

**Introduction:** God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:6-13, verse 8). This is especially true of Jesus' death on The Cross to redeem broken humanity and the glory that then came to Him (Luke 24:25-27; John 17:1-5; Philippians 2:5-13; 1 Peter 1:10-12). Through Isaiah, The Covenant God predicted that after everything was made level, His glory would then be revealed (Isaiah 40:1-5). \*\*\* However, as flawed and finite people, we want to be made right and reign with God now. We do not have the patience to let Him do His slow, but more than sufficient, work in us (Romans 8:28-30; Philippians 1:3-6). We long for the day when Jesus will come in His glory, declare us to be His sheep so we enter into His inheritance (Matthew 25:31-40). But this is not God's way. First, we must share in Jesus' sufferings, then His resurrection (Philippians 3:10-11). \*\*\* In our passages this morning, Jesus promises all who believe in Him as a way of life that rivers of Living Water will flow from them when they receive God's Spirit (after Jesus is glorified). This resulted in a division among the people. Some were saying He is The Prophet or The Messiah. Others were saying The Messiah is not from Galilee (but Bethlehem). \*\*\* The Jewish leaders considered Jesus a deceiver because they too knew the prophecies. But Nikodemus, one of them, says they should be open to hearing more from Jesus. \*\*\* The Psalm praises and thanks The Creator God for His continuing care of all creation. It tells of His grace to those with reverent fear for Him and hoping in His steadfast LOVE. This has now been ultimately shown in His Son Jesus, to His glory. \*\*\* Let's go deeper, praying the result will be that Jesus is glorified in us.

**I. Jesus promises those believing in Him that rivers of Living Water will flow from them; some believe He is The Prophet, but there is division among the people because He is from Galilee. (John 7:37-44)**

A. On the last day of Tabernacles, Jesus promises to those believing in Him that rivers of Living Water will flow from them, meaning The Spirit who was not yet. (Verses 37-39)

1. But in the last day, the great of the feast, Jesus had been standing, and He said, 'If anyone may be thirsting, he must come to Me and he must drink'. (Verse 37)

**Tabernacles:** This is the Feast of Tabernacles (verse 2) the seventh and last annual feast of the Israelites (Leviticus 23),

**Thirsty:** Jesus is paraphrasing Isaiah (55:1) where The Holy Spirit calls all who thirst to come to The Three-in-One God to receive water and whole milk without price.

2. 'The one believing in Me, as the Scripture said, "Rivers from his belly will flow of Living Water".' (Verse 38)

**Believing:** Believing is in the continuous present tense, meaning faith in Jesus is the way of life.

**Living Water:** Through Jeremiah Yahweh referred to himself as Living Water His people forsook: for the sin of making their own broken wells (2:13) that will result in their shame (17:13).

3. But this He spoke concerning The Spirit, being about to receive, those believing in Him, because The Spirit was not yet being, because not yet being glorified. (Verse 39)

**Spirit:** Jesus' faithful followers would receive The Spirit on the Pentecost after His resurrection.

**Not yet:** After the glory of His death and His resurrection, Jesus ascended back to His Father, then they sent The Spirit of Living Water to His faithful followers. Both of these happened some two years later.

**Jesus promises The Living Water of The Spirit**

B. Many were saying, 'This is truly The Prophet', others, 'This is The Messiah'; but, some said, 'The Messiah is not coming from Galilee', so there was a schism in the people. (Verses 40-44)

1. Therefore, from the people, after hearing these words, were saying, 'This is being truly The Prophet; others were saying, 'This is being The Messiah'. (Verses 40-41a)

**The Prophet:** Moses had told the people of Israel that Yahweh would raise up a prophet like him from their brothers, and they must listen to him (Deuteronomy 18:15-18).

**The Messiah:** Worshipers in the Temple sang of Yahweh's Anointed (Messiah – Psalm 2) who will rule from Zion where the flowing of the river will bring joy (Psalm 46:4). Jesus, The Messiah, is promising The Living Water of The Spirit will flow from those always believing in Him.

**Jesus promises The Living Water of The Spirit**

2. But some were saying: 'Not out of Galilee The Messiah is coming'. (Verse 41b)

3. 'Has not the Scripture said that from the seed (descendant) of David and from the village of Bethlehem, where David was, The Messiah is coming?' (Verse 42)

**Seed of David:** Both the Prophets (1 Samuel 7:13) and the Writings (Psalm 89:3-4; 132:11-12) say the eternal Messiah will come from David's line.

**Bethlehem:** And God said through Micah (5:2) that The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

4. Therefore, division is being among the people because of Him. (Verse 43)

**Schism:** The word used comes into English as 'schism'!

5. But some of them were desiring to seize Him, but no man laid upon Him hands. (Verse 44)

**Men thwarted:** God did not allow any harm to come to His Messiah because it was not yet His time.

**II. Officers report to the chief priests about Jesus' speaking and they are called deceived; but Nikodemus questions the charge and is rebuked; the Psalm praises God for His provision for Creation and His LOVE. (John 7:45-52; Psalm 147:1-11)**

A. The chief priests and Pharisees question their officers for not bringing Jesus, and they reply, 'Never man spoke like this man'; and the Pharisees who have not believed call them deceived. (John 7:45-49)

1. Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to these, 'Why have y'all not brought him?' (Verse 45)

**Why not bring:** Before Jesus gave the promise of The Spirit, the Pharisees and chief priests had sent officers in order to imprison Jesus (verse 32).

