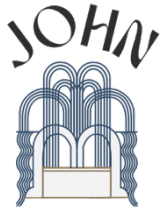


An Exposition of the
GOSPEL OF JOHN



“A Perfectly Satisfied Soul”

John 7:37-39

Theme: Without Jesus Christ, no one can be truly satisfied.

Introduction: Every human being is thirsty. Not physically—spiritually. God built the human soul with longings that nothing in this world can satisfy. That is why men chase achievement yet feel empty, pursue pleasure yet feel restless, accumulate possessions yet remain discontent, and drink deeply from the wells of this world only to find themselves more dehydrated than before. Scripture is painfully honest about this: sinners “hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water” (*Jeremiah 2:13*). And unless Christ intervenes, that is where every one of us remains—thirsty and dying.

It is into that condition that Jesus speaks in John 7. He *alone* can quench the thirst of the human soul.

In these three verses, Jesus gives an invitation, a promise, and an explanation.

- i. **The Invitation to Satisfaction – 7:37** – He calls on us to come to Him and believe – to drink of what He is offering – the forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God,
- ii. **The Importance of Satisfaction – 7:38** – Those who drink will experience a supernatural abundance of grace flowing from the inner man, and
- iii. **The Instigation of Satisfaction – 7:39** – This satisfaction is produced by the Holy Spirit, whom He would soon give.

Although, as we saw in the last section, the gift of God’s grace can be withheld for those who stubbornly reject Jesus and His offer of salvation, He is inviting thirsty sinners to come to Him; promising an abundant provision. The message from this Scripture is unmistakable: **Without Jesus Christ, no one can be truly satisfied.**

The question before us today is simple yet searching—are you drinking deeply from Christ, or are you living on the cracked cisterns of this world? Let’s hear His call with fresh ears and open hearts.

I. The Invitation to Satisfaction – 7:37

A. The Recognition of the Need

1. The Feast of Tabernacles, where they commemorated the wanderings of Israel in the wilderness, was coming to a close – *“On the last day, the great*

day of feast ...”

2. Part of the ritual of this Feast, a long procession would be made each day to the Pool of Siloam where the priest would draw water to be poured into a basin by the altar.
3. The priest carried it back up to the Temple Mount amid shofar blasts, joyful singing, and crowds.
4. As the water flowed down around the altar, prayer was offered for:
 - a) *God’s provision of rain.*
 - b) *God’s salvation.*
 - c) *The future outpouring of the Holy Spirit – cp. Isaiah 44:3; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Joel 2:28.*
5. In addition, there was a great hope that such provision would once again be made through the Messiah in the Messianic age – as promised through the prophet Isaiah – cp. *Isaiah 12:3*.
6. However, on the *“last day,”* they did not fetch the water, and no water was poured on the altar, allowing the people to feel the void as a moment of silent prayer and reflection to be observed by all.
7. It was at this moment, in the quiet, that *“Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink’.”*
8. In this great declaration that He was the fulfillment of what the ceremony pointed to, three issues are raised concerning how a person’s soul can find satisfaction.
9. First, is the **recognition of the need** – the awareness of the fact that one’s soul is thirsty: *“If anyone is thirsty ...”*
10. *“Thirsty”* [διψάω] – describes the deep craving (one of the most desperate human experiences) – a metaphor for inner emptiness, longing, and spiritual need produced by sin and separation from God – *Psalms 63:1*.
 - a) *A sense of hollowness and vanity – Ecclesiastes 1:2.*
 - b) *A sense of restlessness – Isaiah 57:20.*
 - c) *A sense of dissatisfaction – Isaiah 55:2.*
 - d) *A sense of bondage to sin – John 8:34.*
 - e) *A sense of guilt and defilement – Psalms 51:3.*
 - f) *A sense of fear of death and judgment – Romans 1:32.*
 - g) *A sense of boredom and apathy.*
11. Many times, people attempt to satisfy their soul-thirst by guzzling assorted sinful pleasures, money, position, fame, ease, food, and other self-indulgences, only to find that their parched souls remain unsatisfied.

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12. One of the most important steps in having the soul's thirst quenched is to realize the existence of one's thirst, and this is an act of grace through the Holy Spirit.

