

Finishing Well

Lesson #9

Rivers Of Living Water

March 1, 2023

Jesus is the fulfillment of EVERYTHING in the Old Testament which looks forward to the coming of the Messiah.

John wants us to see: Jesus Himself is the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us.

I Cor. 10:5 Jesus is the ROCK that supplied water to Israel in the barren desert.

John 6: He is the bread of life, the fulfillment of the manna that sustained Israel in the wilderness.

The people must accept Him as John presents Him or they must reject Him as a fraud and a deceiver.

A Turning Point in John's Gospel: John 7

John 1-4: There is very little opposition to Jesus.

John 5: Jesus is accused and opposed by the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem, as a result of His healing of the paralytic on the Sabbath.

John 6: John records a large-scale departure on the part of would-be disciples of Jesus.

This takes place after the feeding of the 5,000 and Jesus' teaching on the "bread of life."

John 7: The opposition to Jesus becomes more intense and more broad-based.

- From now to the end of the public ministry John depicts a steadily deepening hostility.

John 7 & 8 John tells us about the arguments used by the enemies of Jesus.

John 7:1 - 8:59 is referred to as the "Tabernacles Discourse."

It recounts Jesus' visit to Jerusalem for the feast of Tabernacles, the possibility of his arrest and debate as to whether he is the Messiah.

The feast was a jubilant time for the people, but it was a difficult time for Jesus.

It marked the beginning of open & militant opposition to Him & His ministry

Consider: Though danger was in the air Jesus continued on His appointed path.

- He went up to the feast in due course, and there He gave the teaching that was appropriate to the occasion.

Jesus & The Feast of Tabernacles

In John 7 and 8, Jesus uses 2 traditional symbols from the Feast of Tabernacles celebration, water and light, to help the people understand who He is, His mission and what He offers.

The Jews added 2 extra rituals to their celebration to remind them of God's wilderness blessings.

1. Pouring out of the water from the pool of Siloam which recalled God's provision of water in the desert.
 2. Placing 4 large lighted candlesticks to recall the pillar of fire that led them by night
- Jesus related these to Himself.

- During the Feast of Tabernacles when the water was being poured out, Jesus cried out, "If any man thirsts, let him come to me and drink." [John 7:37]
- To the Temple crowd: "I am the light of the world." [John 8:12]

Consider: What a tragedy the Jews were careful to maintain their traditions and yet completely missed their Messiah when He was in their midst.

Setting is The Feast of Tabernacles [Booths, Sukkot]: Season of Our Rejoicing

- ❖ It was celebrated in the 7th month, Tishri, from day 15-21 [Lev. 23:34]
- ❖ This is 5 days after the Day of Atonement and the fall harvest is completed.
- ❖ Time of joy because Israel had passed through the season of repentance & redemption
- ❖ The produce of the field, orchard and vineyard is gathered.
- ❖ The granaries, threshing floors and olive presses are full.
- ❖ Weeks and months of toil and sweat put into the soil have been amply rewarded.
- ❖ Thank God for His bounty and to ask Him to provide rain for the crops in the coming year.
- ❖ Thousands upon thousands of people coming together to remember and celebrate God's deliverance and His provision.
- ❖ The Jews lived in booths made of branches to remind them of God's providential care of the nation for nearly 40 years. [Lev. 23:33-44]

During the eight-day period, so many sacrifices were made that it required all twenty-four divisions of priests to be present to assist in the sacrificial duties. [Num. 29:12-40]

- 71 Bulls + 15 Rams + 105 Lambs + 8 Goats = 199 animals for Tabernacles

This Feast was a time of Joyous Celebration to remember the past, present and future.

God wanted Israel to remember: The Exodus of Israel from Egypt

Jer. 31:32 "...the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt..."

The Past: God had led them out of Egyptian bondage, cared for them in the wilderness, and brought them into their promised inheritance.

- According to all natural laws, they should have perished. They were divinely protected.
- God's presence led them day and night. They were totally dependent on Him.
- Once they had lived in booths or tents but now they would dwell in permanent houses.
- They would live in a land that produced bountifully.

