

Thirst: which neither tap nor bottled water can quench! — John 7:25-46

Basil Howlett - Carey Baptist Church – 28 September 2008

Every day during the Feast of Tabernacles a priest would go to the Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem, fill a gold jug with water, then take it back to the temple and pour it on the altar. This was meant to be a reminder of God's goodness in providing water for them during the time in their history when they were nomads in the desert. Sadly, the event had become a piece of empty ritual.

On the last day of the Festival in AD 29, Jesus saw all these people about to go home from this empty ritual, as thirsty in their souls as when they came, so he called out. *'If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink.'* He gives the same invitation today.

A. Many are spiritually thirsty.

- **Thirsty for pardon.** We all need forgiveness because we have all done wrong. Many people would love to have a clear conscience. Jesus alone can give that pardon. Soon after this festival in Jerusalem, Jesus was put to death upon a cross, when he bore the punishment due to his sinful people and because of that he is able to give pardon.
- **Thirsty for happiness and satisfaction.** Many find life empty and meaningless, due to the fact that they are trying to live the life God has given them without God. Jesus Christ meets that need by putting us right with God.
- **Thirsty for understanding.** There are thinking people who long for some light on the great mysteries of life. Why are we here? Where are we going? Jesus offers to meet that need too. (John 8:12)
- **Thirsty for peace.** Their poor minds are torn apart with worry and fear. The Lord Jesus Christ can also satisfy that longing.
- **Thirsty for hope.** Hope in the face of death. Jesus Christ can give us hope: the certainty of a home in heaven when we die (John 14:1-3).

B. How can we have our thirst quenched?

- **We must come to the Lord Jesus Christ and drink.** That means, we must realise that he alone can help us, turn to him in all our need and ask him to forgive us.
- Some people are too proud to do this,
- Do so urgently. There was a note of urgency in Jesus' voice (verse 37).

C. He really will satisfy our thirst!

- In fact he will give us blessings that we never dreamed of, including the gift of his Holy Spirit to help us live the Christian life and to be a blessing to others (verses 38-39).

How did the festival finish? The congregation was divided. Some believed that Jesus was the Christ: God's appointed Saviour and went home rejoicing. Others thought he was a 'nobody' and went home angry and as needy as ever (verses 41-44).