B. The Response to the Need

1. Next, we find that we cannot simply recognize the fact that we are thirsty; we must **seek** that which can satisfy.
2. We have already seen that a godless worldview and various indulgences cannot bring satisfaction, yet so many of us fall into the trap of thinking we can meet the need of our souls ourselves.
3. In reality, it is only when we turn to Christ that we find our thirst quenched – *“... let him come to Me.”*
4. Coming to Christ means you have turned your back on the world and abandoned all confidence in yourself, responding to the work of God's Spirit in drawing you to faith in Christ Jesus – cp. *Philippians 2:13*.
5. We must not come to a church, to baptism, or to good works of any kind – only when we come TO CHRIST are we able to find satisfaction – *John 6:35; 4:13-14; Psalm 107:9; Colossians 2:9-10*.

C. The Relief of the Need

1. The final admonition and means to satisfaction is to *“drink.”*
2. Some realize that there is something drastically wrong in their lives, who have turned to God, but who refuse to *“drink”* at what the Savior offers.
3. A river flowing through a country where people are dying of thirst would provide nothing unless they drink from it.
4. *“Drink”* [πίνω] – “to take in liquid,” or “to guzzle” - here is a figurative expression meaning “making Christ your own.”
5. In all ages, God's saints have been those who saw their deep need, who came to the Lord, and appropriated the provision of His grace – *John 1:12*.
6. Only when this occurs is the soul satisfied – *“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water’.”* – the ultimate gratification of the soul's thirst with no mere proportionate measure, but with super-abundance – i.e., instead of a glass, you are provided a river.

II. The Importance of Satisfaction – 7:38

A. The Delights of Blessing

1. Here we find the reference to true satisfaction – not a superficial easing of thirst, but a true quenching even to the *“innermost being”* of a person.
2. Notice both the quality and the quantity of satisfaction that come through faith – *“from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.”*
3. First – it affects the soul itself – *“innermost being”* [κοιλία] – a term used sometimes to even refer to the womb or uterus in order to show where life itself is housed – and generally refers to the seat of inward life.
4. Once the soul is so divinely affected, from it “gush” rivers – not small trickles, or even streams, but *“flow[ing] rivers”* – as an artesian spring gushes with a plenteous flow.
5. God’s grace is always unmeasured and immeasurable.
6. Consider references to the abundance of His grace – cp. *2 Corinthians 9:8; Romans 5:20.*
7. The quality of the resource is also exceptional – it is *“living water”* – water that not only perpetually quenches his own soul’s craving but also flows out to impact others around us to produce life.

B. The Degree of Benefit to Others

1. It is *“from ... him”* – that is, the believer – that this river of *“living water”* will flow.
2. The impact of our satisfied souls – satisfied through faith in Christ Jesus – that other’s lives are truly affected.
3. As we ourselves are constantly nourished at the source of refreshment and satisfaction, we are then able to share the grace God provides with others.
4. May God’s grace teach us each day to first turn to Christ before we try to do anything for Him.

III. The Instigation of Satisfaction – 7:39

A. The Promise of the Spirit

1. This satisfaction comes from the presence of the Holy Spirit – *“But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive.”*
2. In fact, this *“living water”* is the Spirit Himself who satisfies the thirst of our souls.
3. This is the mark of the genuine believer, the evidence of the Holy Spirit’s presence – *Romans 8:9.*

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4. Not only is He the source of our own satisfied soul, but He also becomes the means by which we can bring refreshment to others – cp. [Acts 1:8](#).

B. The Prerequisite for the Spirit

1. For the Spirit of God to be given, the Lord Jesus had to complete the atonement for which He came – *“for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”*
2. Therefore, once Christ Jesus fulfilled our redemption, rose from the dead, and ascended to glory, He gained the authority to send the Holy Spirit, who would provide true satisfaction as our Helper – [John 15:26](#).
3. He serves as a constant reminder of Christ Jesus, who was embraced by faith, bringing additional satisfaction and a cycle of disclosure, faith, satisfaction, blessing to others, disclosure, faith ... and so on.

So What?

1. What evidence of spiritual thirst shows up in my life, and how honestly am I acknowledging them before God?
2. If Christ promises abundance to those who believe, what does my current spiritual vitality say about the depth of my faith?
3. How can I depend more on the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit to find satisfaction, instead of relying on my personality, discipline, or theological knowledge?

Theme: Without Jesus Christ, no one can be truly satisfied.