

OUR ETERNAL LIVING WATER (JOHN 7:1-39)

This message is of Christ Jesus, as being not only the only begotten Son of God of whom God sent to die on a cross for our sins, of which He took our sins upon Himself on that cross and then to the grave, of which He conquered death, sin and evil, thereby making a way for us also to overcome death and have eternal life in Christ, but also for us to overcome sin and evil, just as Jesus IS as He claimed to be "the Way, Truth and the Life" in **John 14:6**. Of which He is for us, from the time we believe on Him and receive Him to when we are called to our heavenly home! He is ALSO, as we have looked at recently, as He said, in **John 6:35**, "I AM the Bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who BELIEVES in Me shall never thirst." Jesus was asked "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." (**John 6:28-29**) Yes we are believing in our salvation in Christ Jesus but also, He is our Bread of life AND the Living Water to quench our thirst (spiritually speaking), and as the Apostle Paul mentioned in **1 Corinthians 1:30**, Christ Jesus is, for us, from God, our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification AND our Redemption. So, Christ Jesus is our Bread of Life and Living Water, and through the working of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, He is restoring us, from the sin we were born into, and have partaken of (**Romans 3:23**), into the image of God as children of God. So then, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." (**John 3:1-2**) Christ Jesus is SOOOOOO much more than merely sustaining us with bread and water to keep us going physically. Jesus addressed that by saying that God will provide for your physical needs IF you "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (**Matthew 6:33**)

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[John 7:1-7 Jesus' brothers not ready to believe on Him]

After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. [wisdom from God] Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." For even His brothers did not believe in Him. Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.

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[**Luke 15** has Jesus' parables of the lost sheep, lost coin and lost son (prodigal son). It is important for us to keep in mind that while God desires for none to perish but to come to repentance (**2 Peter 3:9**), nevertheless, He knows of whom will answer the call to seek Him and His Righteousness that is to be found in Christ. As Jesus stated, "For many are called, but few are chosen." (**Matthew 22:14**) Many then are called and erroneously believe that they are saved but they really want nothing to do with the Righteousness in Christ. "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain." (**Psalms 127:1**) That goes for in our ministry and also within ourselves. "[D]o you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**) In our life & in ministry we have to fully commit our ways to the Lord for Him to guide us in His Way, Truth, and Life, just as Jesus relied upon our Heavenly Father. As we are told to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (**Proverbs 3:5-6**) Now regarding what we read in **John 7** Jesus did not get all worked up about His brothers not yet believing in Him. From what is presumed, James and Jude, of the same-named epistles, eventually came around in belief of Jesus being the Christ. Jesus also was not going to be persuaded by them and their wisdom of the world. Jesus had explained in **John 5:19**, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." So it should be with us as well.

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[**John 7:10-31**] But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?" And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people." However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews. Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?" Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. [As it has been said, the Word of God complements the Word of God. The Word of God IS one beautiful picture of God's redemptive plan for mankind, from the prophecies in the Old Testament to the fulfilling of those prophecies exactly as Jesus said and did accordingly.] He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?" The people answered and said, "You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one work, and you all marvel. Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment." Now some of them from Jerusalem said, "Is this not He whom they seek to kill? But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ? However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from." Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, "You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. But I know Him, for I AM from Him, and He sent Me." Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. And many of the people believed in Him, and said, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?"

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[Yes, and He did. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation." (Romans 5:8-11)...so..."that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3) Should be an (!) after that!]

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[John 7:32-39 (Jesus and the Religious Leaders)] The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him. Then Jesus said to them, "I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him who sent Me. You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come."

[I have said that I think one of the saddest passages of Scripture is John 6:66, "From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more." 666, the number of a man. (Rev. 13:18) They didn't want to find out what Jesus meant when He had said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30) Likewise, just as awful was Jesus telling the Jewish leaders "You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come". How horrible! Rejecting Christ Jesus for the temporal and then Christ Jesus rejecting them.]

Then the Jews said among themselves, "Where does He intend to go that we shall not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? [no, that would be the apostles according to Jesus' "Great Commission" to them and then us.] What is this thing that He said, 'You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come'?" 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. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 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. Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" So there was a division among the people because of Him. Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

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Matthew 5:3-10, The Beatitudes, Supreme blessings from God: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.** Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Earlier, in **John 4:7-13**, Jesus had the encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob. "A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. [You see, once again there is that contrast between the physical of the world, the 666, the focus on the world and the desires of the flesh vs the spiritual of God, of righteousness and wholeness] Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." Yes Lord, I want Your eternal Living Water!