of believing in Christ either
I want a Christ who will not judge my sin...
I believe that Christ accepts anyone on any condition...

2The promise held out

**To those who believe in Christ according to the Scripturesthere shall arise
in them a rich satisfaction of the deepest need of your soul**
"From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water."

Spiritual Satisfaction
Work is finished
Heaven secured
Kill the body but not the soul

B The saint's satisfaction comes from the Holy Spirit

39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive;
for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified

Rock in the wilderness → Christ
Struck once → water ---??? We know it had reference to Christ but the water
...what does that mean?... Giving of the Spirit ---Pentecost

Conc. – **John 3:5** Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water
and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

Holy Spirit is given to all who are declared righteous - justification

Applications

Promise of God

Matt 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they **shall be
satisfied**