

“If Any Man Thirst!”
John 7:37-44

Introduction:

1. In A Poem Written By The English Poet:
 - Samuel Taylor Coleridge:
 - Titled: “The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner”:
 - He Tells A Story About:
 - A Group Of Sailors That Are Blown Off-Course By A Strong South Wind:
 - That Strands Them In Calm, But Unchartered Waters:
 - Near The Equator!
 - And - It Is There - As The Sailors:
 - Are Running Out Of:
 - Patience & Food & Most Importantly:
 - Water - That Coleridge Gave Us:
 - His Famous Line:
 - “Water, Water, Every-Where, Nor Any Drop To Drink!”
- Imagine How Frustrating:
 - It Would Be!
 - To Be Surrounded By Water:
 - But “Not A Drop To Drink” - & - Quench:
 - Your Growing Thirst:
 - In One Of The Hottest Places On Earth!
2. Thirst Is One Of:
 - The Most Powerful Cravings:
 - A Human Can Have!
 - Because - It Expresses The Greatest Physical Need:
 - We Have - For Water!
 - In The Bible:
 - The Children Of Israel:
 - Understood What It Meant:
 - To Thirst!
 - But - Instead Of Being Thirsty:
 - While Being Surrounded By An Ocean:
 - Of Undrinkable Water!
 - For 40 Years - They Were Surrounded By:
 - A “Dry And Thirsty Land, Where No Water” Was! (Psalm 63:1)
 - So - How Did They Survive?
 - How Did They Quench Their Thirst?
 - In Psalm 78:15-16 - We Are Told That:
 - The *Lord* Quenched Their Thirst!
 - When He “Clave The Rocks In The Wilderness, And Gave them Drink As Out Of The Great Depths! He Brought Streams Also Out Of The Rock, And Caused Waters To Run Down Like Rivers!”
3. It Was This Great Miracle:
 - That The Jews Commemorated:
 - At The Last & Greatest Feast:
 - Of Their Year - The Feast:
 - Of Tabernacles - Or - Booths!
 - Which Is The Feast:
 - Jesus Is Still Attending:
 - As We Return In Our Bibles:
 - To John 7!
 - But - Not Only Did The Jews:
 - Commemorate:
 - God’s *Past* Provision:
 - Of Food & Water:
 - In The Wilderness!

- It Was Also:
 - A Great Celebration Of:
 - God's *Present* Provision:
 - That Very Year!
 - You See - It Was Harvest Time!
 - Just Like It Is For Us!
 - And - If God Blessed Them:
 - With An Abundant Harvest:
 - They Knew It Was On Account Of The Rain:
 - That He Gave To Shower Their Land!
4. And So - The Feast Of Tabernacles:
- Became & Still Is:
 - A Time Of Great Rejoicing!
 - In Deuteronomy 16:13-14 - God Told His People:
 - "Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine: / And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that [are] within thy gates!
 - So - In Jesus' Day:
 - The Jews Came To The Temple In Jerusalem:
 - And - For Seven Days:
 - Offered Their Sacrifices:
 - And Sang & Danced & Ate & Drank & Did Everything They Could:
 - To Rejoice Before The Lord!
5. Well - Over Time:
- Certain Rituals Were Developed:
 - To Enhance Their Celebration!
 - There Was The Lulav Ritual!
 - Where The People Took:
 - Branches Of Palm & Myrtle & Willow Trees - As God Told Them To Do In Leviticus 23:40:
 - And Then Waved Them Together As They Sang From The Psalms!
 - There Was Also A Light Ritual!
 - Where They Lit Large Oil Lamps:
 - So That The Men Could Celebrate All Throughout The Night!
 - And Then - There Was Also:
 - The Water-Drawing Ritual!
 - Where - Early Each Morning:
 - A Priest Took A Golden Pitcher:
 - From The Temple - Down To The Pool Of Siloam:
 - To Fill It Up With The Precious Water - Which Came From Jerusalem's Only Spring - The Gihon Spring!
 - And - As The Priest Drew The Water:
 - The Crowd Would Shout & Sing & Dance Even More - As Music Was Played:
 - On A Flute!
 - A Rabbi Once Remarkd:
 - "He Who Has Not Seen The Rejoicing At The Place Of The Water-Drawing Has Never Seen Rejoicing In His Life!"
 - The Priest Then Ascended Back To The Temple:
 - And Poured Out The Water:
 - To The Lord - Mixing It With Wine:
 - At The Foot Of:
 - The Altar!
 - And - They Did This Ritual:
 - Every Morning - At The Time:
 - Of The Morning Sacrifice:
 - For Seven Days!
 - But - To This Seven-Day Festival:
 - We Find In Leviticus:

- A Special Eighth-Day Added!
 - A Day That Was Another Day Of Sabbath Rest & Worship!
 - And - As The First Seven Days:
 - Were Days Of:
 - Commemoration:
 - Of God's *Past* Provision!
 - As Well As:
 - Celebration:
 - Of God's *Present* Provision!
 - The Eighth Day:
 - Became A Day Of:
 - Craving:
 - For God's *Future* Provision!
 - Especially Of Water!
 - Not Just The Water:
 - They Needed For:
 - The Coming Year!
 - But - The Water:
 - Promised To Them:
 - In The Future - In Prophecies Like The One Found In Ezekiel 47, Of An Ever-Increasing River Of Water Flowing Out Of The House Of God!
6. Well - When We Come To:
- John 7:37 - It Was On This Last Day:
 - Which Was - The Greatest Day:
 - Of This Greatest Feast:
 - That John Tells Us:
 - What Happens Next!
 - 7:37-38 - "In the last day, that great [day] of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. / He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water!"
 - So - On What May Have Been:
 - The Eighth Day:
 - When There Was No Water-Drawing Ritual:
 - Jesus Himself Proclaimed Himself To Be:
 - The Source Of The Water:
 - That - If They Were To Drink - They Would Never Thirst Again!
 - Just Like He Said To The Woman At The Well In Chapter 4!
 - He Was The Source:
 - Of The Water:
 - They Were Craving:
 - Even On That Last Day & Greatest Day:
 - Of The Feast!
 - But - When Jesus Said These Words:
 - That Day Became:
 - Even Greater!
 - Because Of:
1. ***A Great Summons:***
- Proposed By The Lord!
 - That John Records For Us:
 - In 7:37 - When - "Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink!"
 - Now - Most Of The Time:
 - A Teacher In Israel:
 - Would Sit To Teach!
 - But - At Just The Right Moment:
 - Jesus Stood Up - And:
 - Lifted Up His Voice Once Again:

- So That Everyone At The Temple:
 - Might Hear His Words & Call!
- And - What Jesus Cried Out That Day - Was:
 - A Prominent Call!
 - As He Stood & Cried:
 - Not Only Was He Demonstrating:
 - His Authority - But Also:
 - His Accessibility!
 - If You Remember:
 - Already - Several Groups Of Jews:
 - Sought To Seize & Arrest Jesus!
 - But - He Stood & Cried:
 - Without Fear:
 - To Get His Message Of Grace:
 - To Anyone Who Would Listen!
 - His Cry Was Also:
 - A Particular Call!
 - He Called Out:
 - "If Any Man Thirst!"
 - No Matter What Group You Might Have Been In:
 - In That Company Of Jews:
 - He Would Have Been Calling Out To You!
 - Because - He Knew That:
 - In Spite Of All The Water:
 - God Had Given Those Jews:
 - In The Past & Present:
 - They Were Still Thirsty!
 - Like The Sailors:
 - In The Poem - There Was:
 - "Water, Water Every Where, But Not A Drop To Drink!"
 - However - Jesus Was Talking About:
 - A Different Kind Of Thirst!
 - Even A Spiritual Kind!
 - And - This Was A Thirst:
 - Most Of Them Did Not Yet Feel!
 - But - It Was A Thirst:
 - Only He Could Quench!
 - Spiritual Thirst:
 - Comes From All The Things:
 - That We Have Lost:
 - Through Sin!
 - Think Of All That Adam & Eve Lost:
 - When They Sinned:
 - In The Garden Of Eden!
 - They Lost So Much!
 - Fellowship!
 - Fulfilment! Purpose!
 - Future!
 - And So Have We!
 - The Things We Need Most:
 - We Have Lost!
 - And So - We Thirst!
 - But - Do You Feel:
 - That Thirst? Is There A Craving:
 - That Can Only Be Satisfied:
 - By God? By Jesus?
 - If So - Then - This Summons & Call:
 - By Jesus - Is For You:

- In Particular!
 - And It Is:
- A Pleasing Call!
 - Because - When You Thirst:
 - He Invites You To:
 - Come To Him:
 - And “Drink!”
 - “If Any Man Thirst, Let Him Come Unto Me, And Drink!”
 - Jesus Is The Only One:
 - Who Can Quench Your Thirst!
 - So - Go To Him! And:
 - Keep Going To Him!
 - Whenever You Are Thirsty:
 - For True Fellowship!
 - For True Fulfilment! And Even:
 - For A Real Future - With God!
 - Just Go To Him & Drink!
- Now - Imagine What Those Jews:
 - Must Have Thought:
 - As Jesus Was Saying These Words!
 - As Far As They Could Tell:
 - He Was No Priest!
 - He Had No Golden Pitcher!
 - He Had No Water!
 - But - On That Day - Which Was:
 - The Great Day Of The Feast:
 - Water Meant Much More:
 - Than What You Might Think!
 - Water Meant:
 - Life From God! And:
 - Blessing From God!
 - And - By Saying This:
 - When He Did & Where He Did:
 - Jesus Pronounced That:
 - He Was The Source Of It All!
 - And - Now - They & We:
 - Have A Decision To Make!
 - If You Feel Your Thirst:
 - Listen To His Great Summons!
 - And Go To Him!
 - Because - When You Do:
 - Jesus Himself Adds:

2.

