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**TITLE: Jesus Provides All You Will Ever Need: Reasons to Be Thankful**

**TEXT: John 7:1-53**

**DATE: 06 Nov 2022**

*"Reasons to Be Thankful"*

Opening Thoughts

1. Moving from **John 6** to **John 7** we come to a chapter that takes a pause on revealing who Jesus was, to some responses and reactions to the revelation and claims that Jesus expressed.
  
2. Turning to **7:1-2** we get a sense of the setting for today:  
**1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for He would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill Him. 2 Now the Jews' feast of the tabernacles was at hand.**
  - A. Jesus was forced to move from Judea and Jerusalem to Galilee because the *Jewish leadership sought to kill Him.*
  - B. Not sure of the exact time frame, how long did He stay out of Judea but *while in Galilee He did continue His ministry.*
  - C. Remember, Jesus was moving at His Father's direction, and *it was not time for Him to give His life* as a sacrifice for man just yet.
  
3. Now, before we identify two basic reasons to be thankful, today, we need to go to class and learn about this **Feast of the Tabernacles** and how it ties into the sermon. The *Preachers' Notes* presents a clear description of this Feast:

*The Feast of Tabernacles was the most popular feast among the Jews. For that reason, it was simply known as 'the feast' [1Kings 8:20]. It was also called 'the*

feast of ingathering' [**Exodus 23:16**] and the 'feast of the Lord' [**Leviticus 23:39**]. The 'Feast of Tabernacles' was celebrated for seven days. Each Jewish family built a small stucco or tent-like structure in their yard or upon some other property they owned or secured for the occasion. Then they moved out of their home into the structure for the 7-day period. The feast celebrated two significant events. Historically, it celebrated the day when Israel wandered about in the wilderness as strangers and pilgrims without a homeland. The purpose for moving into the stucco or tent-like structure was to keep before their minds the wilderness wanderings of their forefathers [**Leviticus 23:40-43**]. Secondly, the feast was to be a period of thanksgiving for the completion of the harvest season and for the goodness of God in all of life [**Exodus 23:16; Deuteronomy 16:13, 16**]. The people were to give thanks for all that God had given them: all the fruit of the land that enriched life and made life possible.

The ceremony of the festival was most impressive and gives a dynamic picture of Christ's claims [**John 7:37-39**]. On each of the 7 days, the people came to the temple and brought some fruit as an offering and a few palm and willow branches. The branches were used to form a roof over the altar. Then the priest took a golden pitcher and led the people in a processional down to the pool of Siloam where he filled the pitcher with water. During this march the people played the flute and sang the Hallel, which was **Psalms 113-118**.

It was on the return march that the significant drama took place. First, as the pitcher of water passed through the water gate, the people repeated in unison: 'With joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation' [**Isaiah 12:3**]. Secondly, when the pitcher reached the altar, the water was poured out over the altar as an offering to God. While this was being done, the people waved palm branches and recited the words, 'Save now, I beseech Thee, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech Thee, send now prosperity.' [**Ps 118:25**].

The idea of the processional was a dramatic way to Thank God for rain, to offer prayer to God for more rain, and for a fruitful season in the coming year. It was a dramatic way for the people to acknowledge their need and dependence upon God for the rains, the water that gave them the fruit of the ground and the bounty

*of life. The last day of the feast was dramatic in particular, for the people repeated the processional 7 times."*

We'll Look at 2 Reasons We Can Be Thankful; But First, We Need to Go Back to Class About "The Feast." Preachers' Notes adds this Final Thought: "*It was on "the last day, that great day of the feast," the day when the people marched in the processional seven times, that Jesus made His phenomenal claim. Some imagine Jesus shouting His claim just as the people finished saying, "Send now prosperity" [Psalms 118:25]"*

Imagine the scene. Jesus did two unusual things. He "stood" [*a teacher always sat in that day*], and He cried out, He shouted loudly. Both actions would startle and shock the people to attention. Picture thousands of voices praying to God for the living rains in the coming season, reciting: "Send now prosperity," and then piercing the air comes the thundering voice of Jesus!