Present: Celebrate God's continued provision for them in the current harvest which was just completed.

- Time of feasting, rejoicing and giving thanks to God for His bountiful gifts
- Living in flimsy booths reminds Israel that they once dwelled in temporary shelters during the forty years in the Wilderness, totally dependent on the Lord.

Future: This feast pictures the future kingdom God has prepared for Israel when their Messiah returns and they receive Him. [Zech. 12:10-13:1; Isa. 35]

The celebration is a "taste of the joy to come." Celebrate its future prophetic purpose:
The Return of Our King To The Earth

- Celebrates the covering of the Lord over Israel as a "tent or booth" during the Kingdom.
- Israel will no longer suffer oppression of any ungodly nation.
- Zechariah describes the topographical changes in Israel.
- Israel will be in their full boundaries of their Promised Land. [Ezek. 43:7]
- All nations will flow to Jerusalem to worship the Lord.

The Joyful Musical Procession Called *Simchat Beit Hashoevah* Or The Rejoicing Of The Water-Drawing At Feast Of Tabernacles

The Procession began at the Pool Of Siloam, a pool used for ritual cleansing and purification.

- Its water was used for a special ceremony during the Feast of Tabernacles.
- It was considered the purest of ritual baths because it was fed by the Gihon spring.

Borchert "The intersection of the Pool of Siloam with the Festival of Tabernacles should also not be overlooked because the water drawn for the water ceremony in the temple was carried in procession from this very same pool."

Preparing for the morning sacrifice

1. Each morning a procession of priests would descend the steps from the Temple to the Pool of Siloam and dip a golden pitcher into the water. [m. Sukka 4:9].
 - ❖ Water was drawn from Pool of Siloam = Well of Salvation; Living Water
 - ❖ Siloam occurs 3x in Scripture = 3 speaks of divinity
 - ❖ Gold speaks of divinity.
2. They would be accompanied by the congregation assembled at the Temple.
3. The Pitcher would hold 3 log [= .5 litres = ~2 pints]
 - ❖ Three also speaks of divinity.
4. The procedure of carrying the pitcher of water was done for seven days.
 - ❖ Seven in Hebrew = "Sheba" = complete
5. 3 logs of water for 7 days = 21 logs of water
 - ❖ The number 21 represents carnality.
6. The water was poured into silver bowls.
7. Seven represents completion and silver speaks of redemption.

Overall picture: Our high priest, prophetic of Jesus, has completely redeemed [7 & silver] us from our carnal [21] nature.

8. They were reminded of the miraculous provision of water from the rock.
It was living water and life sustaining.
9. The priest would carry the filled pitcher back to the altar at the Temple.
10. A 3 fold blast of the priests' silver trumpets announced his arrival in the Temple area.
11. The priests returned to the temple, climbed the steps and proceeded once around the altar with the water.
12. They offered prayers for rain. Water was often scarce.
In Israel, it doesn't rain during the summer, and the ground gets very hard.
Gentle rains were needed to soften the ground so it can be prepared for the fall planting.
- ❖ The people were very much aware of their dependence on God for the rains that were so vital for the preservation of life.
13. Two silver basins were waiting. He poured wine into one as a drink offering and water from the Pool of Siloam into the other basin.
14. As the water and wine were poured into the bowls, the Temple music began.
15. As the flutes continue to play, a choir of Israelites would chant:

Psalms 113 through 118 were sung.

Ps. 118:25-26 Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

The waiting worshippers shook the palm branches in their hands to all four points of the compass, thus signifying that God will rule over all nations.

16. The High Priest took the 2 silver basins, held them up and recited:

Isaiah 12 was sung to remind the nation they had to place complete trust in Yahweh and the promise of salvation revealed by His name. He is the only source of salvation and life.

Isa. 12:1-6 And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD Yahweh is my strength and my song; He also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon His name, declare His doings among the people, make mention that His name is exalted.

Sing unto the LORD; for He hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.

Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst.

Key: The Messiah, who had been "sent" to Israel during the Roman occupation of their land, was the "holy one in the midst" of them and not acknowledged by them.

