

# Why You Aren't Satisfied

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**John 7:37-39**

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Question for you. What do you think about when somebody says to you that you don't know something? Do you like that? Are you a fan of that? How does that make you feel? Like your spouse, "Are you sure you know what that's for?" Your sibling, "Do you have any clue what you're doing?" Your co-worker, "Hey, do you need me to help you with that?" What about that kid at school, "You don't know how to figure that out." We love that, don't we? Isn't that great? Don't we love that being made to look or feel like we're ignorant of something? I mean, for some of us, like myself included, that cuts us deep and it can cause us to react. From everything from dirty looks to sarcasm, to full-blown rage. How could you say that? You calling me stupid? These are the kinds of things that people do when they're told they're ignorant.

Well, in John 7, Jesus is in Jerusalem and this is the center of Jewish religion and the people of Jerusalem, the normal everyday people, residents that live there too, the religious elite, they are the best taught, best trained, best Bible knowledge people on the planet. Nobody knows the Bible; nobody prides themselves in knowing God like these people. I want you to look at Chapter 7:30. The people there, they want to arrest Jesus, but what is it that He said to them right before they want to arrest him? Look at verse 28. "I have not come on my own accord. He who sent me is true and him you do not what? Know. You do not know him". All of you, thousands of people here at the temple to worship God at the Feast of Tabernacles, you know what you don't know? The God that you came here to worship. Him you don't know.

But verse 29, "I know him for I've come from him and he sent me." You're ignorant of God, but I'm not. I mean, we love when people come off like that, right? You're dumb, but not me. Here's another example of this same day, same setting, same people. John 8:19 says, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." You don't know God. Why? Because you don't know me. If you knew me, you would know God, but you don't know God because you don't know me. This is basic to how Jesus sees himself and how we should see him, that he's absolutely essential. He's the only way to know God. One more for fun. Look at Chapter 8:54.

"If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me of whom you say He is our God. But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you..." Is that the Jesus that you think of in your head that says stuff like that? "If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word." We know what it's like for people to imply or even outright say that we are ignorant, and we know how we respond to those kinds of things. Well now you know one of the

reasons why they wanted to kill Jesus. He told people who prided themselves in their knowledge of God that they don't know God at all, and Jesus doesn't flinch from doing this.

It takes great courage for him to do it, to stand in front of people who think he's insane, who want to arrest him, who want to kill him and tell them, this is what is going to get me killed and I'm going to say it anyway. You don't know God. That's courage. That's conviction. It's also intense kindness. Why? Because before anyone comes to Jesus, they need to know why. They need to see the reason. They need to see how it is that what he is saying fits with what they need. He has to tell them the truth about themselves before they will ever understand why they need him. So here, what he's doing is he's doing something in them and really doing something for them even though they don't like it, even though it grates on them, even though they can't stand it. He's saying these things, you don't know God as a gift of his grace to people who hate him, to spark in them a need, to spark a desire, to spark a thirst.

So from our text today, we're going to answer the question, why aren't you satisfied? Why aren't you satisfied? Jesus is getting at this when he says in verse 37, "If anyone thirsts." This has nothing to do, in fact with physical thirst, this has to do with the thirst of the soul. The series has been called Thirst because everything has been in Chapter 7 leading up to verse 37, and everything after verse 39 is a response to what Jesus says in the verses, we'll look at today. The whole text in Chapter 7 revolves around these verses that just as your body was made for water, your soul was made for God and just as your body experiences thirst, so does your soul. You are not a body only. You are a body with a soul, a non-physical part of you that was made for God.

This is the most important thing about you, that you have a soul that was made for God and your soul, like your body, can get thirsty. You may think that thirst inside of you is for money or attention or happiness or affection or acceptance, but beneath all of that is a deeper thirst that can only be satisfied in God. People try to satisfy their souls by putting their trust or their hope in other things only to find that they can't, only define that they don't satisfy. Like thinking some water will satisfy your thirst only to find it to be stagnant or polluted or full of poison. We think other things will satisfy our souls when what our souls need is God, but to be without Jesus is to be without God and it's to seek your soul's satisfaction in the empty or polluted wells of this world.

