

JOHN 7:32-52

REVIEW...

- **JOHN 7:1-31 - THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES...**

- 1st - It had been 6 months since Jesus fed the 5000 - when many of His disciples left...
 - Now His brothers wanted Him to go to Jerusalem for the feast to show His miracles...
 - Jesus could not go openly - the leaders still wanted to kill Him for healing the lame man
 - Instead He went in secret - but half way through the festival - He stood up and taught!
- 2nd - The people were amazed at Jesus' teaching because He had never been to school...
 - But when He asked the crowd why they wanted to kill Him - they said He had a demon...
 - Jesus pointed out - the Jews would break the Sabbath to circumcise their sons...
 - Jesus explained why He healed on the Sabbath - fulfill a greater law - love your neighbor!
- 3rd - The crowd was surprised the Jewish leaders said nothing while Jesus taught...
 - They began to whisper - perhaps Jesus was the Christ...
 - The only problem was they knew where Jesus was from - the Christ was from heaven...
 - Jesus explained they knew about Him - but they did not know who sent Him!

LIVING WATER FROM THE ROCK... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - TIME IS SHORT... vs. 31-36 (4 THINGS)**

- 1st - Stirring up trouble... vs. 32
 - The Pharisees heard the people questioning if Jesus was the Christ...
 - If Jesus had said nothing - kept to Himself - nothing would have happened...
 - But because He stood up and shared the Gospel - it stirred things up...
 - In reaction the leaders quickly sent the Temple police to arrest Jesus...
 - **If we are content to sit on the side - and never threaten satan - he will leave us alone...**
 - **But when we step out to tell others about Jesus - we are going to be a target...**
 - **If life seems to be too easy - it is likely because we are not getting satan mad enough!**
- 2nd - The time is short... vs. 33
 - Meanwhile Jesus told the crowd - 'I will only be with you a little while longer'...
 - It was only about 6 months to the feast of Passover - where Jesus would be crucified...
 - He knew His time was coming to an end - time for Him to return to heaven...
 - **I think sometimes we think we have all the time in the world...**
 - **We do not need to tell someone about Jesus today - we can wait till tomorrow...**
 - **But life has a way of moving by very fast - blink and years have passed...**
 - **Like Jesus we need to realize - we will only be here for a little while...**
 - **Grab the opportunity - seize the day - and tell people the Good News!**
- 3rd - You will seek Me - but not find Me... vs. 34
 - In the beginning of Jesus ministry He had encouraged the crowds to...
 - **Matthew 7:7 - "Keep on seeking, and you will find..."**
 - Jesus had come to save them - all they simply needed to do was believe!
 - **God desires that all men be saved - He does not want any to perish - II Peter 3:9**

- He did all the work for us - Jesus died on the cross so that we could live...
- But the time was coming quickly when He would not longer be around...
 - He was going back to heaven - and they would not be able to come along...
 - Because they refused to believe - they had rejected the only way to be saved!
 - If we reject the way God has provided - there is no second option...
 - The one and only way to get to heaven - is through faith in Jesus!
- At the Judgment Seat they would see their need for Jesus...
 - It would be too late - God only gives us the time we have here on earth to choose...
 - The moment we die our fate is sealed - there are no second chances...
 - There is no purgatory - the prayers of saints/priests/family cannot help you...
 - **Hebrews 9:27** - "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment..."
 - If you choose to reject God - then God will not force you to go to heaven...
 - God does not send anyone to hell - we choose to go there by rejecting Jesus!
 - **II Corinthians 6:2** - "Today is the day of salvation."
 - God does not guarantee anyone tomorrow - today is the day to believe!
- o 4th - Where will Jesus go... vs. 35-36
 - The leaders were confused by Jesus words - they wanted to know where He was going...
 - They thought perhaps having been unable to convince the Jews in Jerusalem...
 - Jesus might try to go to the 'Diaspora' - Jews who lived with the gentiles...
 - The Jewish people scattered among the nations - **II Kings 18:11** / **II Kings 25:21**
 - That was one place the leaders certainly would never be willing to go!
 - A prophetic statement by the leaders...
 - It would be the Jews rejection of Jesus - that sent the Gospel to the gentiles...
 - **Acts 18:6** - "From now on I will go preach to the Gentiles."
 - Just because someone does not receive the Gospel - does not mean we stop...
 - I was looking at a packet of seeds the other day - guaranteed 80% germination...
 - I thought it interesting - not all of these seeds will end up bearing fruit...
 - But the more seeds you put in the ground - the more fruit you will have!
 - If one person will not listen - then share the Good news with someone else...
 - The more people who hear the Word of God - the more people who will be saved!
- 2ND - THE LIVING WATER... VS. 37-39
 - o The last day - the Great day - of the feast of Tabernacles...
 - The Feast of Tabernacles lasted for eight days - the last day was called the 'Great day'...
 - It was set aside to remember how God had brought Israel into the Promised Land!
 - Tradition tell us the priests would take 7 gold jugs of water from the Gihon spring...
 - Pour it down the 'Steps of David' - remembering the water from the rock...
 - God led Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land - but on the way there was no water...
 - Moses was commanded by God to strike the Rock at Horeb - **Exodus 17**...
 - By striking the Rock - life saving water flowed out and rescued Israel from death...
 - This was not just any Rock - it followed Israel - **Numbers 20:2-8**
 - The Rock in the wilderness and gave them water - was Jesus - **I Corinthians 10:4**
 - Jesus is our Rock - who was beaten (*the cross*) so that we could have life!