The Pharisees, who accused Jesus of being a sinner for healing on the Sabbath, did not recognize that the "Holy One was in their midst." They were blinded by the eye of the flesh, of pride in their position and lack of understanding of the Law, the Psalms and the Prophets, whose writings they should have understood and expounded to the people.

Of all the people in Israel they should have recognized and acknowledged their Messiah.

Isaiah described those who should have been concerned with the spiritual welfare of the people
Isa. 56:10-11 His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

Jesus used the same figure in reference to the Pharisees in response to his disciples' comments about the Pharisees' attitude towards him.

Matt. 15:12-14 Then came His disciples, and said unto him, Know thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? But He answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

17. All-night revelry led up to this morning libation. This was a time of joy so great that it was said, "He that never has seen the joy of the Beth he-She'ubah [water-drawing] has never in his life seen joy" (m. Sukka 5:1; cf. Deut 16:14-15; Jubilees 16:20, 25).

The 7th day became known as Hoshana Rabba, which means Great Salvation.

The Hebrew word literally says, with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

7th Day of Feast: The High Priest, dressed in his finest, would officiate with a huge contingent of similarly attired priests. There would be trumpets blowing, singing psalms and waving palm branches. The procession around the altar with the water took place 7 times as the people cried out, "Save Now."

➤ The Jews were reenacting a tradition that could never satisfy the heart.

Jesus claims to be the source of living water to all who will come to Him & drink.

➤ He fulfills all the feast symbolized.

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man is thirsty, let him come unto Me, and drink. ³⁸ He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly [innermost being] shall flow rivers of living water.

³⁹ (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive:

for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) [Prophecy]

➤ Jesus offered them Living Water & Eternal Satisfaction.

➤ Jesus came, He stood and He cried out offering them a drink from Himself.

The same One from Whom their ancestors had drunk physical water.

➤ His offer shows He is far more than just a prophet or an agent.

➤ It is God himself offering us life and living water.

➤ He offered them living water that they might live spiritually, even as their ancestors were enabled to live physically in the OT after receiving the physical water.

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.

Imagine the uproar his statement must have caused! The priest had just poured out the water libation as an appeal to the Creator God to provide water for the people.

Jesus, as if to answer the prayer, tells the people to come to him for water.

What a radical statement and shocker to the crowd.

Jesus was claiming to be none other than the Creator himself!

When Jesus uttered this Messianic fulfillment to this ceremony, it was like a thunder clap in the midst of the silence falling upon the ears of all.

For seven days they had watched this ceremony carried out as water was brought from the pool of Siloam through the area of The Fountain Gate.

- ❖ You cannot help but feel sorry for the people described in John 7; people who responded to Jesus in the wrong ways.
- ❖ Had they willingly received the truth and acted with sincere obedience, they would have ended up at the feet of Jesus, confessing Him as Messiah and Son of God.

Spiritually speaking, we have moved from:

- Valley Gate Trials & tribulations for refining; bring us to a posture of humility
- Dung Gate Absolute surrender; Cleansing; Confession; Clean Vessel
- Fountain Gate Rivers of living water; fullness of the Spirit; Power of Holy Spirit

Notice the condition for having this river of living water [Holy Spirit]: He That Believes On Me.

Jesus promises something that comes with the "well of water:" A River Of Living Water.

- The WELL is supposed to result in an overflow or RIVER.

Key: Living water was to be released from the Messiah through the promised Holy Spirit creating a "Fountain Gate" in all who would come to drink from Him.

Consider: These 2 passages tell of the relationship between salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- Salvation and the Baptism of The Holy Spirit are ONE; not TWO experiences.
- Some teach that you must first be saved > later you will experience a "second blessing" called "the baptism of the Holy Spirit."
- You don't receive Christ at salvation and add the Holy Spirit later.
- We do not get the well at salvation, only to lack the river - until we receive a second blessing. Salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are ONE blessing.
- If we break these 2 things into 2 different experiences, we are essentially saying that we could have Christ in us, but no possibility of overflow - unless we get another blessing.
- At salvation, you are COMPLETE IN CHRIST. [Col. 2:10]
- BOTH the well and the river are the result of CHRIST IN US.

