

# The Gospel According to John “Rivers of Living Water”

John 7:37-52



## John 7:37-39

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast,  
Jesus stood and cried out, saying,  
“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.  
He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said,  
‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’”  
But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed  
in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given,  
because Jesus was not yet glorified.

## John 7:40-44

Some of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, “This certainly is the Prophet.”

Others were saying, “This is the Christ.”

Still others were saying, “Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?”

So a division occurred in the crowd because of Him. Some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

## John 7:45-52

The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, “Why did you not bring Him?” The officers answered, “Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks.” The Pharisees then answered them, “You have not also been led astray, have you? No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he? But this crowd which does not know the Law is accursed.” Nicodemus (he who came to Him before, being one of them) said to them, “Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?” They answered him, “You are not also from Galilee, are you? Search, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee.”

# Main Idea

Jesus is the source of life, and we must come and keep coming to Him; and we must drink and keep drinking what He gives if we are to have life.

# Critical Question

What is life?

*“The condition that distinguishes organisms from inorganic objects and dead organisms, being manifested by growth through metabolism, reproduction, and the power of adaptation to environment through changes originating internally.”*

Is this what is in mind?

# Rivers of Living Water

Jesus' commands



# **Jesus' Commands**

Come and keep coming to me;  
drink and keep drinking what I give you.



**John 7:37**

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.”

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“If anyone is thirsty, **come** to Me and drink.”

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“If anyone is thirsty, **keep coming** to Me and drink.”

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## John 7:37

“If anyone is thirsty, keep coming to Me and **drink.**”

**John 7:37**

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**John 7:37**

“If anyone is thirsty, keep coming to Me and **keep drinking.**”

More specifically, the command is to keep drinking the water that Jesus gives.

**John 4:14**

**“Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him  
shall never thirst...”**



# Jesus' Commands

Come and keep coming to me; drink and keep drinking what I give you.

What was the background  
of these commands?

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“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.”

What was it about the last day  
that prompted Jesus to make this  
statement at this time.

The feast of booths was a remembrance and celebration of the Exodus.

Thirst was a critical issue in their wanderings, and God powerfully provided water for them.

The Jews had developed a water pouring ritual at the conclusion of the feast of booths to commemorate God's provision of water.

# Jesus' Commands

Come and keep coming to me; drink and keep drinking what I give you.

What was the background of these commands?

What did Jesus mean  
by these commands?

# What did He mean by “come to Me”?

John 7:37

“If anyone is thirsty, **come to Me** and drink.”

“Come to Me” is another way of saying  
“believe in Me.”

**John 5:40 and 44**

“...you are unwilling **to come to Me** so that you may have life...

...how can you **believe** when you receive glory from one another.”

**John 6:35**

“I am the bread of life; **he who comes to Me** will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”



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Believing in Jesus is not simply an acknowledgement or mental agreement; it is the spiritual act of coming to Him and taking hold of Him for life.

The command is to believe and keep believing.

# What did He mean by “drink”?

John 7:37

“If anyone is thirsty, come to Me and **drink.**”

Jesus had been speaking of drinking His blood, but now He is speaking of drinking the water He would give.

**John 7:38**

“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said,  
‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of **living water.**’”

# Jesus had said this before.

**John 4:14**

“Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

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**What water does Jesus give?**

## John 4:14

“Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall

never thirst; but **the water that I will give him will become  
in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”**



The water Jesus gives us to drink is His Word, and we are commanded to drink these words and to keep drinking them.

These words are life to us!

## **John 6:63**

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing;  
**the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**”

# Rivers of Living Water

Jesus' commands

Jesus' promise



# **Jesus' Promise**

Believe in Me and living waters will flow  
from your innermost being.

## **John 7:38**

“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said,  
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# Who is this promise for?

John 7:38

**“He who believes in Me**, as the Scripture said,  
‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’”

# From his belly

**John 7:38**

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# Life-giving water

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Jesus promised that life-giving water  
would flow out from the heart of  
everyone who would believe in Him.

# Jesus' Promise

Believe in Me and living waters will flow from your innermost being.

What was the background  
of this promise?

**John 7:38**

“He who believes in Me, **as the Scripture said**,  
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**What Scripture?**

**Isaiah 58:11**

And the LORD will continually guide you,  
And satisfy your desire in scorched places,  
And give strength to your bones;  
And you will be like a watered garden,  
And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.

## Nehemiah 9:15 and 19-20

You provided bread from heaven for them for their hunger,  
You brought forth water from a rock for them for their thirst.

You, in Your great compassion, did not forsake them in  
the wilderness; the pillar of cloud did not leave them by day,  
to guide them on their way, nor the pillar of fire by night,  
to light for them the way in which they were to go.

You gave Your good Spirit to instruct them,  
Your manna You did not withhold from their mouth,  
and **You gave them water for their thirst.**

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and **You gave them water for their thirst.**

The Old Testament Scriptures promised  
an outpouring of the Spirit upon the  
people such that they would experience  
true and lasting life.

# Jesus' Promise

Believe in Me and living waters will flow from your innermost being.

What was the background of this promise?

## What did Jesus mean by this promise?



## **John 7:38-39**

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**But this He spoke of the Spirit,**  
whom those who believed in Him were to receive;  
for the Spirit was not yet given,  
because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The priests had likely just poured out water on the alter to commemorate the water that God brought forth from a rock in the dessert, *but Jesus was that rock.*

**1 Corinthians 10:4**

...for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; **and the rock was Christ.**

Now, Jesus—the spiritual Rock that had followed the people in the desert—promised to fulfill the Old Testament promises by pouring out His Spirit upon all believers, the Spirit who would use the water of His Word to give true and lasting life.

## **John 6:63**

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”

# Rivers of Living Water

Jesus' commands

Jesus' promise

## People's responses to Jesus



# **People's Responses to Jesus**

The crowd's responses

## **John 7:40-44**

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Others were saying, “This is the Christ.”

Still others were saying, “Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?”

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Some of them wanted to seize Him,  
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# **Some of them wanted to seize Him,**

but no one laid hands on Him.

The people's responses to Christ were all over the place because the hearts of men are continually tossed here and there by every wind of doctrine.

Apart from grace, no one knows Christ for who He is.

# People's Responses to Jesus

The crowd's responses

The officials' responses

### **John 7:45-46**

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## The Pharisees' responses



## **John 7:47-52**

The Pharisees then answered them,

“You have not also been led astray, have you?

No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he?

But this crowd which does not know the Law is accursed.”

Nicodemus (he who came to Him before, being one of them)

said to them, “Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?”

They answered him, “You are not also from Galilee, are you?

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**Your response**

**Romans 10:9**

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord,  
and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,  
you will be saved.

Are you confessing Jesus Christ as Lord?  
Do you believe in your heart that He died  
for you and was raised from the dead?  
Are you coming to Him and drinking from  
Him what He gives you?