

The Living Water

John 7:37-44

In John 6:48-59 the Lord Jesus Christ compares Himself to bread, or, more specifically to manna, the bread God provided to the Israelites during the 40 years they wandered through the desert.

As such He already compared Himself to one of the necessities for life. In the verses we will look at today, He compares himself to water, another necessity for life, even more critical than food.

So what He is telling in these parts of Scripture is the fact that people need Him for true life, for the time we will spent eternally.

But before going there let us take a quick look at the feasts in the 7th month as we find them in the Old Testament.

Feasts in the Jewish 7th month

Day no.	Event
01	• Blowing of trumpets
10	• Day of Atonement
15 – 21	• Feast of Tabernacles
22	• Holy Convocation

According to Exodus 12:2 for the Jewish people the year should start on the first day of the month, in which they are to celebrate the Passover. In our calendar that usually is in March or April.

However, the official Jewish calendar starts now on the first day of what was supposed to be the seventh month. Why this change took place I don't know, but it makes it clear that, as far as that is concerned, the Jewish people have changed the calendar as it was given to them by God.

The religious Jews will not wish each other a happy new year until after the day of atonement.

As the Bible tells us clearly that the Lord Jesus Christ spoke about the subject of today on the last great day of the feast, this must then have been on the 22nd day of this month.

John7:37-38

37. On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

38. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

The Lord Jesus Christ will not only provide us with the Living Water, but He will also make sure it flows out from the heart of His disciples.

As we will see in the next verses He did not speak about physical water, but about something far more important.

John 7:39-40

39. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

40. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet."

All true disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ have the Holy Spirit living in them to teach them, guide them and give them the strength they need.

It is important to understand that this is true for real disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

According to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 7: 21-23 there will be persons claiming to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ who in fact are not.

One very clear example of this is of course Jude, who was even one of the 12 apostles.

But let's continue.

John 7:41-42

41. Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee?"

42. "Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"

Even in those days there was already a discussion of who the Lord Jesus Christ really was. Apparently not all people knew that He was born in Bethlehem.

And according to the prophecies of old the Messiah had to come from Bethlehem.

These verses should remind us of the fact, that we need to study seriously the whole Word of God and not just the pieces we like in it, while skipping the pieces we do not like so much.

We need to ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in our study of the Word of God, so we may understand it correctly in its full context.

But let's go to the next sheet.

John 7:43-44

43. So there was a division among the people because of Him.

44. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

In the remaining verses of chapter 7 we see that even the officers, which were sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees, did not really know what to make of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And therefore, they didn't fulfill the commission by which they were sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees.

The last ones weren't all too happy about that.

But that's something that can be explored next week.

It is important to keep in mind who and what the Lord Jesus Christ truly is.

All too often He is just referred to as our Savior.

But that's not what the Bible teaches us about Him, as we can see in the verses on the following sheet.

Romans 10:8-9

- **8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):**
- **9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

The Scriptures teach us to confess that Jesus is Lord.
That means acknowledging what and who He indeed is.

And if we confess Him as Lord, we should do that not only in word but also in deed, so that in every way He is indeed Lord over our lives.

Let's see what the following verses in that letter say.

Romans 10:10-11

- **10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
- **11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."**

Believing on the Lord Jesus Christ and confessing Him as Lord should indeed have an overwhelming influence on the way we live our lives.

It is also good to understand clearly what it is that the Lord Jesus Christ came to save us from.

All too often people think He came to save us from the punishment for our sins.

But that is not correct as we can see in the verse on the next sheet.

Matthew 1:21

- **“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”**

The Lord Jesus Christ did not come just to save us from the punishment for our sins, He came to deal with the root of the problem, which is indeed sin.

This is a major step in the plan of God to restore all things in the way He planned them to be.

And this is a process that will eventually result in the creation of the new heaven and the new earth as described in Revelation.

In Romans 6 Paul also spoke in very clear terms about this matter. Let's take a quick look at 3 verses from that chapter.

Romans 6:16

- **Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?**

One thing that becomes clear from this verse is the fact that it is our actual regular behavior that defines who is our Lord.

So, in the following 2 verses Paul declares what a difference the switch from slaves of sin to slaves of righteousness should make.

Romans 6:17-18

- **But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.**
- **And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.**

Our way of living should indeed show clearly what is the impact of submitting ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul describes that very clearly in his letter to the Galatians. Let's end by looking at that description.

Galatians 2:20

- **“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

As human beings we can't live the life of Christ as we are supposed to do.

The only person who can truly live a Christlike life is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Therefore, we must surrender our life totally unto His lordship, so He can live His life in us. As we do that, people may be able to see what Christ can do in the life of a person. God may then use it to attract other people to come unto the Lord Jesus Christ.

Shall we pray?