

The Gospel of John - #29 - 04/25/2021 - "Questions That NEED An Answer!" John 7: 32-44

Introduction: IL- Website called, "Unanswerable Questions" Three of them are:

If you try to fail and succeed, then which have you done?

Why is it that rain drops but snow falls?

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

In today's text we're going to examine three questions you really need to answer, with "yes" or "no"! I may not know your true answers, but God does! So, here we go in John 7: 32-44...

"Where I am you cannot come!" Verse 34 *Can YOU?

Remember that the setting of this chapter is the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles and it was an eight-day festival in late September/early October. In the middle of that Feast in Jerusalem Jesus came to the holy city from Galilee and began teaching on the steps leading up to the Southern Wall. Then He moved inside the Temple and continued teaching about Himself and His Father, God. There were those in the crowd who believed His words and perhaps came to understand that He was and is the Messiah, while others wanted to see Him arrested by the proper authorities. As more grumbling or 'muttering' went on, the Jewish leaders sent "officers" to arrest Jesus. These officers were the Temple police and were Jewish priests for the most part. They were not Roman soldiers. Jesus clearly identified Himself as the One sent by God to touch the lives of people and change their lives by His upcoming death, burial and resurrection. He made it clear that He would only be around a "little longer" and in roughly six months He would finish His work at Calvary and would go back to Heaven and to the Father. He knew what their reaction was going to be. Those who didn't accept Him as their Messiah and Savior from sin would be forever separated from Him and not able to enter Heaven where Jesus sits at the right hand of God. This teaching caused many in the crowd to scratch their heads and wonder what He was getting at, and where He would possibly be going that they were excluded from. They thought that He might be talking about going to the Dispersion and possibly even giving His message to the Greeks! 'The Dispersion' is a reference to the many Jews who either were forcibly expelled from Israel or those who chose to live elsewhere. There were Jews living outside of Jerusalem throughout the Roman Empire and there would come a time, in 70 AD, when all Jews were captives to the Roman government. Captivity had happened before when the chosen people were held by the Assyrians and then again when they were held against their will in Babylon. But we see a bit of Jewish pride expressed here when these grumblers mention the possibility of Jesus teaching "Greeks"- a code word for any non-Jew, that is- Gentiles. They couldn't imagine that a Man who claimed to be Israel's Messiah would dare do ministry among Gentiles, as hated as they were by first century devout Jews. They thought, "Does this 'pretender' plan to go to non-Jews? That can't be right!" But Jesus wasn't talking about going to where Gentiles lived with Jews. Soon the glorious Gospel would be preached to all people- Jew and Gentile. He was referring to going to Heaven upon completion of His earthly ministry following His resurrection. Jesus made it clear in His ministry that He wanted people to come to

Him, from whatever race or religious past, and He still does to this very day! In Matthew 11: 28 He said, "Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest!" Anyone can find rest and the removal of sins' burdens by coming to Jesus in faith. Then when death comes, or when Jesus returns to catch His people away in the Rapture, those who have believed in Him can and will go to Heaven to be with Him for eternity. In John 14: 1-3 Jesus told His disciples, in the Upper Room, just hours before He was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane- "I go to prepare a place for you! And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there you may be also!" So, the unquestionable truth is that we CAN go where He is- we can go to Heaven when we die! Jesus has done all that is needed to open the way to sinners like you and me- ALL of it! All we need to do is believe that He did that for you and me. Here is the plain Gospel truth in Romans 3 from the inspired pen of the Apostle Paul- verses 21 to 24- "But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the Law, and the prophets bear witness to it- the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified by His grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." There it is- the answer to Question 1- CAN YOU? is simple- ""Yes, you can go to Heaven to be with Jesus **if** you accept the gift of being made right with God by HIS grace!

"Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water!" Verse 38 *Is living water flowing in and out of YOU?*

On day eight, the final day of the Feast, Jesus had another point to emphasize in His message to the crowd. It was a fitting conclusion to the celebration in and around the Temple. For seven days, at the time of morning sacrifice, people would line up behind priests in the courtyard, who would take a golden flask, fill it with water from the Pool of Siloam, and bring it back to the altar and pour it out. It was to symbolize the time that Moses, in the wilderness, cried out in prayer for water to quench the thirst of the people, and God provided water abundantly from a rock! It also represented God's provision of rain for their crops at the time of Christ. On day eight the week-long procession at morning sacrifice was over, so the timing of Jesus' teaching about living water was perfect! He makes the connection between the living water and the coming of the Holy Spirit when Jesus would ascend back to the Father. He applies it to anyone in the crowd who senses a spiritual thirst- one that can only be satisfied by a personal relationship with Jesus, who is the source of that living water. Jesus told the woman at the well, in John 4: 13- "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again!" Jesus, when He was ready to go back to the Father, told His followers in Acts 1: 5- You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now!" And in verse 8- "You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit comes upon you." And the Spirit did come upon Christ's followers in Acts 2.

