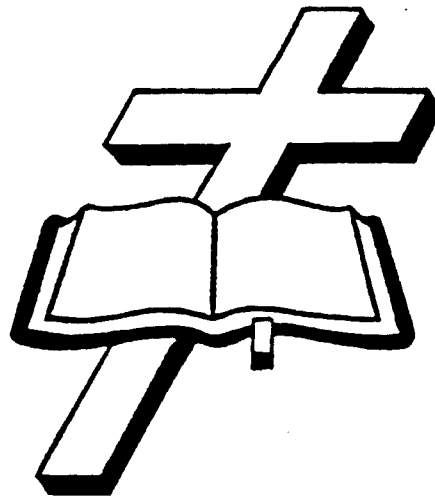


# THIRSTY FOR THE LORD

(The Power Of A Heart After God)  
John 7:37-39



**THE ALTAR IS A PLACE OF:**

- ◆ Desire
- ◆ Direction
- ◆ Drinking

**“If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink” (John 7:37)**

**Bill Kirk**

# “THIRSTY FOR THE LORD”

**Text:** Proverbs 5:15 / John 7:37-39

**Subject:** “Jesus I Am Thirsty” (or)

## The Power Of A Heart After God

### Introduction

1. In John chapter 7, Jesus was at the **Feast of Tabernacles**.
2. The **Feast of Tabernacles** was the most popular feast among the Jews.
3. It was celebrated for seven days; it was a festive time for the people:

**Question:** What was the **Feast of Tabernacles**?

**Answer:** It was time to celebrate Israel’s journey through the wilderness and to thank God for the harvest season.

- ◆ Each Jewish family built a small stucco (or tent-like structure) in their yard or on another’s property.
- ◆ The Jews would move out of their homes into the structure for seven days.
- ◆ On each of the seven days, the people came to the temple and brought a fruit offering and a few palm and willow branches.
- ◆ The branches were used to form a roof over the altar.
- ◆ The temple area was illumined by large candlesticks.

**Question:** Why the candlesticks?

**Answer:** To remind the people how they were guided by the pillar of fire at night by the Lord in the wilderness.

- ◆ On each of the seven days, the priests would carry water from the pool of Siloam and pour it out from a golden vessel.

**Question:** Why pour the water out each day?

**Answer:** To remind the Jews of the miraculous provision of water from the rock.

- ◆ As the pitcher of water passed through the water gate, the people repeated in unison Isaiah 12:3 “With joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation”
- ◆ When the pitcher reached the altar, the water was poured out over the altar as an offering to God.
- ◆ As this was being done, the people waved palm branches and quoted Psalm 118:25:

“Save now, I beseech thee, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity”

**Question:** Why the processional and the pouring out of water?

**Answer:**

- ◆ It was a dramatic way to thank God for rain.
- ◆ It was to offer prayer to God for more rain for the coming season.
- ◆ It was a way to acknowledge all dependence upon God for the water to give life to the fruit of the ground.

**(No Water - No Harvest - No Harvest - No Life)**

- ◆ On the last day of the feast, the people repeated the processional seven times.
- ◆ It is this same feast to be celebrated when the Lord returns. (Zechariah 14:16)
- ◆ Symbolic of our joy, liberty and victory through the wilderness of life.

**(It Is An Awesome Setting For Our Text)**

- ◆ It was on “The last day, that great day of the Feast” when Jesus made a startling claim. (On this 21st day of the 7th month)

## (2 Things Stand Out In Verse 37)

- #1. Jesus “stood” (When teachers always sat in that day)
- #2. Jesus “Cried Out” (The Greek word is (EKRAZEN which means:) “Shouted Loudly”

- ◆ Both acts would startle and shock the people to attention.
- ◆ And, while in the midst of thousands of voices praying to God for rain, Jesus pierces the air with a thundering cry:

### (What Is It?)

“If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water”. (John 7:37, 38)

**Question:** Why did Jesus thunder it out on this day?

**Answer:** Because He saw something that broke His heart.

- #1. Jesus witnessed the procession and the ceremony.
- #2. Jesus saw all the jubilant multitude sing and shout.
- #3. Jesus watched the crowd come and go.

### (So Why Did Jesus Cry Out?)

- ◆ Because He saw (when the ceremony was over) all the people go home with their same heartaches, cares, fears and disappointments.
- ◆ He saw the legalism, ceremony, routine and the pouring out of the water on the altar.
- ◆ He saw the utter inability of earthly waters, pleasures, passions and possessions to satisfy the weary soul in the processions.

### (And In The Midst Of The Ordinary)

- ◆ Jesus offers something extraordinary.     ◆ He offers something more than an empty pitcher.

**Question:** What was Jesus saying then and now?

**Answer:** That the efforts of the flesh and gold pitchers from Siloam on earth can never satisfy one of us.

### (In Other Words)

- ◆ Jesus saw the world looking in its broken cisterns.
- ◆ Jesus saw people looking for help in the wrong direction.
- ◆ Jesus saw people leaning on the flesh (to be disappointed).
- ◆ Jesus saw that nothing could quench our thirst (except the Spirit of the Living God).

