



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

The Gospel of John Sermon Series

Supports Session 9: He Sent Me

Sermon Title: "Streams of Living Water" (John 7:37-44)

Connection to Session 9

Session 9 is about Jesus's identity as the Messiah who quenches any longing we have. All who come to see Jesus as the Messiah will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Introduction/Opening

Imagine yourself in Jerusalem at the Feast of Booths and it is the last day. You walked from your hometown, and you are staying in tents at a relative's house. This year is different, there is a buzz in the air over this man named Jesus. Some have seen Him heal a man who had been lame for 30 years. Others saw Him multiply fish and bread to feed a multitude. You see Him on the last day of the feast get up to teach and He says, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him" (7:37-38). How would you respond?

Outline

1. Jesus's Statement (7:37-39)

a) The context of Jesus's statement is very important for what He says here. Jesus says this at the Festival of Shelters. This festival celebrated God's provision for His people in the wilderness, especially the provision of water.

1. Old Testament context: Exodus 17, God provides water for the people by causing it to flow from a rock. Numbers 20, God provides water for His people again, by having it flow from the rock. Ezekiel 47:1-9 talks about a river flowing from the temple in the last days.

b) When we consider the context of the feast, Jesus was saying that He alone can give people water, so that "The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him" (v. 38).

1. We are all thirsty. We are all born into sin. No matter how much pleasure or fun something may be for the moment, if it is not of God, it will not truly satisfy.

c) John explains that this water Jesus speaks about is the Holy Spirit.

2. The Crowd's Response (7:40-52)

a) Throughout the Gospel of John there is division over Jesus. Jesus taught at the temple and the people were divided. Jesus shows up at the feast, and the people are divided.

1. Some said that Jesus "is the prophet" (7:40)

2. Some said that Jesus “is the Messiah” (7:41)
 3. Some said Jesus could not be the Messiah because he was from Galilee (7:41)
 4. Some said Jesus was not the Messiah, because they did not think he was David’s offspring (7:42)
3. Our Response
- a) Like the crowds, we must respond to Jesus as well. Is Jesus simply a prophet? Is He the Messiah? How we answer the question about Jesus’s identity changes everything.

Conclusion

Jesus taught, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him” (7:37-38). Only Jesus can satisfy our longings. Who do you say Jesus is? Is He just some prophet? Or is Jesus your Savior?

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