Out of such a person who drinks that living water will come a flow of blessing and love for others that only the Holy Spirit can provide. Every person who trusts Jesus as Savior from sin immediately has the Holy Spirit come in and take up permanent residence in their heart and

soul. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthian Christians, in 1 Corinthians 12: 13- "For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, Jews and Greeks, slaves and free, and all have been made to drink of one Spirit!" So, every true believer has been "baptized" by the Spirit- identified as a child of God and as a part of the Church- the Body of Christ. Along with the Holy Spirit indwelling us, He also seals us in that Body, which means we can never lose our salvation! Ephesians 4: 30 challenges us- "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." 2 Timothy 2: 19 tells us- "God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal- the Lord knows them that are His!" If you are His by faith, you can be satisfied in knowing that you will forever be His and that He knows you perfectly well. And because the Spirit is in you, you have at least one spiritual gift to use in service for Him- a gift like teaching or hospitality or mercy. You also have, billowing out of you to others, fruits of the Spirit like love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness and more according to Galatians 5: 22 and 23. There is one more work of the Spirit that I want to mention and that is the filling of the Spirit. Ephesians 5: 18 reads- "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit." To be filled implies the full control of the Spirit in my life on a day to day level so that I can effectively use the spiritual gift I've been given and so that the fruit of the Spirit can be seen in me by those I am looking to impact. I believe it is possible to be filled to the full, like water in a glass, even spilling over and onto someone else!

So, there you have it- the application of the answer to question two- only YOU can determine if the living water of the Holy Spirit is flowing inside you and outside to others for the glory of God! My prayer is that you can confidently say, "Yes- it is flowing through me so that God can use me!"

"Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David...?" Verse 42

Has the Scripture (the Bible) changed YOU?

The teaching of Jesus that day brought a variety of responses: some thought Jesus must be THE prophet that Moses said was greater than he was. Some were convinced that Jesus is the Messiah. Others argued with that interpretation because they didn't know that Jesus came from David's line and was born in David's hometown of Bethlehem. Some wanted Him arrested and some intended to lay hands on Him but they couldn't follow through with it because it wasn't Jesus' time! But what stands out to me in this third paragraph, following on the identical expression of the Scripture in verse 38, "as the Scripture said", is the authority of the Bible and its accuracy! 2 Timothy 3: 16 reminds us- "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..." and a true believer is committed to knowing and obeying the very words of God! So, that third question is vital when it comes to answering whether or not you have let the powerful Word of God to change your life. Way too many "Christians" deal with the Bible as a good book with some amazing teaching but relegate it to Sunday use (if that!) and depend on a preacher or pastor or evangelist to tell them something inspiring that the Bible says. But that verse in 2 Timothy spells out the work of Scripture (IF we let it): profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for

correction and instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

IL- "Either Scripture will be the lens through which you view the world, or the world will be the lens through which you view Scripture. Ultimately one or the other will be your authority." Which is it for YOU? If your life hasn't been changed in any significant way by the Bible and its inherent authority, you need to consider exactly what your assessment is of the value of the Bible. After all, it is the Bible that tells us about Jesus and what He came to do for sinful mankind! It is the Bible that tells us about the power of the blood of Christ to transform anyone who comes by faith. It is the Bible that spells out our lost condition and our desperate need to be changed from a child of the Devil to a child of God. It is the Bible that teaches us about our bright future if we belong to God through His Son. It is the Bible that details the end of the world and the coming judgement on a sin-cursed earth, and how to escape that punishment, including the punishment of Hell's eternal flames. So- I ask you- have you allowed and invited Scripture to change YOU? You and God know for sure where you stand with Him!

Conclusion: Communion is truly all about what I have preached about this morning. It is a reminder, through two basic symbols of the bread and the cup, of what our Savior willingly did in going to the Cross and intentionally offering His human body and life's blood for MY sins so that I could have eternal life, have God the Holy Spirit living in me, and experience on-going change through the power of the Word of God as I read it and apply it to everyday life. Colossians 1: 27 tells us that God's "saints" (His special people) know that "to them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is '**Christ in you, the hope of glory!**'"

Communion- 1 Corinthians 15: 1-4 "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the Gospel I preached to you...*that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.*"

Closing Song: "*Christ In Me*"