## (3 Secrets From The Last Day Of The Feast) All Wrapped Up In 3 Words

### I. Desire

“If any man thirst” ( V. 37)

- ◆ The word for thirst here is (DIPSAO) which means “To be thirsty”
- ◆ It speaks of your desire.
- ◆ It speaks of your longing.
- ◆ It speaks of your hunger.
- ◆ It speaks of your passion.
- ◆ It speaks of your devotion.
- ◆ It speaks of your fire.
- ◆ It speaks of your aspiration.
- ◆ It speaks of your intensity.
- ◆ It speaks of your preparation.

**Question:** What is the one prerequisite to be filled with fresh water of the Holy Spirit?

**Answer:** “Thirst”

**Question:** What does the Lord say in Isaiah 44:3?

**Answer:** "I will pour out water upon him that is thirsty"

**Question:** How many of you are thirsty (or want to be thirsty for spiritual things)?

**(D.L. Moody Declared In Boston)**

"See how the Spirit came on the day of Pentecost! It is not carnal to pray that He may come again and that the place may be shaken".

**(He Said Again)**

"We should have the old Pentecostal fire here in Boston"

**Question:** Why must the Lord give us thirst for spiritual things?

**Answer:** Because a shallow thirst brings a shallow satisfaction.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ The deeper our desire will be the deeper our delight.

**(Vance Havner - A Baptist Preacher, Said)**

"The way to a personal and experimental Pentecost is not by a shallow and superficial prayer meeting request for more power, easily uttered and soon forgotten; it is the road of a burning and blistering thirst that will not be denied. He who has thirsted most has been most deeply filled"

**(He Said)**

"Pray for a genuine thirst and a holy heartburn"

**(Isaiah Said)**

"Every one that thirsteth come ye to the waters" (Isaiah 55:1)

**(David Said)**

"My soul thirsteth for God" (Psalm 42:2)

**(Psalm 63:1)**

"My soul thirsteth for thee"

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Desire is everything.
- ◆ Desire is where it all begins.
- ◆ Desire is what God wants to ignite and inflame.

**(Why So Important?)**

- ◆ Because the degree of my desire will be the desire of God's response. (Repeat)

## II. **Direction**

"...Let him come unto Me" (V. 37)

**Question:** Where do thirsty people come to, or go to?

**Question:** Is it a place, a preacher, a palace, a performance, a platform?

**(What Is The Next Move After Desire?)**

"...Let him come unto Me" (John 7:37)

**Question:** What does it mean to "Come unto Me?"

- ◆ It means there must be a drawing near to the Lord.
- ◆ It is a conscious effort of our will to move close to God.
- ◆ It is a choice to renounce everything that offends the Lord.
- ◆ It is a fear of ever becoming cold or distant with God.
- ◆ It is believing James 4:8.

"Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you"

- ◆ Jesus saw people going in the wrong direction.
- ◆ He saw people coming apart because they weren't coming to Him.
- ◆ He saw people religious, singing, going through the forms at the festive church meetings. (But something was missing).

**Question:** What was the mistake?

**Answer:** Misdirected attention!

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| ◆ Some liked the pool,          | ◆ Some liked the booths,                 |
| ◆ Some liked the gold pitchers, | ◆ Some liked the palm branches,          |
| ◆ Some liked the song service,  | ◆ Some liked going to church all 7 days. |

**(But Jesus Cries Out)**  
"Let him come unto Me"

**Question:** Why keep coming to Jesus?

**Answer:** Because of what Jesus will do:

- ◆ He will quiet your heart in prayer.
- ◆ He will readily forgive any sin.
- ◆ He will fill you with power for service.
- ◆ He will give you wisdom and direction.
- ◆ He will encourage you in any valley.
- ◆ He will lead you to make right choices.
- ◆ He will give you grace to take the low road, forgive offenders, stay sweet, and not complain.

**Question:** Why are there so many weak, shallow, unhappy, high maintenance people in the church world?

**Answer:** Because preachers have taught people to run to them to get it by transference.

- ◆ But no preacher can make up for my lack of desire, (and give me what I didn't pay for in seeking God).

### III. Drinking

"...and drink" (V. 37)

**Question:** What does it mean to drink?

**Answer:** It is not something passive, but an active participation!!!

- ◆ It is something you and I must do.
- ◆ It is a divine transaction that needs my participation.
- ◆ It is not a one time drink, but a continual drinking every day of our lives.

**(What Is This Drinking?)**

#1. It is believing what God has said in the Word:

(Proverbs 1:23) "I will pour out my spirit upon you".

(Song of Solomon 4:15) "A well of living water".

(Isaiah 41:18) "I will open fountains in the midst of valleys"

(Isaiah 43:19) "I will make rivers in the desert"

(Joel 2:28) "I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh"

#2. It Is Receiving What God Has Promised In His Word

(Ephesians 5:18) "And be not drunk with wine, but be filled (continually filled) with the Spirit".

**(How?)**

(V. 19) A worshiping Spirit (V. 20) A grateful Spirit (V. 21) A submissive Spirit

AMEN!  
Bill Kirk, Pastor