A Great Satisfaction:

- Promised By The Lord!
 - The Great Promise Of 7:38:
 - “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water!”
 - So - If There Was Any Question:
 - About His Call:
 - Jesus Clearly Defines “Coming” To Him As:
 - “Believing” In Him!
 - But - When You Come & Believe:
 - In Jesus Christ - And:
 - Everything Revealed About:
 - Him - In God’s Word!
 - Then This Is How Your Spiritual Thirst:
 - Will Be Quenched!

- “Out Of His Belly Shall Flow Rivers Of Living Water!”
 - Now - Even Though We Can’t Find:
 - A Bible Verse:
 - That Corresponds To:
 - These Exact Words!
 - All Throughout The Scriptures:
 - The Promise Of God’s Blessing:
 - Using The Symbol Of Water:
 - Is Given To God’s People!
- And - This Promise Is:
 - An Individual Promise:
 - To “He That Believeth On Me!”
 - The Individual Person:
 - Who Hears Christ’s Personal Call:
 - Will Experience This Personal Promise Of Blessing:
 - From The Lord!
 - This Means That:
 - All Those Promises Found In The Old Testament:
 - Belong To You!
 - Whether You Are A Jew Or Gentile!
 - And - They Cannot Be Taken Away From You!
 - So Now - You Can:
 - “With Joy” - “Draw Water Out Of The Wells Of Salvation!” - As We Are Told In Isaiah 12:3!
 - This Promise Of Christ - Is Also:
 - An Inner Promise!
 - The Grace & Blessing Of God:
 - Will Not Only Flow:
 - Into You! As Jesus Described:
 - In John 4:14 - “The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life!”
 - The Grace & Blessing Of God:
 - Will Also Flow:
 - Out Of You! As Jesus Says Here!
 - Even - “Out Of His Belly!”
 - Its Like The Great River:
 - That Is Promised In Ezekiel 47:
 - That Will Flow From The House Of God!
 - But - Where Will It Flow?
 - Even To The “Dead Sea!”
 - Whose Brackish Waters “Shall Be Healed!”
 - So That - “Every Thing That Liveth, Which Moveth, Whithersoever The Rivers Shall Come, Shall Live!”
 - The Life That You Receive:
 - From The Water Of The Gospel:
 - Is Able To Reach Out To & Refresh:
 - Anyone Around You:
 - Who May Be Thirsty As Well!
 - But - Even More - This Promise Of Christ Is:
 - An Infinite Promise!
 - The “Rivers Of Living Water” - “Shall Flow!”
 - And - They Will Keep On Flowing!
 - This Was Something Unheard Of:
 - By The Jews Of That Day!
 - When It Came To:
 - God’s Present Provision:
 - Of Water - Through Rain:
 - Some Years Were Better Than Others!
 - While Some Were As Dry:

- As Bones!
- When It Came To:
 - God's Past Provision:
 - Of Water - In The Wilderness:
 - Even Those Streams That Came From The Rock Eventually Dried Up!
 - But - Jesus Promises:
 - A Provision That:
 - Will Flow Out & Flow On Forever!
 - And - As It Flows:
 - It Will Continue To Grow - Since It Is:
- An Immense Promise!
 - Not Just Flowing:
 - As From A Spring Or A Well - But Flowing:
 - As "Streams!"
 - Deep And Wide!
 - Every Day For The Last Seven Days:
 - The Priest Drew Water:
 - In A Golden Pitcher!
 - But - The Promise Of Blessing:
 - By Christ:
 - Cannot & Will Not Be Contained!
 - Because - It Is Also:
 - An Invigorating Promise!
 - Its "Living Water!"
 - Water That Has Power:
 - Not Just To Restore:
 - But - To Revive!
 - But - What Kind Of Water:
 - Can Do All Of This?
 - In 7:39 - John Explains To Us:
 - "But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet [given]; because that Jesus was not yet glorified!"
 - So - Jesus Wasn't Talking About:
 - The Blessing Of Water At All!
 - He Was Talking About:
 - An Infinite Blessing:
 - Through The Holy Spirit Of God!
 - A Blessing Reserved:
 - Exclusively For Christians!
 - For Those Who Would "Believe On Him!"
 - They & They Only:
 - Would Receive The Promise:
 - Of The Holy Spirit!
 - And All Of The "Water Blessings" That Will Come:
 - Through Him!
 - Of Course - This All Happened:
 - Within A Year:
 - When - On The Day Of Pentecost, After Jesus' Resurrection:
 - Jesus' Disciples Were "All With One Accord In One Place . . . And They Were All Filled With The Holy Ghost!" (Acts 2)
 - And They Received The Promise:
 - Of That Individual / Inner / Infinite / Immense / Invigorating Blessing:
 - Promised By Jesus!
 - But Then - John Also Adds:
 - That This Blessing Would Come:
 - Exclusively Through Christ! Through Him!
 - When Jesus Was Fully Glorified!
 - But - As We Will See:

