

Theme: The hopes and promises of the Feast are all realized in Jesus; apart from him they are unattainable. As Jesus reveals his nature, power and purpose he becomes a dividing line that cannot be overcome or removed.

Background: On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles Jesus makes a bold declaration.

Introduction: Timing is Everything! Jesus is able to use a vivid illustration of his work in by relating it to the celebration taking place.

I. Jesus' Bold Declaration

A. Understanding the Feast

1. A week of celebration
 - With many significant physical activities
2. Commemorating God's provision in the wilderness
3. Important activities
 - a. Building “booths”
 - b. Carrying branches and singing Psalms of God's blessing
 - c. The procession of the priests bringing water to the altar

B. Jesus Takes Center Stage

1. The source of living water!
 - a. In the heart of Judaism
 - b. In a loud voice
 - c. Fulfilling the promise of the feast

NOTE: The feast has been pointing to, waiting for Jesus! And here he is!
(1 Corinthians 10:4)

 - d. Pesky punctuation (37b,38)
 - Two different readings
 - One makes “the believer” the subject of the promise in v. 38
 - The other makes Jesus the subject of that promise

NOTE: The first statement is surely true. The second declares that the Spirit comes *through* Christ. This is equally true.

C. The source of the Holy Spirit

1. The general description (38b)
 - Not a direct quote but a compilation (Isaiah 43:19; 44:3; Ezekiel 39:29; Ezekiel 47:1-11; Joel 2:28,29; Zechariah 14:8)
 2. An explicit statement (39)
 - The promise of the whole of scripture (cf. Isaiah 42:1; 11:1-4a)
 3. Not until Jesus was glorified (16:7)
 4. The gift of the Spirit for the believer
- NOTE: Some things deserve loud rejoicing!

II. Jesus the Dividing Line

A. A deepening divide

1. It's been coming (5:16; 6:41,66,70; 7:12,13,30,31)
2. Among the People (40-44)
3. Among the Jews (46-52)

B. Expected opposition

1. Worldly opposition (1:5)
 - Can't expect to always be warmly received
2. Religious opposition (1:11)
 - The Pharisees haven't done their homework (nor followed their Law)
 - Not just a problem that plagued Jesus in his life on earth
 - Church is still very capable of opposing Christ's calling

C. No "middle ground!"

1. Jesus the dividing line (Matthew 10:34-36; Luke 12:52)
2. He unites his people in the Spirit, by the Spirit (Ephesians 2:14-16)
 - But divides them from the world

III. Tasting Living Water (45,46)

A. Finding true refreshment

1. A broad invitation
 - a. "If *anyone* thirsts..."
 - b. Many do not *thirst*
2. Believe
3. A very great promise

B. The tide of blessing

1. When the tide is out...
 - The mud and mire of life
2. The power of the rising tide...
 - Raising us up
3. Flowing through us