**FIRST: We Can Be Thankful Because We Can Stand Up & Shout Out to our World that Jesus is still *The Source of Life!***

A. Let's begin here by looking at **John 7:37** again:

**<sup>37</sup> "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."**

B. Remember, the foundation for the invitation of Jesus here in **John 7** is centered on the truth He proclaimed in **John 6:40** --

**<sup>40</sup> "And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that everyone that seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up the last day"**

C. Remember, Jesus was following His Fathers' -- the Heavenly Fathers' -- direction; He, therefore, was always in the right place, at the right time, doing and saying the right things.

- D. Remember, Jesus graciously offers eternal life to people that doubted Him, didn't believe in Him, hated Him and many who wanted to kill Him and eventually would!
- E. Remember, Jesus stood up and offered to anyone who would come, to drink of Him ... believe in Him: forgiveness from sin, entrance into the family of God, and a brand-new life in Him:  
**2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."**
- F. Remember, Jesus had addressed this with the woman at the well:  
**John 4:13-14: "13 Jesus answered and said unto her, whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."**
- G. Remember, at the very moment the Jewish people were thanking God for the water provided in the past year and praying for more water in the new year, Jesus was offering eternal-non-ending-spiritual water if anyone would then or will now come to Him in belief and drink!
- H. Remember, we should be thankful that Jesus and Jesus alone can satisfy man's spiritual thirst, we should be thankful ... hopefully He has satisfied your spiritual thirst and then, be thankful that we as the **Clark Fork Fellowship** can stand up and shout out the Good News of salvation to this lost world we live in; we are blessed ambassadors of the King; it's our burden, it's our calling and it's our blessing!

Jesus and Jesus alone is the Source for life everlasting and He adds a further understanding about the life He offers.

**SECOND: We Can Be Thankful today Because We Can *Stand Up & Shout Out* to our World That Jesus is not just the only Source of Life, **He is The Only Source of Abundant Life!****

- A. Let's go back and re-read **verses 38 and 39:**

- B. Jesus was & is the Source of life/abundant life and from His life flows rivers of living water to us and through us to the world.
- Again, the message to the woman at the well was clear:  
**John 4:14:** <sup>14</sup> **But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**
  - Jesus makes an equally clear statement to this in  
**John 10:10:** <sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**
  - **Preacher's:** *"The death of Jesus Christ [His having been smitten for the sins of the world] is the source of the Living Water. Out of His death [because He died] He was able to arise, and by arising He was able to conquer sin and death and to bring forth eternal life in all of its abundance. Note: The Word of God to Moses was a picture of the Living Water that was to come from Christ after He was smitten. "Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink." [Exodus 17:6]"*
- C. Ok, Jesus gives life, He continues to give abundant life; how? We experience the abundant life through the person of the Holy Spirit, which is given to all who believe in Jesus, by Jesus. Jesus is the Source of the ever-abiding Holy Spirit!
- Jesus gives abundant life through the Person of the Holy Spirit. Rivers of living water refer to the Holy Spirit. He declared that He would give the Person of the Holy Spirit to each and every person who believed in Him.
  - The Holy Spirit was definitely active and present in the Old Testament. Jesus was simply announcing that the Holy Spirit would not be fully present in each believer until after His death and glorification; but of course, His disciples could not know the full extent of that yet.
  - We now know according to Scripture that after the glorification of Jesus and on the day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit entered into the world and into every believer completely and for all time. **[Acts 1: 9-11; 2:1-4]**

Since the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit enters into each believer individually at the moment of conversion and their (our) bodies become the temple of the Holy Spirit. [1 **Corinthians 6:19**]

- With His entrance into each believer the Holy Spirit desires to remain in full control of the believer's life as seen in **Ephesians 5:18**, *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."*
- Today, right this very moment, we can know of the Holy Spirit's abundant life by personally experiencing His gifts of **love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance [Gal. 5:22-23]**. We literally show Jesus to our world by allowing His Holy Spirit to live in us and through us for His glory.

## CONCLUSION

1. *"Do you personally have the eternal life of Jesus?"*
2. *"Are you experiencing the abundant life of Jesus?"*
3. *"How are you experiencing the abundant life of Jesus?"*

**Jesus invites you to come and drink of His Living Water.**