- Jesus' Return To His Heavenly Glory Includes:
 - All The Steps In Between!
 - Even His Life & Death & Burial!
- In Fact - There Is As Much Glory:
 - In Jesus Humiliation:
 - As There Is In:
 - His Exaltation!
 - When He Rose From The Dead & Ascended To Heaven!
- But - When Jesus Was Finally Glorified:
 - He Shared That Glory With Us:
 - By Sending The Holy Spirit:
 - To Water Our Souls:
 - Just Like He Promised - And:
 - Just Like It Had Been Promised:
 - All Along!
 - So - When You Feel Thirsty:
 - In This Dry & Dusty World:
 - What Are You Going To Do:
 - With Your Thirst?
 - Listen To Jesus' Summons - And:
 - Experience The Satisfaction:
 - That Comes Through:
 - Him & His Spirit!
 - Is It Any Wonder That:
 - John Described This Day As:
 - "That Great Day Of The Feast?"
 - When Jesus Made This Proposal & This Promise:
 - That Day Couldn't Have Gotten Any Greater!
 - And Yet - As Great As All This Was:
 - What Do We Find Next:
 - In 7:40-44? Once Again:

3. ***A Great Separation:***

- That Is Produced!
 - 7:40-44 - "Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. / Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? / Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? / So there was a division among the people because of him. / And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him!"
 - Does This Sound Familiar?
 - It Should!
 - Because - Much Of The Reaction We Find Here At The End Of The Feast:
 - We Found In The Middle Of The Feast As Well!
 - Previously:
 - In That Great Crowd Of Jews:
 - There Were Some:
 - Who Were Perplexed By Jesus!
 - There Were Others:
 - Who Were Persuaded By Jesus!
 - And - There Were Even Others:
 - Who Were Provoked By Jesus!
 - Could They Be Some Of The Same People:
 - Who Are Mentioned In These Verses?
 - Though We Don't Know:
 - Who Made Up This Crowd:
 - We Do Know That:
 - Much Of What They Said:
 - Ironically - Was The Truth!

- Jesus Wasn't Just:
 - The Prophet:
 - That Was To Come:
 - In The Spirit Of Moses!
 - He Was That Prophet:
 - And More! He Was:
 - The Christ / Messiah As Well!
 - The Jews Thought:
 - These Were Two Separate Men!
 - But - Jesus Fulfilled Them Both:
 - In Himself!
- Also - If They Had Just Dug A Little Deeper:
 - Into The History & Heritage Of Jesus:
 - They Could Have Known That:
 - Jesus Was Indeed:
 - "Of The Seed Of David!" And:
 - Jesus Was Indeed:
 - "Out Of The Town Of Bethlehem!"
- So - Jesus Was:
 - All They Said He Was!
 - They Just Didn't Know It!
- But - No Matter What Response:
 - These Jews Had:
 - The Words Of Jesus:
 - Produced A Separation / Division!
 - And - It Still Does!
 - But - Knowing This:
 - Jesus Still Called Out:
 - To Any & All Who Would Listen To Him:
 - 7:37 - "If Any Man Thirst, Let Him Come Unto Me, And Drink!"

Conclusion:

1. What Are You Thirsty For Today?
 - Fellowship / Fulfilment / Future / Faithfulness?
 - Remember That:
 - Jesus' Summons:
 - Is Still Open - For You!
 - Jesus' Satisfaction:
 - Is Still Available To You:
 - Through The Holy Spirit:
 - Who He Has Sent To You!
 - And - Even Though:
 - Separation:
 - Is Inevitable:
 - It Is A Separation:
 - For Christ - Unto Christ!
2. And - Jesus Can & Jesus Will:
 - Still - Quench Your Thirst!

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