

The Journey of Faith

The Living Water

John 7:1-51

Introduction: dihydrogen monoxide --

1. Colorless
2. Odorless
3. Tasteless
4. Kills thousands
5. Accidental inhalation can kill
6. Its solid form causes tissue damage
7. It can cause severe burns
8. It causes electrical failures
9. Causes erosion
10. All cancers have this dihydrogen monoxide

Dihydrogen Monoxide is H₂O!

I. The Rejection

A. It was October when Jesus made the decision to return to Judea.

1. Remember the healing at the Pool of Bethesda on a Sabbath & the scheme to kill Jesus? (John 5:1-18)
2. But Jesus' time was getting closer and he knew it was time to return to Jerusalem
3. He was rather secretive - even from his own unbelieving family (7:4-5).

Some background

We know the time of year because of the Feast of Tabernacles/Festival of Booths. This was the third of the three annual pilgrim feasts of Judaism. This Fall harvest was like Thanksgiving. Theologically it was a time to reflect on the time when their fathers lived in tents for 40 years while in the wilderness. This was the dry season. Water supplies would be low.

Families built lean-to shelters; the children loved it! Priests made a daily procession during the week-long event from the Pool of Siloam from where they had drawn water to the temple where it would be poured out at the altar. They sang these words from Isaiah in the process: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isa. 12:3).

On the final day of the festival, torches were lit in the temple compound, the priests circled the altar seven times with the water from Siloam, and finally poured it out as an offering into a bowl set on the altar.

4. Jesus uses this time for his own identity and mission.
5. Halfway through the festival, Jesus' time had come for Him to teach in the temple (7:15).

The reactions of the Jews:

- a. They didn't have to listen to Jesus
- b. They are more concerned about His credentials

Big deal!" said Jesus. "I am teaching on the authority of heaven itself, and all you have to do to know that what I'm saying is true is to think for yourselves. v. 17

Example: Think!!! "Now if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath? Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment." (7:23-24).

- B. In ignorance they challenge Jesus' background - (7:27)
 - 1. Really? There's no such text in the Bible!
 - 2. Citing the prophecy in Malachi 5:2 that Messiah "comes from Bethlehem (7:41-42).
 - 3. Matthew shows us the truth about these things...

- C. The people with influence over the crowd no doubt played on its gullibility.
 - 1. They made themselves sound believable by appealing to "the Word of God" and by passing along traditional beliefs that were altogether opposite to the Scripture. (vv. 45-52 Nicodemus)
 - 2. They are moving in the direction to ban **dihydrogen monoxide** - while the very Water of Life, Heaven's Own H₂O, the Ultimate Thirst-Quencher - was standing in their midst!

Don't you be gullible enough to reject him!

- D. But notice the crowd-- not everyone was ignorant
 - a. Some in the crowd had enough common sense to reason their way to faith by this simple process: 7:31
 - b. Common-sense faith can still trump both unbelieving scholarship and uninformed prejudice.

II. The Gracious Offer

- A. In spite of the unbelief and hostility, Jesus remained true to himself.
 - 1. He acted out of his nature and mission, not out of frustration 7:37-39
 - 2. He battled this tradition-encrusted, ignorance-bounded, spiritually-void, & death-dealing religion
- B. God had given water in the desert centuries before, but it had to be given everyday.
 - 1. Yet the people who drank it still died.
 - 2. The water poured out on the altar was a ritual to remind them to look to God for satisfaction yet it had been missed by most
 - 3. Jesus was offering something more than a ritual
- C. Jesus says- "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink,"
- D. Those waiting to hear the gospel reminds me of the people Jesus faced in John 7
 - 1. The Thirsty
 - 2. The need to drink Living Water and to have a personal relationship with God
 - 3. Their journey of faith will lead them to the bubbling spring of spiritual life through the presence of the Holy Spirit who will evidence a continual stream of joy, peace, and righteousness in their lives from that point forward.

Conclusion: You can live for several weeks without food, but you can live only a few days without Water.

- A. You can't live without Jesus
 - 1. In the Gospel of John, Jesus has already told a Samaritan woman he met by Jacob's Well this (John 4:13b-14).
 - 2. So John comes back to this water in chapter 7
 - 3. And John will close the final book of the Bible with these words from Jesus: Rev. 22:17

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978-256-8901