

Life-Giving Water

John 7:37-44

Props: watering can, bucket, bowl, flannel and towel, glass, vase, bottle of water, kettle, hosepipe.

In warm weather like it has been over the last week or two, my talk this morning is highly relevant.

What do all these things do – they all have something to do with water.

Yes, it's all about water. It isn't often we have a heatwave, but in this weather, water use is even more important than when it's falling out of the sky at us!

Ask for ways in which we use water.

Water is really important. It covers two-thirds of the world's surface. As much as 75% of our body weight is water. We can't live for more than 5 days without water.

There is no life without water. Some live in it, but every living thing needs to drink it to live.

We just found out that water is used for a variety of things. In Jesus' time, water was just as important as it is now – he drank water, he turned it into wine, he travelled on it over the Sea of Galilee, it rained on him like it does us!

Ask someone to wash their hands and face. Jesus even washed himself. Before he was crucified he washed his disciples feet.

On a hot day it's most important to quench our thirst and Jesus spoke some important words. Let me read part of the passage again: On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

How do we know they were important words:

Which day of the festival was it? The last

Was it the best bit? Yes, it was the last.

What does greatest mean? Busiest with most people there.

Did Jesus have a quiet chat? No, he spoke with a loud voice.

So what did he say. "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

It was an invitation. We find from the passage that people were divided by what he said. Surely this man is the Prophet." - they were interested in him as some sort of religious guy
"He is the Christ." - they wanted to follow him
"How can the Christ come from Galilee? - they were sceptical
Some wanted to seize him - they were hostile.

Jesus is offering you an invitation this morning. What's your response. Maybe you follow him already. Perhaps, you're just searching. Maybe you're sceptical. Perhaps you're hostile. Well, what does Jesus do to all those who accept his invitation?

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

Jesus died so that we could know God's forgiveness, friendship, fatherhood. When we accept Jesus' invitation something happens – we receive God's Holy Spirit. Things happen. We know God's presence refreshing us. We start to understand who God is. We start to realise that he speaks to us. We see how he blesses us in so many ways. He changes our lives. If we're struggling with life, he strengthens us. If we need healing or our relationships need putting back together, things happen. We find life, purpose and hope.

This morning Jesus still says "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. " It's a warm day. Are you thirsty? Then you know what to do – have a drink. Are you spiritually thirsty this morning? Then allow Jesus to come into your life and let him start to make sense of life and of eternity.

*Preached by Mark Reid
MRBC Felixstowe 21/7/13
Based on SU Light's All Age Service*

John 7:7 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. 40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "He is the Christ." Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee? 42 Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" 43 Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. 44 Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.