

RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

John 7:25-39

Key verse 37b-38

Discussion questions:

- In what ways does Jesus' teaching about himself bring people closer to God?
- How can we quench our spiritual thirst?

Inductive study questions:

1. What kinds of questions did people have when Jesus showed up at the festival? (25-26) What did Jesus say about himself and the people's unbelief? (28-29)
2. Why couldn't they arrest him? (30) What did Jesus mean in verses 33-34? What did the Jews think he meant? (35-36)
3. What happened on the last day of the festival? (See note) What promise does Jesus give? (37-38) Why did Jesus say "rivers" of living water? What clarification did the author give? (39) In what way are people fundamentally thirsty? Why do many people not realise it?

Note:

[<http://www1.cbn.com/finding-jesus-feast-tabernacles>]

In order to understand Jesus' teaching here, we need a bit of background from Leviticus 23. There, Moses instructed the people that the first day and the eighth day of the festival were to be special days of rest, set apart from the others. But the seventh day became known as Hoshana Rabba, "the Great Day." My people developed special observances and traditions to mark this special day in Israel. The most spectacular of these was the water drawing ceremony.

Imagine a whole parade of worshipers and flutists led by the priest to the pool of Siloam (where Jesus told the blind man to bathe his eyes after He put clay over them). The priest has two golden pitchers. One is for wine. He fills the other with water from the pool. As the flutes continue to play, a choir of Israelites chants Psalm 118. The whole procession heads back to the Temple through the Water Gate. A trumpet sounds as the priest enters the Temple area. He approaches the altar where two silver basins are waiting. He pours wine into one of the basins as a drink offering to the Lord and water from the pool of Siloam into the other.