- o Which is why Jesus stood up at the feast and said...
 - 'If any man is thirsty - let him come to me and drink!'
 - The water Israel drank only satisfied for a moment - they would be thirsty again...
 - Did you ever notice how things in this world never seem to satisfy for long...
 - We are trying to fill a void - but the things of this world leave us empty...
 - If I only had that job / if only I had a drink / if I only I had more money...
 - **Haggai 1:6** - "Money disappears as though putting it in pockets filled with holes."
 - No sooner do we get what we want - then we find it did not fill us / or last...
 - We quickly become thirsty again - and look for something else to satisfy us!
 - Those who drink the water Jesus gives - out of them will flow rivers of living water!
 - Jesus was speaking of the Holy Spirit - who would be given after his resurrection!
 - When we drink deeply from Jesus' Living water - we will find contentment...
 - We were not created by God to be fulfilled by the things of this world...
 - We were created by God to know Him - worship Him - **John 17:3**
 - And when we use our life for the purpose God intended for it...
 - Rather than trying to fill a void in us - we find a river flows out from us!
 - Not only are we complete in Jesus - we have surplus to pour out on others!
- **3RD - A MIXED REACTION... vs. 40-52 (6 THINGS)**
 - o 1st - Many of the people believed Jesus was THE prophet... 40
 - Talking about **Deuteronomy 18:15** - they believed Jesus was the Messiah...
 - They realized they were thirsty - and were ready to take a drink!
 - Some people we share the Living Water with - are ready to receive...
 - Not that it happens every day - or every time - but some people are ready!
 - A good friend of mine when I was growing up - came to my door one day...
 - He opened up the conversation with - 'tell me more about Jesus!'
 - All we need to do is be available and willing to tell them about Jesus!
 - o 2nd - There were others who hesitated.... vs. 41-43
 - They knew their Bible - the Messiah had to come from Bethlehem - **Micah 5:2**
 - Their hesitation was Jesus was from the Galilee - so He could not be the Christ...
 - But their problem was not geography - it was ignorance...
 - Jesus had been born in Bethlehem - they just did not have all the facts!
 - Some people we share the Living Water with - just need more information...
 - They know part of the story about Jesus - but do not have all the facts...
 - There is a famous story of 3 blind men trying to describe an elephant...
 - One of them touched his nose - and described an elephant as being like a snake...
 - Another touched his leg - and described an elephant as being like a tree trunk...
 - A third touched his side - and described him as being like a massive rock...
 - They then argued with each other as to whose description of the elephant was right!
 - If someone is asking questions - take the time to explain salvation/Jesus to them!
 - o 3rd - There were some who wanted Jesus to be arrested... vs. 44
 - There was no attempt to justify their lack of faith - they just wanted Jesus gone...
 - Some people we share the Living Water with - just have no interest...
 - Not that they want to go to hell - they are just too busy enjoying life to be bothered...

- So they would rather not think about what happens when they die...
 - That is why they do not want us around reminding them - telling them about Jesus!
- o 4th - The Temple guards would not arrest Jesus... vs. 45-49
- Rather than arresting Jesus - they had sat and listened to His teaching...
 - Amazed by Jesus' words - they returned to the leaders without arresting Him...
 - But the leaders rebuked them - 'are you also deceived'...
 - They pointed out not EVEN ONE of them believed Jesus was the Christ...
 - They added - the only reason some believe is because they did not know the Law!
 - This was an outright lie - the whole point of the Law was to point to Jesus!
 - **Psalm 40:7** - "Look, I have come. As is written about me in the Scriptures..."
 - Some people we share the Living Water with - are intimidated by peer pressure...
 - They are willing to listen to the lies of those who want to keep them from Jesus...
 - They are more convinced by the words of Men - than the Word of God...
 - Peer pressure can even be a powerful tool to keep us from sharing Jesus...
 - Often we feel shy about sharing the Word of God - standing up for Jesus...
 - The reason is we are not absolutely certain - convinced - the Word is true...
 - We tend to be more certain of other peoples opinion - than God's judgment for sin...
 - If were absolutely convinced people were going to hell if they did not believe...
 - No peer pressure - no ridicule - nothing would be able to keep us from sharing...
 - When we choose to believe God's Word - nothing will be able to keep us quiet...
 - **Romans 1:16** - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes..."
 - When we realize all that God has given to us - grace - the free gift of salvation...
 - **II Corinthians 3:12** - "This new covenant gives us confidence, we can be very bold."
- o 5th - Nicodemus - stood up for Jesus... vs. 50-52
- He questioned the leaders - 'does the law judge a man before it hears Him...'
 - The leaders had already judged convicted Jesus in their hearts...
 - They were ready to pass judgment - they were ready to crucify Him...
 - Nicodemus pointed out it was not lawful to convict a man without a proper trial...
 - Are you also from Galilee'...
 - The leaders questioned Nicodemus' loyalties - was he now one of Jesus' disciples...
 - They challenged him to search the Bible - no prophet had ever come from Galilee...
 - Ironically the answer was yes - Jonah / Hosea / Nahum / Elijah - just to name a few
 - Their hatred of Jesus blinded them to what the Bible really said!
 - But Nicodemus stood his ground - and the meeting broke up - everyone went home!
 - This was the same Nicodemus who had only been willing to see Jesus at night...
 - It had taken him almost three years - but He was now willing to take a stand!
 - Some people we share the Living Water with - just take time to believe...
 - Sometimes before we can plant a seed - we need to prepare the soil...
 - We need to break up hardened ground - we need to remove big rocks...
 - **Hosea 10:12** - "Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, now is the time to seek the LORD."
 - Some people we need to be patient with - getting them ready to believe in the Lord...

- They may not come to church the first time - it does not mean they will never come...
- Keep on loving - keep on sharing - keep working on the soil so the seed will grow!