It's to try to find satisfaction from a faucet that's not connected to the water line. It's like drinking from a cup hoping to get water but finding sand. In the Middle East people knew what it was like to be thirsty just like I don't know, we would be if we lived here 2,000 years ago. Water is life and they knew that. In fact, that's what the people in John 7 are in Jerusalem for. They're in Jerusalem for what's called the Feast of Tabernacles, which is this yearly celebration, this yearly holiday weeklong, where they celebrate God's care, his provision of rain to grow crops, to have food. Without rain, without water, they'd have nothing to celebrate. And since God is in control of all things, including rain, they're there to thank him daily at this feast for providing them with water and then praying that he would do it again.

Verse 37 begins on the last day of the feast, the great day. What that's doing is separating this day starting in verse 37 from the previous mention, which is in verse 14, which is around day four in the middle of the feast. So, here's a map for you to take a look. I want to paint a picture for you as you look at this map. Just say, what's going on during this day? Well, at dawn, on all seven days of the feast, water would be taken from the pool of Siloam, which is that little blue dot at the bottom, and I was there back in January. I actually preached at that pool from John 9, which we'll get to this coming year. And so what they would do is the priests would take these golden vessels and they would go and get water from that, and they would walk up that road.

It's the Pilgrim's road, is thousands of people would be behind them and they would walk up to the temple, they would enter the Water Gate on that southwest corner there, and as the priests are entering with the water, the shofars would sound, and these were ram horns that were turned into trumpets. They would blast three times. And when you heard the shofar, that was your cue to start rejoicing, to sing, to dance, to express your joy. So, the people would be singing Isaiah 12:3, which says, "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." They would sing Psalms 113 to 118, which are these songs of praise to God, and they would sing them as they walk up this Pilgrim's road. To be there, it's hard for us to... I'm trying to paint the picture, but I can't paint the emotion. And so, one author who wrote about a 100 to 200 years after Jesus, put it this way. He said, "He that never has seen the joy of the Feast of Tabernacles has never in his life seen joy."

Birth of a child, not as joyful. Wedding day, not as joyful. Not as joyful as this. This was marked by joy. People were singing, and as they got up into the temple complex, there's the altar of sacrifice there. And what the priests would do is they would walk around it one time, walk around the altar, and then after that they would pour water into basins next to the altar, while everybody is praising God for his provision. In fact, as the people are walking that road and up into the temple, they're holding green leaves in their hands and they're holding citrus fruit in their hands, tangible evidence of God's provision for them that year. It's water. Why water? Well, water is linked in this ceremony, in this feast, water is linked to the Exodus event where God brought water out of a rock to satisfy the thirst of 2 million Israelites.

The ceremony is also linked to being grateful for the rain that produced the crops that year and was done to ask God to do it again in the next year. And by the way, all of this is happening, he said in the morning at the same time as the morning sacrifice for sin, which means that this is not only a symbol of God's provision of food, but it is also God's provision of forgiveness that they are seeing and celebrating. Now, on the seventh day of the feast, something changed, and this is the great day that we're talking about here. The same ceremony, all of it would be repeated as before, but the priest would walk around the altar seven times before they would pour the water in, and I think probably a lot of things there, but part of that is continue your praise, emphasize your praise just a little more for all that God has done to provide for us.

Well, this water ceremony lasting was tied to the Old Testament promise of the Holy Spirit, which we'll talk about in a minute. Water was a symbol for him, so they actually believed that

when the Messiah arrived, he would give them water and He would give them the spirit. Well, the Messiah was there that day. The God they were there worshipping, the actual well of salvation was there that day. And notice verse 37 says Jesus stood up in the middle of this entire ceremony, thousands of people, priests and water and branches and all of that. And notice, it says he cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." God himself addresses his people, the one that they were there to worship because he provided them with physical water was there that day to provide them with something more. As you picture Jesus saying this, I don't want you to picture Mr. Mild, hey, just love you, got something to share, but just briefly, I don't want to inconvenience you.

No, picture him speaking loudly and forcefully, his voice ringing out with emotions so that all the thousands that were there could hear him and take him seriously. Why? These are eternal souls, heaven, and hell. So he is crying out to them, he's passionately appealing to them and with emphasis and authority. It's like he's saying, "You're all here rejoicing in God's provision of water for your body but come to me if you want water that will quench the thirst deep in your soul. You want true joy, deep, meaningful, everlasting joy, you will have it in me." On that day, as in our day, these words of Jesus only make sense if you, **point #1), Admit Your Need. Admit Your Need.** Don't ignore it. Don't justify it. Don't rationalize it. Admit it, own it. Embrace it. You have a sole need.