However, you do need to grow. The indwelling of Christ must come to overflow from you.

- All of this is accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

God's Commands to the Believer: Live a life of righteousness. Quench Not The Spirit

Frustration: How To Live a life Pleasing to God

Romans 7 is the picture of the carnal Christian who is trying to live the life in the strength of his flesh. In 10 verses, "the Law" is mentioned 21 x. "

- "I" or "Me" is used 40 times and the Holy Spirit is not mentioned.

Rom. 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Romans 8 is the picture of the spiritual Christian. "I" is used only 2 times; Holy Spirit > 18x

The command suggests the need of the ministry of the Holy Spirit and His control for consecrated living.

It stresses the need for the filling of the Holy Spirit as God's enabling agent for dealing with the forces arrayed against us—the flesh, the devil, and the world

The RIVER provides a great illustration. We receive the WELL OF LIFE at salvation. But even though the potential for the RIVER is there, there cannot be a RIVER flowing until - what? Until all the hindrances to the flow are removed. Just like a RIVER cannot smoothly flow if rocks and barriers are in the way, neither can the Holy Spirit flow through us if our hearts are hard and our agendas are in the way. These must be removed; then the Holy Spirit can flow as a RIVER. Nothing needs to be ADDED for the flow.

In fact, there needs to be a SUBTRACTION. I must decrease so that HE might increase.

The Fountain Gate, the first Power gate, speaks to us of the Living Waters of the Holy Spirit that cleanses our lives and empowers us for the Spirit-filled walk.

- The Holy Spirit has been given to every believer as a gift.
- He is to make known to me and to make experiential to me > ALL that Christ is in me.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit: The Spirit enters our lives, cleanses us, takes possession of our hearts. His power and strength are available to us from the moment we receive Jesus as Savior.

The Key to Overflow He works through our WILLS, our conduct, our personality, and our faith.

I must yield to the Lordship of Jesus Christ to turn on the flow through the power of the Holy Spirit. I do the yielding to Him, and He does the flowing.

Spiritual preparation is the vital element.

CONSECRATE yourself for God's use.

- Put away anything displeasing to God; examine yourself.
- Consecrate= *qadash*. It is in the *hithpael* stem which is reflexive and means...
- Consecrate yourselves, set yourselves apart, prepare yourselves. personal responsibility.

When there is a lack of consecration through confession for the defilement of sin;

When there is a lack of commitment to God's purpose for our lives in service or ministry,

- We Hinder The Power Of God In Our Lives

Tozer: When we have the Holy Spirit, we have all we need to be all that God desires us to be. *The Holy Spirit working in me can transform me from a carnal Christian to a Spirit-filled Christian.*

Our right relationship with God brings His power in our lives and our ministry.

Interesting: There was NO section of wall mentioned as being rebuilt between the Dung Gate and the Fountain Gate. We have immediate help! [Neh. 3:14-15]

Obedience at the Dung Gate brings immediate help from the Holy Spirit.

I Thess. 5:24 "Faithful is He that calls you, who also will do it."

Hallelujah! This is Divine genius! EVERYTHING He commands me, He will, by MY consent and yielding, fulfill the command through me. This saves me from the futility of self-effort.

It relieves me of the burden of trying to pull myself by my own bootstraps. If it were not for this divine provision, the commands on me would be a source of utter frustration.

I would be a sorry spectacle of a sincere idealist, constantly thwarted by my own inadequacy.

Truth: The Holy Spirit will do the work in me and through me when I yield and humble myself.

Then I will receive rewards and crowns, but He does ALL the work.

Jesus command to come and drink is in the *present tense*.

We are to continually drink from His unlimited source. Paul gives a similar command.

Eph. 5:18-19 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Again, the command is to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

The result is rivers of living water flowing from out of our hearts.

Are the rivers of living water flowing freely in my life?

Am I continually drinking from the well of salvation?

Am I continuously being filled with the Holy Spirit?