

John 7:25-52

July 11, 2004

You Do Not Know Him (7:25-29)

*I am not here on my own, but he who sent me is true. **You do not know him,** (v.28)*

***but I know him** because I am from him and he sent me." (v.29)*

- Jesus makes it clear to His audience here that they are lost, for they do not know God.
- They knew about God, but did not really know Him as Father (cf. Gal 4:9; Ja 2:19)
- Jesus has more to say about spiritual fatherhood in the following chapter.
- The Jews saw Abraham as their father (Mt 3:9; Lk 1:73; 3:8; 16:24, 30; Jn 8:39, 53, 56; Ac 7:2; Ro 4:12).
- But unbelievers are really the children of the devil (Jn 8:44).

Things People Believe

That Just Aren't So

“when the Christ comes, no one will know where he is from.” (7:27)

Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.” (7:52)

- Jonah (2Ki 14:25) and possibly Nahum were from Galilee. [Ironsides]
- “Jonah, Hosea, Nahum, possibly also Elijah, Elisha, and Amos were from Galilee. It was simply the rage of the Sanhedrin against Jesus regardless of the facts.” [Robertson]
- No one challenges the Pharisees on this point so it seems as though this is yet another one of the things which people believe that just isn't so. Other examples:
 - The angels rejoice when a sinner repents (Luke 15:10)
 - The Israelites crossed the Red Sea during daylight (Exodus 14:21-24)
 - God is disgusted with me
 - God is just waiting for me to fail so He can punish me

Many Believe in Jesus (7:31)

- Despite the fact that some were trying to kill (v.25) or seize (v.44) Jesus and the division that He caused (v.43), many in the crowd **put their faith in Him** (v.31)
- Why **do** people believe in Jesus?
 - Many of the Samaritans from that town **believed in him because of the woman's testimony**, "He told me everything I ever did." (4:39)
 - And **because of his words many more became believers.**
 - They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; **now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.**" (4:41-42)

Water for the Thirsty (7:37-39)

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 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. (vv.37-39)

- During the feast of Tabernacles, there was the pouring out of water in the temple
- On the last day of the feast there was a double portion of water to remind them that God gave them water from the rock in the wilderness (Ex 17:1-7; Num 20:1-13; 1Co 10:1-4)

Living Water (7:38)

¹³"My people have committed two sins:
They have forsaken me,
the spring of living water,
and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.
Jeremiah 2:13

¹³O LORD, the hope of Israel,
all who forsake you will be put to shame.
Those who turn away from you will be
written in the dust
because they have forsaken the LORD,
the spring of living water.
Jeremiah 17:13

⁸On that day living water will flow out
from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea
and half to the western sea, in summer
and in winter. **Zech. 14:8**

¹⁰Jesus answered her, "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."

¹¹"Sir," the woman said, "you have
nothing to draw with and the well is
deep. Where can you get this living
water? **John 4:10-11**

¹⁷For the Lamb at the center of the
throne will be their shepherd;
he will lead them to springs of living
water.

And God will wipe away every tear from
their eyes." **Rev. 7:17**

Living Water (7:38)

- Living water speaks of that which flows fresh and abundantly, in contrast with that which is stagnant and stale.
- The Lord spoke of this distinction through the prophet Jeremiah who said, "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water." (Jer 2:13).
 - Those who turned away from God (the source of living water) turned toward their own cisterns (a cistern is a tank or reservoir).
 - The cisterns spoken of here, having been dug, were actually holes in the ground.
 - This is an ideal place for stale, murky water.

Living Water (7:38)

- Those Jeremiah spoke to had forsaken God's abundant, ever-fresh provision for life to go their own ways in their own efforts (the broken cisterns).
 - It is important to notice that the cisterns were in fact broken; that is, they were unfit for their intended purpose; they could hold no water.
 - So it is with humans who refuse God's provision for life (that is, life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit) and instead try to live in their own power.
 - Such a life does not satisfy, does not fulfill and does not deliver what it promises.
 - A broken cistern which can hold no water is an accurate picture of such a life.

Living Water (7:38)

- Jesus speaks of streams of living water which will flow from within those who know Him.
 - Such a flow is first of all natural.
 - We do not need to try to muster up to power of the Holy Spirit within us.
 - This power flows through us in much the same way that the life of the branch flows through the vine to which it is connected (see the fifteenth chapter of John's gospel).
 - This flow is also continuous. It is not something which we store up at one time and then spend at another.
 - We are not spiritual reservoirs or cisterns.
 - We are simply channels through which the streams of living water flow.

The Holy Spirit (7:39)

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. (v.39)

- Through out the gospels and into Acts (1:5), the coming of the Holy Spirit is seen as a future event
- There are several important doctrines of the Holy Spirit
 - Indwelling (1Co 3:16; 6:19; Eph 2:22)
 - Sealing (2Co 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30)
 - Baptism (Mt 3:11; Mk 1:8; Lk 3:16; Jn 1:33; Acts 1:5; 11:16; 1 Co 12:13)
 - Filling (Ex 31:3; 35:31; Dt 34:9; Mic 3:8; LI 1:15, 41, 67; 4:1; 10:21; Ac 2:4; 4:8, 31; 6:3, 5; 7:55; 9:17; 11:24; 13:9, 52; Rom 15:13; Eph 5:18)
- More on the Holy Spirit in John 16

Division Over Jesus (7:40-43)

*Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.
(v.43)*

- Division over Jesus occurs at the intersection of faith and unbelief
- Jesus caused division then and He continues to cause division today

*Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." **Luke 12:51-53***

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