Like I said before that need is for God. To a rich young man who knew he had a need for eternal life, Jesus said, "Your satisfaction will not be found in your possessions." Instead, Jesus says, "Go sell what you possess and come follow me." Your satisfaction is not in your stuff, it's in me. To tens or hundreds, maybe thousands of people coming to Jesus because they needed physical food, Jesus says to them, John 6, "I'm the bread of life. Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." That's not physical. That's something more, because later on he says to them, "I'm the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever."

To a woman whose need manifested itself in relationships, five husbands, five divorces, living in sin with a sixth man who wasn't her husband. To her, Jesus says, "Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." So here's this woman, he hears this. Do you know what her response was, "Sir, give me this water." She knew she had a need rather than running from it, she admitted it. She embraced it. Well, suppose you're in the desert. Well, you don't have to think about that because you are in the desert. Suppose you're in the desert and you've been there for several days, and your body is weak and dehydrated, your tongue is dry, your mouth is dry, your lips are cracked. You're perishing because you need water.

Nobody has to explain what water is to you. Nobody has to tell you you're thirsty. You know it, and when somebody comes to you, somehow some miracle happens and a person just shows up and they have a tall glass of water in their hand, maybe a couple of ice cubes inside of it, little beads of water falling down the sides, tall, cool, clear sparkling life-saving water. There it is. Sir,

what? Give me that water. I mean, what would you pay for that glass of water in that moment? A dollar, 10, 50, a 100, 10,000? You name it, price is not an object at that point. If you have it, you will pay for it, right? All that you have you will give to save your life. I wonder if you've admitted this about yourself, that your soul has a need and your soul is thirsty, and nothing has satisfied it.

Maybe like the rich man, you've tried to fill it with money and possessions. Maybe you've tried to satisfy this need with food or with drinks. Maybe you've tried to fill it with relationships like that woman. Maybe you've tried to fill it with status, being friends with the right people, the cool kids, the rich, the influential. Maybe you've tried to fill it with education. Maybe you've tried to fill it with achievements, whatever it is, can you see that all of that is an indication that your soul is thirsty, that you have a need that's much deeper than the physical? Jesus is saying if you see that you're thirsty because you've been trying to find satisfaction but not getting it, could it be that what you're thirsty for can't be satisfied with those other things? Could it be that those other things aren't satisfying because what you're thirsty for, what you're looking for, is actually me.

Those other things, they're a mirage. They promise satisfaction, but there's no reality to it. I mean, think about this word, thirst. It is a powerful word. Even the strongest man, the ones who can endure the most pain and excruciating, exhausting labor, they are easily overpowered by thirst. That word thirst highlights the fact that people have a need, a powerful need, a need that can drive them to do insane things, things they would never recommend anybody else do, but they do. Why? Because they're trying to meet that need. Are you tired of taking drinks from empty, polluted, poisonous sources? It causes turmoil in the soul and conviction and guilt and longing for peace and a clear conscience and the need for forgiveness. I mean, how many times when you go back to the same rancid, putrid source that always promises to satisfy but never does because it never can. Your need is there and it's obvious, and no matter what you do or how many times you do it, none of those other things will meet your need.

Have the pleasures of sin lost their fun? Do you have everything, but you can't enjoy it because it doesn't satisfy anymore? The thought of this God stuff hasn't been real to you, but it's starting to be. That is this thirst. If you don't feel that it's not because it's not there, it's because you've numbed yourself to it or that numbness has made you indifferent to the thirst in your soul. What your soul really needs is God. What your soul really needs is God. And listen, you need him because you don't have him and you don't have him because your soul has been separated from him, and to be separated from him is a result of your sin against him, which has created you and he to be enemies. Until you feel the danger, you're in, you'll never thirst to be rescued, never thirst to be forgiven, never thirst to be set free from your sin, for the thirsty soul knows its need for God and forgiveness. So, do you?

Do you know this need? To the thirsty soul there that day, just like the thirsty souls maybe here today, Jesus gives this very gracious invitation, not to a religion, not to a political party, not to obey a massive set of rules, but notice verse 37. He simply invites people to himself. "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." To those who know their souls are thirsty, Jesus simply

says, "Come to me." The words come and drink, they're commands, but they are requests as Jesus pleads with them, as he pleads with them, with great force and emotion. Because verse 38, "Whoever believes in me as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." To those who come to Jesus and drink it is the same as believing in him. It's the same thing.

