

"Rivers of Living Water"
The Gospel of John Chapter 7:31-52

The many miracles of Jesus were common knowledge to His friends and foes alike. The Messiah (Greek *Christos*, Christ) prophesied in the Old Testament was to be a miracle worker (Isa. 35:5-6, 61:1-2). Yet the crowds belief in the Christ, and even that of the apostles (Acts 1:6), was for a political savior, one to throw off the yoke of Roman bondage.

The Pharisees and the chief priests take note of Jesus' favor with the crowds. The temple police sent to arrest Him are now among His hearers. Jesus is calm and unperturbed with their evil plot. He will be with them a little longer, as it is about six months to the Feast of the Passover and His time to go the cross. He will go back to the Father and they will not be able to come. There is no residency in heaven for them, because in rejecting the Son, they have rejected the Father (Jhn. 14:6). A great time of despair and woe will come upon the Jewish nation because of this rejection, just as it did for Esau in rejecting his birth rite (Gen. 27:30-40; Heb. 12:16-17; Provo 1:24-33; Amos 8:11-12; Matt. 21:33-46). The Jews again have interpreted Jesus' words true only in a physical sense and not literally spiritually true.

Finally, on the great day of the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus uses the pomp and circumstance to direct attention to Himself and the scriptures. Each day during the Feast a priest would draw water from the pool of Bethesda in a golden pitcher (Jhn. 5:2). The priest, in solemn procession and accompanied by the blowing of trumpets, would pour the water upon the base of the altar in the temple (Isa. 12:3-5). Jesus is the *Living Water* Who alone can satisfy a spiritual thirst (Jhn. 4:13-14). Anyone who continues to believe (present tense in the Greek), as all the scriptures attest (Jhn. 5:39), out of his mouth will flow rivers of living water (Isa. 44:13, 58:11; Ps. 1:1-3; Joel 3:18; Rev. 22:1-2). The metaphor of rivers expresses largess, abundance and full supply (Jhn. 10: 1 0; Col. 2: 1 0). When the Holy Spirit was poured out in a unique way at the Feast of Pentecost, the apostles spoke with great boldness, for out of their mouths came rivers of living water, the story of Jesus Christ (Acts chapter 2, especially verse 17,22,40, 47)! When we are filled with the Holy Spirit we will experience this as well (Eph. 5:17-21).

The Jewish religious leaders further demonstrate their hard hearts and hypocrisy. Their "end justifies the means" as they violate God's law.