LifeGroup Study

Crashing Sukkot : Water From A Strange River

Sermon Summary

Each morning of Sukkot the High Priest has carried a golden pitcher from the Pool of Siloam through the Water Gate, and at the altar water and wine are poured out together. Just as eyes are on the draining bowls, Jesus stands up and shouts: anyone who is thirsty, come to him and drink. He does not point to another ritual or place. He himself is the source. John explains that Jesus means the Spirit, whom believers would later receive. Only the Spirit, flowing from Jesus, truly satisfies.

Key Verse

John 7:37 (NIV)
"On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.'"

SERMON NOTES

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What did you find interesting or have questions about from the sermon?
2. Read John 7:37-39. What part of that scene catches your attention most, and why do you think Jesus use the language of thirst to describe spiritual life?
3. What is the difference, in your own life, between going through religious motions and actually drinking from Jesus as your source?
4. Verse 39, John explains that Jesus meant the Spirit, whom believers would later receive, because Jesus had not yet been glorified. There was waiting built into the promise. Where are you waiting on God right now, and what does it mean to follow Jesus in a season when the full answer has not arrived yet?
5. Read Exodus 17:1-7. In the wilderness God gave water from the rock, and the water ceremony remembered that provision. When has God provided for you in a dry place, in a way you did not expect? How does remembering that provision change the way you face the dry place you are in now?
6. Read Isaiah 12:3. The crowds chanted about drawing water from the wells of salvation with joy. Joy is part of the picture, not just duty. Has your faith lately felt more like duty than joy? Do you feel dry in some area right now?
7. Read John 7:40-53. The crowd is divided. Where has following Jesus cost you agreement with people around you, and how do you stay faithful without becoming bitter or proud about it?
8. Who around you is thirsty right now? How can you bless them?
9. Read Jeremiah 2:13. Broken cisterns are cisterns that cannot hold water. We often look for worldly substitutes that promise refreshment but leave us thirsty again. What is one broken cistern in your life, something you keep returning to for refreshment that never actually satisfies? What could you replace it with?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thirst prayer. Go around the circle and let each person name one dry place in their life in a single sentence, with no explaining and no fixing. After each one, the group prays together, "Jesus, we come to you and drink." The leader closes by thanking Jesus that he is the source, and asking the Spirit for fresh renewal for the group.