This is all he says there in verse 38, based on the Old Testament. Not one text, but the Old Testament says about the blessings of the Holy Spirit, which we'll talk about in a minute. So notice, when a person believes in Jesus, notice out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. Look closely at the text. It says multiple rivers, flowing, constantly flowing. Notice, with living water and those rivers flowing with living water, notice they're not outside of you, but they're where? They're inside of you. All of that put together just screams satisfaction that you don't have to go somewhere. This water is inside of you and it's not a drip or a trickle or a little stream, a babbling brook. But notice its rivers and it will flow and keep flowing and it's guaranteed.

And don't forget, John 4:14, Jesus says, "Whoever drinks of this water that I will give him will never be thirsty again." Why? Because the kind of life that this living water has is such that it will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. So this isn't just, "Hey, you'll be satisfied." This is continual, abundant, lavish, eternal satisfaction for the soul, and this only makes sense to those who, point number 1, admit they need it. When that need is admitted, when it's not pushed away or ignored like all the people there that day, but when it is admitted and it is felt, then people will, *point #2), Come to Christ. Come to Christ.* Your need, your real need will be met if you come to Christ. That's what he says.

The thirst in your soul will be quenched, your soul's dryness, it's dehydration, it's thirst, it'll be satisfied, but only if you do what Jesus says here and come to him, believe in him, trust in him. Put down your weapons and your resistance. Surrender your life to him. That's why he promises Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavily burdened" and what? "And you will find rest for your soul." Rest right here. Sound good? Jesus pictures these blessings like an invitation to a great and extravagant wedding. Think of the most extravagant wedding you've ever been to, maybe the most extravagant wedding you've ever seen, like when the royals get married, and that's like a thousand times, a million times less than the extravagance of the blessings that Jesus offers to people.

And all he says is come. Come. It's why he says, John 6:35, "Whoever comes to me shall not hunger and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." Rest for your soul. You want that? Lavish, eternal enjoyments. I thought it was going to be on a harp, sitting on a cloud with a harp and a thing like floating forever. Oh no, not at all. Lavish, eternal enjoyment. You want that? Deep, continual, eternal soul satisfaction. Sound good? Then come. You have a need, a deep, eternal need that you haven't satisfied yet because you can't satisfy it. Nothing else can satisfy it, but Jesus can, and Jesus will if you come to Him, if you believe.

Don't be like the people there that day who refused quote "To come to Jesus that they may have life." I mean, why would you do something so suicidal, like cutting yourself off from your own

soul's eternal satisfaction. John 3:20 says why people who refuse to come to Jesus do so, because they love their rebellion. They love their sin. They love the darkness rather than the light. They hold on to their sin and clutch it tightly as it drags them to hell, as it drags them away from their soul's greatest need. But to all those who come to him, Jesus says, John 6:37, that "Whoever comes to me, I will never cast out." He won't promise you satisfaction, invite you to come to him for it, give it to you and then say, "No, give me that back." No, never. Not him, not this Savior. This satisfaction will be yours continually, abundantly, now, and forever if you come.

And if you think about drinking for a minute, it's a great picture for believing. Drinking is necessary, meaning just as thirst can never be satisfied without actually drinking, so your soul will never be satisfied without actually believing in Jesus. Drinking is useful because just like water only becomes useful to satisfy thirst when? When you drink. So Jesus only becomes useful to satisfy your thirsty soul, forgive your sins, give you life eternal when you believe in him. Drinking is sustaining, meaning just like water sustains life, gives us nourishment, even cleanses us, so Jesus sustains our lives too. The life of our souls. He sustains our souls now and forever, world without end.

Drinking is complete meaning to look at water is not to drink. To smell it is not to drink. To taste it is not to drink. Drinking is to take something incompletely so too is believing in Jesus. It's not admiring him or embracing some ideas as true like, "Oh, maybe that's right." No believing in him is to give yourself to him. Drinking is personal meaning just like no one can drink for you, no one can believe in Jesus for you. You might be here because someone next to you really wants to believe for you, but they know they can't. You've got to drink that water to quench your thirst. You've got to believe in Jesus. You have to believe in Jesus for the satisfaction of your soul. No one else can do it for you. I mean, how many of us, we would do it for others if we could, right?

And drinking is receiving, meaning just like you don't achieve a drink of water, drinking is simply receiving the water, so too believing in Jesus is not something that you achieve. It's not something that you could possibly do. It is something that you simply receive. So, to come to Jesus is to receive him as your own. It's to trust in him. However, very unlike drinking, which only satisfies for a little while, the satisfaction, the refreshment that comes from believing in Jesus, again, lasts forever, and unlike the water in that earlier illustration, how much would you give for it? 10,000. Unlike that water, this water is free.