2. The officers answered, 'Never man spoke like this man'. (Verse 46)

**Never man spoke:** Jesus' words had authority (Matthew 7:28-29; Mark 1:21-22).

3. Then they answered to them, the Pharisees, 'Not also y'all have been deceived? Not any of the rulers have believed in him, nor of the Pharisees'. (*Verses 47-48*)

**Led astray:** The majority of the Jewish leaders are saying Jesus has led these officers astray.

**Pharisees:** They claim that none of the rulers of the people, or of the Pharisees, have believed in Jesus.

4. 'But this people, not knowing the law, cursed they are being'. (*Verse 49*)

**Curse:** They are proud of their knowledge of Scripture, especially the Torah (instruction) of Moses. In their minds they are sure that any of their people believing in Jesus are under a curse from God.

**Paradox:** But after Jesus died for the sins of people and rose from the dead to give life to the full to all who live a life of belief in Him, sadly, it becomes clear these leaders were led astray by their pride.

- B. Nikodemus, having come to Jesus earlier, is saying, 'Is our law judging the man before he may be heard'; and they answer derisively, demanding he examine if prophets come from Galilee. (*John 7:50-52*)

1. Nikodemus (conqueror) is saying to them, he having come to Him earlier and being one of them, 'Not our law is judging the man, if not it may be heard first from him, and it may know what he is doing?' (*Verses 50-51*)

**Nikodemus at night:** Nikodemus had previously come to Jesus at night knowing He was a teacher from God, but Jesus gave him an unexpected and hard lesson (John 3:1-21).

**Judge before hear:** By his words here, it seems that God has been working in his heart to the extent he is moved to stand alone against his peers to defend Jesus.

2. They answered and said to him, 'Not also from Galilee thou are being?! Thou must examine and thou must look, f or out of Galilee, prophet not is being raised'. (*Verse 52*)

**Repeat:** As with the Temple officers, they rebuke Nikodemus for not correctly knowing and applying Scripture, according to their learned interpretation.

**Ignorant:** However, they are ignorant that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem. Due to His being born far from home due to the census, Jesus' birth may not have been properly recorded as to its location.

**Human flaw:** Humans often criticize others for the flaw that is strongest in themselves. Nikodemus is not ignorant, but the chief priests and Pharisees are ignorant. So we may not be ignorant of God's will, whenever we open, read and study Scripture, we need to ask The Spirit to reveal the truth to us.

**Truth:** Jesus was born in Bethlehem (house of bread). The promise He gave is true so all who live by constant faith in Him will be filled with God's Spirit to have rivers of Living Water flowing from them.

### **Jesus promises The Living Water of The Spirit**

- C. Praise The God who numbers the stars, who in His strength restores the afflicted and continually cares for His Creation: showing grace to those fearing Him, hoping in His strong LOVE. (*Psalms 147:1-11*)

1. Praise Yah (*hal-l'loo Yah*) / for it is good to sing praises to our God / for (it is) pleasant, praise is beautiful. (*Verse 1*)

**Good praise:** With many synonyms, the anonymous psalmist extols the virtues of praise to God.

2. Building up Jerusalem, Yahweh / those cast down of Israel, He will gather // He is healing those who are broken-hearted / and binding up their wounds. (*Verses 2-3*)

**Heals brokenhearted:** Yahweh is always building up and healing broken people, and He will gather together those who have been rejected.

3. He is counting the number of the stars / to all of them, names He will give // Great (is) our Adonai, and great of strength / to His understanding: no number! (*Verses 4-5*)

**Great Creator:** The Creator is counting and naming all the stars He created; and He has great strength and innumerable understanding!

4. Restoring the humble, Yahweh / abasing the wicked to the earth. (*Verse 6*)

**Restores humble:** Creator Yahweh both restores the humble and executes justice on the wicked.

### **The Creator provides for the humble**

5. Y'all must sing to Yahweh with thanksgiving / y'all must make melody to our God on plucked strings. (*Verse 7*)

**Sing thanksgiving:** God's people are commanded to sing to Him with plucked stringed instruments – perhaps a small harp.

6. Covering heavens with clouds / preparing for the earth rain / causing to spring forth on the hills, grass //

Giving to the beasts 'bread' / to ravens which will call. (*Verses 8-9*)

**Provides for non-human creation:** God brings rain to provide for growth of grains which provide basic food for His non-human creatures. As Creator, He provides for all creatures He has made.

### **The Creator provides for the humble**

7. Not in the strength of the horse, He will delight / not in the legs of a man is He pleased //

Taking pleasure Yahweh in those fearing Him / in those hoping in His steadfast (strong) LOVE. (*Verses 10-11*)

**Bottom line:** May we always be reverently fearing God and hoping in His LOVE to experience His continuing care so as to praise and thank Him. We can do this because Jesus ultimately fulfilled and showed God's LOVE to people.

**Conclusion:** Jesus promises The Living Water of The Spirit to those who always believe in Him, which leads to a division among the people. Some say He is The Prophet of whom Moses spoke: The Messiah promised through David. Others say He is not, because He is from Galilee. Though the Jewish leaders call Him a deceiver, Nikodemus comes to His defense. Truly, Jesus is The One God sent to show His ongoing care of creation through The Grace and LOVE of His Son in human flesh and blood.

### **Jesus promises The Living Water of The Spirit**