

WHO WILL COME TO JESUS?

It was "On the last day of the feast, the great day, [when] Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." (John 7:37 ESV) Notice the "if". I am speaking to millions of people in the world who will hear this lesson. But how many of you are thirsty? Unless you are thirsty you will never come to Jesus!

Hello I'm Larry Murdock. I preach for the Gandy church of Christ. Good morning and welcome to this program.

Jesus was referring to spiritual "thirst" when he stood up at the end of that Jewish feast. Jesus had another feast in mind and he was inviting people to experience it. "Come to me and drink," he said. What is this "thirst" that Jesus talks about? King David also spoke of this "thirst" when he wrote in a song, "As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" (Psalms 42:1-2 ESV) In yet another psalm David wrote, "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water." (Psalms 63:1 ESV) Yes, Jesus cried out to the crowd, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." Are you thirsty? David described this thirst like a deer panting for a flowing stream. Does your soul thirst for God? How else may we describe this spiritual thirst?

Well, first, spiritual thirst is a **feeling**. It is something that people feel. You know when you are thirsty because you feel it! Jesus was calling to Himself those people who had become aware of their feelings. Some people were thirsty! That implies that some people were not yet thirsty! This thirst Jesus is talking about is a **spiritual condition**. That's right! It is uneasiness that we are **not** living with full awareness of what God wants. It is the feeling that there is more to be known, but we haven't yet learned it. While those around seem confident we are unsure. We are not sure we have all the information we need to live for God. In fact, although people around us tell us that we are living right, we are not so sure, because we know our hearts; we know our sins! And so we are restless in spirit.

Secondly, when you are spiritually thirsty, you are dry! That is, you have nothing but the darkness of uncertainty; you are **ignorant**. The light of God's Word does

not light your way before you because you do not know what Jesus teaches. You may have been listening to someone explain Jesus' teaching, but you don't know for yourself! Your trust in the other person may have eroded! Jesus says, "Come to me and drink." In another place Jesus prayed in a crowd when he said, "**I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.** [Then Jesus said to those who were hearing him] **Come to me, all [you] who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**" (Matthew 11:25-30 ESV) The people to whom Jesus was speaking were laboring under the yoke of sin. They were heavy laden, that is, they were carrying a heavy load on their hearts. These people were dry; they were thirsty! And Jesus called them! "Come to me, take my yoke upon you and learn from me." Is Jesus calling you? Jesus calls the thirsty to him so they can learn and by learning and following Jesus they can find "rest" for their souls. Friends, is it time for you to sit at the feet of Jesus? Jesus said that the people who "hunger and thirst after righteousness will be filled." (Matthew 5:6) And so it is that even today, Jesus is standing up to say, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me."

But Jesus is not here is he? His eleven apostles stood and watched as Jesus ascended. They watched until a cloud received him out of their sight. And then there appeared to them two angels who said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem...." (Acts 1:11-12 ESV) So, is Jesus still saying "Come to me"?

It is interesting that the apostle John reassures us that Jesus is still saying "Come." Among the last words of the Bible are these that John wrote, "The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price." (Revelation 22:17 ESV) You see, Jesus' invitation is still open. The Holy Spirit, through the Bible, is saying "Come." And Christ's Bride, that is, the church of

Christ is still saying, "Come." You see, the Voice of the One who has brought the Truth to the world is still being preached and heard.

Jesus Himself arranged the way in which His Voice can still be heard in the world. Jesus is still being heard when His Word is faithfully proclaimed. Jesus' apostles were to play an important role in making sure that the truth of Jesus and the calling of Jesus would be heard in every generation until He comes again. The night Jesus was betrayed he said to his apostles, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16:12-15 ESV) And so Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to the apostles to make sure that all generations after them would know the teaching of Jesus Christ. That teaching has come to you! And by learning Jesus' teaching we can hear His call. He is still calling "thirsty" people!

But Jesus' truth is resisted in this world! That too, is as Jesus predicted. Jesus forewarned His apostles, "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me." (John 16:1-3 ESV) Friends, there are still people in the world who do not know the Father, nor Jesus. They may think they do!

Just as the Jews in Jesus' day thought they knew God, there are those religious people today who think they know God and Jesus, but they did not! There are still people in this world who act like first century unbelievers. Jesus was speaking with a group of Jewish unbelievers when he said, "In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." Of course, Jesus was referring to the miracles that Jesus' father gave Him to perform. "They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." (John 8:17-19 ESV) A little later in that conversation Jesus said, "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, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." (John 8:54-58 ESV) Friends, Jesus was in the beginning with God! Do YOU know Jesus' Father? Is He your God? Are you thirsty? If you are thirsty, and you know it, then listen to Jesus. "Come to me and drink!"

On another day, Jesus said to a woman who was drawing water, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but 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." (John 4:13, 14 ESV) The "water" that Jesus gives is His teaching, the teaching about how to receive the God's forgiveness, and how a forgiven person ought to conduct a forgiven life in this world. Jesus was talking about the clear, cool, running water that wells up to eternal life with God.

When Jesus' apostle John saw a vision of heaven, he saw "The river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb..." (Revelation 22:1-2 ESV) Yes, the teaching of Jesus is a "spring of water" that bubbles up to eternal life. Jesus said that "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. [However, Jesus said] ..."everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." (Matthew 7:24-27 ESV) Friends, when the tsunamis of life come upon you will you stand or fall? Friends, you need a savior. You need Jesus Christ; do you realize it? Are you thirsty? Jesus is still standing and calling out to the world, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." (John 7:37 ESV) Visit a church of Christ near you where you can find the teaching of Jesus Christ. You may wish to study Jesus' teaching with me in an online Bible School. Details are at our voiceoftruth.us website.