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### *John 7 – “LIVING WATER”*

In Chapter 6 we saw miracles #5, and #6 in John’s Seven Signs;

Feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:1-15) ...

Walking on Water (John 6:16-21) ...

After these miracles He remained in northern Galilee for the next 6 months, because He knew the Jewish leaders would try to kill Him if He went back down to Jerusalem.

**JOHN 7:1-5** After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. **2**But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, **3**Jesus’ brothers said to him, “Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. **4**No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” **5**For even his own brothers *did not believe* in him.

It's amazing to me that His own brothers did not believe in Him yet. They were giving him worldly advice about “what to do when you want to become a public figure”. Perhaps they didn’t know that he pretty much decimated His following by telling them to eat His body and drink His blood about six months prior (in chapter 6*).*

**6**Therefore Jesus told them, “My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. **7**The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. **8**You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come.” **9**After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee.**10**However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret.

**Jesus understood time more than anyone**. He was on a very exact and specific timeline. He chose very carefully what He did and said, in order that he would be in Jerusalem *on Passover* for his death and resurrection after his third year of ministry.

* **John 2:3-5** **(Wedding of Cana)“**When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.”“Woman,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%202&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26100a)] why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.”His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you*.” (At some point he changed THE water to wine, and that kicked off a new phase of ministry.)*
* **John 11:4-7**(Lazarus’s death)**“6**So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, **7**and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”
* **Acts 1:6-8(after his resurrection) “**Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7**He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.”

That’s why he was always in the right place at the right time. When God wanted to do something on the earth”, Jesus was always right there and ready to do God’s will.

Jesus was now back in Jerusalem celebrating Sukkot, (Feats of Tabernacles). He healed the man on the Sabbath the last time he was there (in chapter 5), and was about to be scorned by the same religious leaders who sought to kill Him on His last visit.

**John 7**:**11**Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, “Where is he?”

**12**Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, “He is a good man.”

Others replied, “No, he deceives the people.” **13**But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders.

**14**Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. **15**The Jews there were amazed and asked, “How did this man get such learning without having been taught?”

**16**Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. **17**Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. **18**Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. **19**Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?”

**20**“You are demon-possessed,” the crowd answered. “Who is trying to kill you?”

**21**Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. **22**Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. **23**Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man’s whole body on the Sabbath? **24**Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.”

The Torah commands that circumcision needs to take place on the eight days after a child’s birth. That law supersedes the law of Sabbath rest so the priests regularly performed brisses on the 8th day, even if it was Sabbath. Jesus’ reasoning is that if one act of obedience can be done on the Sabbath, so should it be that He can do the will of His Father on the Sabbath as well.

**25**At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill? **26**Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? **27**But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.”

**28**Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, “Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, **29**but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.”

**30**At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.

They tried to arrest Him and kill Him there, but because the hour of His Crucifixion had not come, they could not touch Him.

 **31**Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, “When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?”

**32**The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

**33**Jesus said, “I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me. **34**You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.”

**35**The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks? **36**What did he mean when he said, ‘You will look for me, but you will not find me,’ and ‘Where I am, you cannot come’?”

Their guess was wrong, He was talking about when He enters into heaven and welcomes only those who believes. Interestingly, what they guessed is exactly what Paul did in the book of Acts. Going to the Jews among the Greeks, sharing the gospel with them but also with the Greeks.

**37**On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. **38**Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” **39**By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

**40**On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.”

**41**Others said, “He is the Messiah.”

Still others asked, “How can the Messiah come from Galilee? **42**Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?”

Yes, it is true that the prophecies state that He must be from the Tribe of Judah and be born in Bethlehem. Jesus was both, even though he grew up in Nazareth of Galilee. This is why Joseph and Mary’s journey to Bethlehem for Jesus’ birth was so important in fulfilling prophecy).

As Jesus spoke, more and more people began to be impacted by His words, including Nicodemus and the Temple Guards.

**43**Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. **44**Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

**45**Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?”

**46**“No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards replied.

**47**“You mean he has deceived you also?” the Pharisees retorted. **48**“Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? **49**No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.”

**50**Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, **51**“Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?”

**52**They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.”

**Sukkot in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus**

The festival of the Sukkot is described in the Hebrew Bible as one of the three annual pilgrimage festivals in which all Israel was required to appear before God at the Tabernacle/Temple It was held at the time of the harvest on 15-22 Nissan (late September or early October), five days after the Day of Atonement (10 Nissan). In first century Jerusalem this meant that tens of thousands of pilgrims visited Jerusalem, and were required to sleep outdoors in temporary "booths" (*sukkah*) made of palm branches. At night "Jesus went to the Mount of Olives" [Jn. 8:1], where he probably slept in such a *sukkah*/booth.)

The festival included joyous processions of pilgrims carrying (*lulav*) of the "four species"—palm, myrtle, willow, and citron—along with singing the Hallel Psalms flute-playing, bonfires in the temple courts, and dancing.

Another ritual at the festival of Sukkot was particularly important for John. The “water libation ceremony”, performed every day during the festival along with prayer for the autumn rains. In this ritual, priests made daily processions to the accompaniment of trumpets from the pool of Siloam to the Temple with vessels full of water mixed with wine which were carried and poured out on the altar.

Jesus used this opportunity to once again speak about “Living Water”, just like He did with the Woman at the Well in John 4.

**v. 37“**On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. **38**Whoever *believes in me*, as Scripture has said, rivers of *living water* will flow from within them.” **39**By this he meant *the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive*.”

The “LivingWater” is the Holy Spirit.

He told the Woman at the well;

**John 4:10,13,14** “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

 “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

The Holy Spirit is Given to all those who “Believe”.

### What does it mean *to “Believe in Jesus”?*

### Does it just mean *acknowledge the existence of? NO.*

### Does it mean to simply *Admit that He exists or existed? NO.*

### It’s much more than that…

### The word “*believe”* in Greek is *“PISTEUO”.*

### *Pisteuo* is the verb form of the noun *Pistis* (Faith/Trust)

### *To Believe is to put your faith and trust completely into His hands.*

We receive the Holy Spirit the moment we receive Jesus as our Savior and Messiah, by Believing (putting our trust completely into His hands).

[**Ephesians 1:13-14**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph%201.13-14)  “Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.”

We have a deposit of the Holy Spirit when we believe. The living water that Jesus talks about is poured into us, making us alive in the Spirit, when we were dead.

Every Christian experiences this, In fact you can’t be a Christian unless you have the Spirit.

**Romans 8:9“**And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.”

**Romans 8:14-16“**For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. **…** the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, *“Abba,* Father.” **16**The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

If we receive the Spirit when we believe, why is it that some “believers” don’t seem to have the Holy Spirit? Some seem more “spiritual” than others.

***[Youth Group Spirit Tester] : )***

The problem is, that while every believer HAS the Spirit, many do not.

Walk in the Spirit, Abide in the Spirit, and Operate in the Spirit.

**Gal 5:25** “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

In other words; *Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.*

This is a constant struggle for all of us. It doesn’t mean we don’t have the Spirit; it just means that we as human beings have a tendency to walk in the flesh.

**Gal 5:** **16“**So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17**For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.”

If you believe, that means you have tasted the Living Water that Jesus talked about. It’s what brought your dry dead spirit back to life again.

Now, what you need to do is *live in the Spirit*, so that we *can grow in the Spirit*, *move in the Spirit* and *walk in the Spirit.*

**Rev. 22:17 “**The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” Let anyone who hears this say, “Come.” Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.”

**Come drink from the Living Water!**