

John 7:37-44

John 7:37 – *“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.”*

A. This was the last day of the feast of tabernacles (**John 7:2**), which meant it was the seventh day of that feast (**Leviticus 23:34**).

1. This was one of three feast times when males were to gather before the Lord under the Law of Moses (**Deuteronomy 16:16** and **II Chronicles 8:13**).
2. This would have been in a time wherein they just finished gathering in the corn and grapes (**Deuteronomy 16:13**).
3. It was a time to worship the Lord (**Zechariah 14:16**).

B. While the Jews should have been in the mindset of worship to God, Jesus offered the invitation for the spiritually thirsty to come to Him (**Isaiah 55:1-3**, **John 6:35**, and **Revelation 22:17**).

1. They should have been thirsty for God at this time (**Psalms 42:1-2** and **Psalms 63:1**).
2. However, as we've seen many times in the Scriptures, the invitation to come to the Lord is only going to be accepted of those who are seeking Him (**Proverbs 8:17**, **Isaiah 55:6**, and **Matthew 7:7-8**).
3. Our Lord certainly wants all men to seek after and respond to His invitation (**Matthew 11:28-30**, **Mark 16:15-16**, **I Timothy 2:3-4**, and **II Peter 3:9**).

John 7:38-39 – *“(38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (39) (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.)”*

A. Out of their bellies would flow the rivers of living water (**Isaiah 44:3-4** and **Isaiah 58:11**).

1. Those who received the Spirit were given the miraculous ability of teaching (**Matthew 10:18-20**, **I Corinthians 2:9-13**, and **I John 2:27**).
2. The Lord is the source of the living water (**Jeremiah 17:13**).
3. He gave the Spirit, who in turn, revealed the word (**John 16:13**).
4. Ultimately, this all comes down to the only source for us to learn of the Lord and obey Him - the word of God (**Proverbs 4:4**, **Luke 4:4**, **Romans 1:16**, and **James 1:17-25**; cf. **John 6:63**).

B. This promise was of the Holy Spirit being poured out upon obedient believers (**Luke 11:32**, **Acts 2:37-41**, and **Acts 5:29-32**).

1. For the Apostles and Cornelius, this would occur through baptism of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:5**, **Acts 2:1-4**, **Acts 10:44-48**, and **Acts 11:15-18**).
2. Baptism of the Holy Spirit ended early in the 1st century as only water baptism remains to this day (**Ephesians 4:5**; cf. **Galatians 3:26-27** and **I Peter 3:20-21**).

3. Outside of the two examples of baptism of the Holy Spirit, everyone else received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of the hands of an Apostle (**Acts 8:12-20** and **Acts 19:1-7**).

4. The age of miracles, and thus the age of the gift of the Holy Spirit, has come to pass (**I Corinthians 12:1-11**, **I Corinthians 13:8-13**, and **II Timothy 3:15-17**).

John 7:40-44 – *“(40) Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. (41) Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? (42) Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? (43) So there was a division among the people because of him. (44) And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.”*

A. Many recognized Jesus as a prophet (**Matthew 21:10-11**).

1. As we've noted before, realizing Jesus is a prophet is not the same as accepting the fact that He is the Savior (**John 6:14**, **John 6:30-31**, and **John 6:41-42**).

2. That is not to say He was not a prophet, for He was (**Acts 3:22-26**).

B. People are often divided because of Jesus (**Luke 12:51**, **John 7:12**, **John 9:16**, **John 10:19**, **Acts 13:42-52**, **Acts 14:1-4**, and **Acts 28:22-29**).

1. Some doubted whether Christ should come out of Galilee (**John 1:45-46** and **John 7:52**), which is the region the city of Nazareth was located (**Luke 1:26-32**). In so doing, they are challenging what the prophets said (**Matthew 2:23**).

2. In misunderstanding that Jesus had lived in Nazareth (**Luke 4:16**), but was born in Bethlehem (**Matthew 2:1**), others contended that Christ should be from Bethlehem rather than Nazareth.

3. Sadly, a blind man could understand why this was not a contradiction while the students of the Law could not (**Mark 10:46-47**).

4. Finally, we see again that they do not take Jesus at this time (**John 7:30**, **John 8:20**, etc.).