Isaiah 55:1, "Come everyone who thirsts, and he who has no money, come." So, have you come to Jesus? If not, what are you waiting for? You don't have to go anywhere to get him. He is as close to you as a prayer. It's only, I don't know, complete, abundant, eternal satisfaction of your soul. That's all that he's inviting you to have, and when he gives you an invitation, you don't look at it, "Oh, that's pretty. Nice invitation." When the Son of God gives you an invitation, there's only one thing to do with that. You respond. You come.

Now, verse 39 is an explanation of what Jesus has been saying in verses 37 and 38, which is interesting because He didn't explain himself to the people there that day. And we'll see next week the people who heard him did not understand what he was saying. We probably wouldn't

either because it's based on symbols and Old Testament teachings that I tried to make sense of earlier, but now John helps us make sense of what Jesus said. Verse 39, "Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive for as, yet the Spirit had not been given because Jesus was not yet glorified." In other words, the living water of verse 38 that people enjoy, that satisfies their soul when they come to Jesus for it, that living water is actually a picture. It's not actual water. It is a picture of the Holy Spirit. When people believe they receive the Holy Spirit, verse 39. And verse 38, he takes up residence in their hearts, their soul.

This reality which all who believe in Jesus today, this reality they today enjoy, was not something people enjoyed yet, verse 39, until after Jesus was glorified. Well, what does that mean? End of verse. What is that all about? Jesus' glorification is his death, resurrection, and His ascension back into heaven. That's what it means for him to be glorified. Now, this doesn't mean that the spirit didn't exist or didn't work at all in the Old Testament. Not at all. What is being talked about here in verse 39 is this special post-Jesus giving of the Spirit, the Spirit's time, his era, which we are still in today, but which the Old Testament, Isaiah 44:3 pictures as a picture completely dry ground. Can you do that here in the desert? Completely dry ground. and then picture just a flood dropping on that ground. That is the picture of the coming of the Spirit.

In fact, the ceremony going on while Jesus gave this invitation, it's not just a celebration of God's provision of water. In the water the people also looked forward to this promise that Jesus is talking about, so Jesus is saying, "What you're looking forward to in this celebration, the coming of the Spirit, I'm here to give you right now if you come to me." So, when you admit your need and come to Jesus, finally you will, *point #3*), *See the Results*, you'll *See the Results*. In other words, the significance of the Holy Spirit inside of you, his life inside of your life will become obvious and the first place, one of the first places it'll become obvious is that you might thirst for more of God, but you know what you won't ever do again? Thirst for God. You won't thirst for God anymore because you will have him in you by the Spirit.

And if you're like, Holy Spirit, what is that? What are you talking about? That sounds weird. Okay, let me just help you with that quickly. The Holy Spirit is what Christians would call the third person of the Trinity, which means that he is just as divine as the Father and the Son. The Bible teaches the Spirit is omniscient, meaning all-knowing. He's omnipotent, all-powerful. He's omnipresent, He's everywhere present. He's eternal, never had a beginning, never had an end, and He is Holy. Those five things, our descriptions of God that are applied to the Spirit because the Spirit is God just as much God as the Father and the Son. The point of the text is that the result of now having God himself treating you like a temple, we don't go to temples, We don't have temples, we don't build temples, we don't go to temples. Why? Because we are temples. God himself lives here. We don't call this a temple because you're the temples.

God himself lives inside of us, and the result of that is he gives people eternal life. He gives us access to the presence of God. He places us into an unbreakable union with Christ. He guarantees by sealing us, He guarantees our ultimate salvation. And then after salvation, the Spirit works in our lives to help us, and He's the helper. He guides us in our decisions. He makes us more like



Jesus. He empowers us, unites us to other Christians. He teaches us truth. He prays for us. He fills us. He assures us that we belong to Christ and Christ belongs to us. All of this is true for us now, today, by the Spirit because Jesus died and rose again and ascended back into heaven. Everything I've said, all of these results, Christian, you already know this, right?

The soul satisfaction that I've been talking about, the thirst of your soul being quenched, you already know this, right? You're not what you used to be. You weren't chasing what you used to chase. You're different now. Something's changed about you. You weren't looking for satisfaction in the dry, polluted wells of this world anymore, and if you do, you're like a dog, you go back to your vomit. It's not great. It's like, oh, that was horrible. Father, forgive me. Get me away from that. I never want to do that again, and all of that change is not because you're so great, right? You've been a good little boy and girl. No, the results you see, the satisfaction, the love, the hope, the joy, the freedom, the rest in your soul, it's not something you achieved, it's something you were given when the Spirit took up residence in your soul.

