

# Gospel of John: That You Might Believe

[John 7:1-52](#)

“Rivers of Living Water” – May 16, 2021



## Introduction

Have you ever been thirsty before? Thirst is one of the strongest desires we have. It's a desire built out of necessity. Thirst is one of the most potent drives for behavior that we have. God gives us a physical thirst that points us to our deeper spiritual thirst. A thirst that drives our daily decisions, priorities, and that sets the course for what we believe will give us life. Whatever we think will satisfy us in this world will let us down. It will leave us thirsty. The gospel of John is written to give us life and life in Christ's name ([20:31](#)). We know *Jesus is the life-giving rescuer because he fulfills God's Word*.

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Sermon Outline

- I. Scene I: The Beginning of the Feast ([7:1-13](#))
- II. Scene II: The Middle of the Feast ([7:14-36](#))
- III. Scene III: The Last Day of the Feast ([7:37-52](#))

## Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [7:1-13](#)

Imagine being in a raft surrounded by the ocean, you are so thirsty. Will that ocean satisfy you? Why or why not? Salt water never satisfies our thirst but makes us even thirstier. How does that relate to our spiritual thirst and the many things that claim to satisfy us in this world whether “good” or “bad”? Jesus doesn't operate on worldly thirst, but on the Father's timetable. He finds His satisfaction in Him. Jesus came to glorify God and to serve. What are some things you often catch yourself looking for satisfaction in? What are some thirsts you are experiencing and how are you seeking to satisfy them? Jesus' own brother didn't rush to Jesus for help. They used Jesus for their own gain. Let's not forget, there is no middle ground with Jesus. Some people said Jesus was a good man while others claimed He was leading people astray. Who do you say Jesus is? Do you struggle to know Jesus is good and can be trusted? Does your life demonstrate that He is good and trustworthy? It's important to know why Jesus came, so that it awakens a thirst for Jesus that eclipses all other thirsts we experience.

- 2) Read [7:14-36](#)

If we say we trust Jesus, we must come to Him and follow Him. We must come to His Word and not just read it but obey it, even when we may not like what He has to say at first. By coming to Him, God will show us the truth and life found in Him. Do you come to God with an

open mind or with your mind already made up? What are some things you struggle to obey in His Word that you need to submit to today? If we come to God's word with a mind unable to adapt and trust Him, we will not find relief. We will not understand His voice as He speaks to us. What caused such an angry mob in verse 22? Jesus exposes their hypocrisy. Jesus came to fulfill the law. He came to fulfill what circumcision and the sabbath both pointed too (see additional reading below). They wanted to kill Jesus because of their thirst and what they thought was fulfilling them – law keeping. Does this ring true for you or are you relying on Jesus to satisfy you? Notice the crowd becomes split and some want to kill Him, but don't. Why don't they arrest Him? Because His time appointed by God the Father had not yet come. Make no mistake, God is in control of all things. Jesus does the Father's will in the Father's timing. He is our perfect example of obedience. Is your joy rooted in the praise of man or the praise of God? The praise of man is a seeking for thirst that will never satisfy.

Additional Reading: [Galatians 3](#), [Hebrews 4](#)

### 3) Read [7:37-52](#)

The festival of booths was a looking forward to the future salvation of God. Jesus stands up and announces that He is this fulfillment. He is where this living water of salvation is found. What does Jesus require of you that you find this living water from Him? All He requires is that we come to Him, that's it. Where do you find yourself in this narrative? Are you skeptical? Are you in opposition to Jesus? Are you just in the "middle" and unsure where you land? All he requires of you is that you honestly come to Him. You will find rest in His arms. Your thirst will be satisfied, and he promises that out of your heart will flow rivers of living water. What in your heart is reluctant to come to Jesus with? Hear His cry to come to Him today church.

Additional Reading: [Isaiah 12:3](#)

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

<b>*Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">John 8:12-30</a> "The Light of the World"
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