



# Calvary of Albuquerque

**Standing by a Waterfall (Dying of Thirst) - John 7:25-53**

From the Series, Believe:879

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## MESSAGE SUMMARY

All the diverse and assorted experiences offered by this world can never satisfy the deepest longing of the human soul. What we really want isn't what we really need. The rest of John chapter 7 illustrates this truth. In the midst of a crowd of people clamoring for deep spiritual satisfaction stands the only One who can provide it. He offers them the drink that really satisfies and all but a few refuse it, preferring rather to die of thirst. How painfully ironic!

## OUTLINE

- I. Thirsty People Are Confused
  - A. The Local Citizens (vv. 25-31)
  - B. The Leading Critics (vv. 32-36)
  - C. The Lingering Crowd (vv. 40-53)
- II. Thirsty People Are Called (vv. 37-39)
  - A. To Take the Plunge
    - 1. Thirst
    - 2. Come
    - 3. Drink
  - B. To Enjoy the Results
    - 1. Become Contented
    - 2. Become a Conduit



## Making it More than a Sermon:

1. In what ways have you been confused about Jesus? What voices are arguing in your life? What are they saying? Is He trying to say anything in the midst of your confusion?
2. What things have you tried for quenching your deepest thirsts? What are the results?

## DETAILED NOTES

Water is necessary for human life. It regulates temperature, flushes out waste, helps process food, and keeps tissues in working condition. When we are really thirsty the only thing on our minds is getting that thirst quenched. Here is a crowd of people dying of spiritual thirst, Jesus, the source of all refreshment, steps in and makes the best offer ever heard, but they didn't understand.

Hydrology is the study of the distribution, movement, and availability of water on the earth. This is a study in spiritual hydrology. An abundance of refreshment stands in the midst of people dying of thirst. This isn't the first time Jesus uses the metaphor of water for spiritual refreshment. See John 4:10-13.

The people are confused about what will refresh them. They have never experienced true refreshment, so they can only conjecture what it's like. The thirsty are called by Christ to drink deeply. People try various means to be refreshed. The philosophy of this world: is that all there is?

Jeremiah 2:13 - "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns-- broken cisterns that can hold no water."

## I. Thirsty People Are Confused

### A. The Local Citizens (vv. 25-31)

1. From Jerusalem
2. Have heard of the leaders' plot to find and kill Jesus
3. Think Jesus can't be Messiah; they know where he is from.
4. Believed no one would know where Messiah is from
  - a. Not biblical
  - b. Babylonian Talmud
  - c. More recently Trypho second century CE "But Christ--if He has indeed been born, and exists anywhere--is unknown, and does not even know Himself, and has no power until Elijah come to anoint Him, and make Him manifest to all."

### B. The Leading Critics (vv. 32-36)

1. Pharisees and the officers they sent to arrest Jesus
2. Jesus tells them He comes from the Father to earth and now announces he is going back to the Father.
  - a. They think He is going to the Diaspora.
  - b. They misunderstand what He means to do, why He is there, and what He is saying.
  - c. Jesus means He is going to heaven
  - d. Could also mean that they seek a savior, but the Savior they are rejecting will be gone and it will be too late.
    - i. Passing opportunity
    - ii. The Bible encourages us to make choices now. 2 Corinthians 6:2

### C. The Lingerin Crowd (vv. 40-53)

1. People from all over the world
2. Confused about who Jesus is (prophet, messiah, good man, deceiver, Galilean, good speaker)
3. Division (schisma-a split) due to the confusion
4. With little effort, they could have found out He is from Bethlehem and lineage of David.
5. Just a little incentive could solve the problem of those who don't know what they believe about Jesus.
  - a. Veracity of New Testament documents.
  - b. Historicity of Christ
  - c. Overwhelming evidence
6. Said no prophet would come out of Galilee (Jonah)
7. Their confusion reveals their messianic thirst.
  - a. After the Babylonian captivity there was a growing expectation for the messiah
  - b. When Romans occupied their land, expectations heightened
8. Their dehydration affects how they think
9. Stages of dehydration
  - a. dipsea - common thirst
  - b. hyperdipsea - intense bouts of extreme thirst
  - c. polydipsea- sustained thirst - drink anything
10. People drink from many wells to satisfy spiritual thirst (money, sex, status, substance)-they don't satisfy thirst or bring satisfaction, they are poison
11. Pleasure doesn't satisfy, we thirst for a clean conscience, only the treasures of Heaven satisfy. - "The Applause of Heaven," by Max Lucado

## II. Thirsty People Are Called (vv. 37-39)

Last Day of the Feast of Tabernacles: seven-day feast in which the people would go to the temple every morning with citrus fruit and foliage (palm, willow, and myrtle) in their hands (symbolic of the fruitful land and the wilderness wanderings). The priest had a golden pitcher, walked to Pool of Siloam, fill with water and pour out on the stones of the altar. -Isaiah 12:3 Last day of the feast another priest met him with wine (representing joy) and priest marched around the altar seven times. The shouts would grow louder and louder as the priest raised the pitcher, and then silence. At that point Jesus cried out (krazo - to scream), "If anyone thirst let him come to Me and drink," making a huge spiritual and psychological impact.

### A. To Take the Plunge

1. Thirst
2. Come - make the move
3. Drink- receiving Christ personally, placing faith in Him

### B. To Enjoy the Results

1. Become Contented
  - a. Satisfaction comes from having water and drinking it
  - b. Only the first step
2. Become a Conduit
  - a. Not just blessed, but a blessing to others
  - b. Not just a gulper, but a gusher
  - c. Seek first the kingdom-Matthew 6:33
  - d. Three kinds of faith
    - i. faulty - unbelievers (even demons believe in God James 2:19)
    - ii. firm - trust wholly in Christ (justification)
    - iii. flowing - Holy Spirit has empowered, to pass on refreshment to others

Greek terms: schisma-a split; krazo - to scream

Publications referenced: "History of Messianic Speculation in Israel from the First to the Seventeenth Centuries," by Abba H. Silver; "The Applause of Heaven," by Max Lucado; "The Silver Chair," by C.S. Lewis;

**Figures referenced:** Peggy Lee; Trypho  
**Cross References:** Isaiah 12:3; Jeremiah 2:13; Matthew 6:33; John 4:10-13; 2 Corinthians 6:2; James 2:19