The access the Spirit gives you to the Father encourages you to pray. Now you want to. The sealing of the Spirit that he has done for you gives you assurance that you're saved, that you're child of God. In your life the spirit helps you, he guides your decisions. He encourages you to put off sin. He encourages you to live for Christ. He connects you to other Christians in ways that don't compare to other relationships. He teaches you the truth, all because he's praying for you from inside of you. He's changing your thoughts. He's fixing your emotions. He's rewiring your desires all while he's transforming your life.

As selfish, people are becoming more loving people, as sad and serious people are becoming more joyful, combative people are becoming more peaceful, agitated people are becoming more patient, mean people are becoming more kind and sinful people are growing in goodness and unreliable people are becoming more faithful, careless people are becoming more gentle and out of control people are becoming more self-controlled. His fruit, the proof that he's inside of you is this result of living water coming out, these rivers coming out of your soul. So, to people who were in hateful rebellion against Jesus who wanted to arrest him and have him killed, which they would achieve six months after John 7, to those kinds of people, hateful people that wanted him dead, Jesus' invitation is to come and drink and received the promises that you've been hoping for all of your life, one of which is a satisfied soul.

As we close, I want to think about the water that Jesus offers, which verse 39 says is the Holy Spirit. This water is first sweeping water. What do I mean by that? Notice verse 37 says it's for anyone, and verse 38 says it's for whoever. Whoever. So even if you are as evil as a demon and have a heart that is blacker than 10,000 black holes, Jesus says anyone, which means it includes you. It's spiritual water. It's water that verse 38 says comes out of your heart, your innermost being, your soul, your spirit, you that never changes, the you that remains you over time, both now and forever. It is water for the soul that is thirsty. It's scriptural water.

Jesus says, verse 38, "As the scriptures say", because this is a promise that goes back into the Old Testament. It goes back 2,500 years ago and beyond, 3,000 years ago, 3,500 years ago this

promise was made over and over and over again, and Jesus's like, "It's here now. You can have it. I've been raised from the dead. I've ascended back into heaven." It's promised in your Word, and if it's promised in the Word, it is guaranteed. Fourth, it is saving water. That's what it means that it's living. It is water that Jesus said in John 4 springs up to eternal life. It is the life of God and the soul. It is a life that never ends. And it's also sanctifying water because as water, it cleanses, it purifies, it washes us clean from all of our sins, from all that separates us from God, from all that would keep us from finding the satisfaction that our soul needs, washed away by this water. It is super abundant water.

Again, it is constantly flowing rivers, gushing, torrential, limitless, inexhaustible, which is what makes this water, number seven, satisfying water. Jesus says this to help people that see their soul is in need, in need of something that they haven't found anywhere else, though they have tried, and that something is God. Acceptance with God, satisfaction in God, forgiveness from God, now and forever. All of this, because number eight, it is the Savior's water. Jesus says, "You can have this water", if what? If you come to him and drink, if you believe in him.

Six months from these events, Jesus is going to Jerusalem for the last time. He's going to be executed just a couple of days later. As he's going into the city, he stops, and he looks at the city and he weeps over it. He weeps over those who refuse him, and he said this, "How I long to gather you to myself, but you didn't want it." This was one of those times. And this is one of those times for you. How many times have you heard him whisper to you, "Come to me. Come to me." The uncertainty will be gone, the guilt, the condemnation disappears, replaced by a deep, constant, abundant, eternal satisfaction. That thirst deep in your soul will be satisfied forever if you come.

Let's pray. Jesus, it is one thing for me to stand up here and explain the scriptures. It is another thing entirely when these scriptures explain us. Just like the people there that day, these words were a gift of your mercy, your intense mercy for sinners. I pray that that's how these words would be received today, that for those who are thirsty, they would come to the waters, they would come to you and drink. They would trust in you. They would put everything aside that is keeping them from you. See them for what they are as suicidal. Put them all away and come. And for the rest who have already come, may this time in your Word, remind us of your kindness to us, especially your kindness in your death, which we celebrate again now as we take communion. Thank you. Thank you for all that you've done and all that you're doing and all you will do. We pray these things for the glory of your name. Amen.