

# SUN CITY SERMON NOTES

09.06.19



## LIVING WATER

Heroes of Faith – so many to read about and be encouraged by. Moses, Abraham, Gideon, Jonah, Esther ...

Hebrews 11:13-16 (The Passion): *“These heroes all died still clinging to their faith, not even receiving all that had been promised them. But they saw beyond the horizon the fulfilment of their promises and gladly embraced it from afar. They all lived their lives on earth as those who belonged to another realm” or “a better country – a heavenly one”.*

We are people of faith - a Church of faith and our story of faith is still outworking daily. The Word gave life and the life gave light - this light of Jesus cannot be extinguished! John 14.

**Key verse:** John 7:37-38 (NIV): *“On the last of the greatest day of the Feast (Feast of Tabernacles) Jesus, stood and said in a loud voice, “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.”*

Jesus stood and said in a loud voice – or shouted – Why? Although not mentioned often in the New Testament, the Feast of Tabernacles was one of the three most significant – along with Passover and Pentecost. Water ceremonies were an important part of this celebration. A priest would draw water from the pool of Siloam with a golden pitcher, then carry it back to the temple and pour it into a silver bowl next to the altar. With musicians and choirs, they sang from Psalm 113 *“Praise the Lord. Praise O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord... finishing with Psalm 118: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good... His love endures forever.”* As the priest poured out the water, he would pray to the Lord to send rain. Water and the Holy Spirit.

Stimulating  
Wholesome Thinking

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1. Jesus is offering us the Holy Spirit, living water within us. The role of the Holy Spirit is to turn us to Jesus; to bear witness to Jesus.
2. Faith is trusting our Lord in all areas of our life; being obedient to his softest whisper.
3. The love of God that is poured over you, is greater than anything you can think or imagine

What must come first? Jesus speaks with Nicodemus: John 3:5 *"I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again."* So, Nicodemus thinking this a bit strange asks 'how can you be born twice out of your mother's womb?'

The love of God that is poured over you, is greater than anything you can think or imagine. Jesus came to save us from our sin – His love is so great, so powerful, its endless love that it draws us to him – so we then, can love him. We are forgiven and set free. The more you realize that you have been forgiven of all your sin, the more you will love Jesus.

*John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him"*

When Jesus spoke these words, the people could not yet receive the Holy Spirit, until Jesus death and resurrection – and then the Holy Spirit could come. The role of the Holy Spirit is to turn us to Jesus; to bear witness to Jesus.

When Jesus says, *"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink."* All of you thirsty ones, come to me and drink!

Be ready for the Holy Spirit to come into your life. When everything is over; when your party life has finished, when your living it up is done, only in this world, you will still be thirsty. Jesus wants us to thirst after this living water that only He can give us; it will fill, and then flow out of our bellies. Not just emotional satisfaction, but spiritual satisfaction. Our needs, our thirst – our spiritual thirst, is what we bring to our relationship with God.

There is a part of us that will never be satisfied, never fulfilled until it is filled with this living water. Drinking this living water, means faith as small as a mustard seed – believing. Believing is by faith, and faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Faith is trusting our Lord in all areas of our life; being obedient to his softest whisper.

God is love, and you come to Him by faith. Trusting him, aligning yourself with him, receiving the truth of the Word of God. Our faith is based on who God is and what He promises to do; we experience this in what He has done for us.

*Isa 12:2-3 says "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation"*.

In John 7:37-39, Jesus says. *All you thirsty ones, come to me! Come to me and drink! Believe in me so that rivers of living water will burst out from within you, flowing from your inner most being, just like the scripture says! Jesus was prophesying about the Holy Spirit that believers were being prepared to receive. But the Holy Spirit had not yet been poured out upon them, because Jesus had not yet been unveiled in his full splendour."*

Jesus is offering us here today, the Holy Spirit, living water within us, that can satisfy our thirst for God. Jesus is calling us to come and be filled with the Holy Spirit, this living water. Just as water flowed out of the Garden of Eden and flowed from the temple as described in Ezekiel's vision, which has begun to be fulfilled, here, in this offer that Jesus made, at the temple, at the Feast of Tabernacle. It will come to completion in heaven as seen in: Rev 22:1 *"the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb"* Jesus invitation at the Feast of Tabernacles is repeated at the end of the Book of Revelation: 21: 5-7 *"Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life."* Revelation 22:1-5 (The Passion)