

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. [38] He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. [39] (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

This is one of those verses that is indeed a bright star. Even a littlechild can look up into the sky at night and say look at all the stars, but look that one is so bright. All scripture is inspired by God, yet the heart must be particularly dull which does not feel that some verses are peculiarly rich and full. This verse and this text is one such bright promise.

To understand the fullness of This verse we need to see the time and the place in which Jesus said If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

The PLACE, was Jerusalem, the capital of Judaism, and the stronghold of priests and scribes, of Pharisees and Sadducees.—**The OCCASION** was the Feast of Tabernacles, one of those great annual feasts when every Jew, if he could, went up to the temple, according to the law.—**The TIME was** “the last day of the feast,” when all the ceremonies were drawing to a close, when the water drawn from the fountain of Siloam, according to traditional custom, had been solemnly poured on the altar, and nothing remained for worshippers but to return home.

At this critical moment our Lord Jesus Christ “stood” forward on a prominent place, and spoke to the great crowds. The Lord who knows the hearts of man He read their hearts. He saw them going away with aching consciences and unsatisfied minds, having got nothing from their blind teachers the Pharisees and Sadducees, no hope no peace, no answer given that could comfort and strengthen. **He saw and pitied them**, and cried aloud, **“If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink.”**—I don’t think that was all The Lord said, I suspect it is only the key-note of His address. But this, I imagine, was the first sentence that fell from His lips: “If any man thirst, let him come unto Me.” If any one wants living satisfying water, let Him come to me.

All through scripture no prophet or apostle ever said Come unto me. The language was always Come with us, was what Moses said. Numbers 10:29. Isaiah 55:1 Ho, everyone who thirsts, **come to the waters**; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat. Yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

John the Baptist says behold the Lamb. Paul the apostle says believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 16:31

But only one said Come unto me. Only He is the Eternal Son of God Only He is the promised saviour of the world. To Redeem His own from every tongue and tribe and people in the world. “Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins” (Acts 5:31).

Now we will consider three vital points

- I. You have Mans universal problem He thirsts. He is searching for something: “If any man thirst.”
- II. You have a REMEDY PROPOSED the answer “Let him come unto Me, and drink.”
- III. You have a PROMISE HELD OUT: “He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living waters.”

These points affect all man kind.

you have a case supposed. Just like the nation of Israel in the desert And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, They said to Moses have you brought us into this wilderness to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

Hear what the traveller through the desert needs most longs for most, as the hot sun melts his strength away. Hear what any old soldier will tell you about the wounded on the battle field what they ask for the most. Remember the crews lost at sea tossed on the waves without water, how they suffer. Remember the desperate words of the rich man in the Parable of Lazarus. “Send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water to cool my tongue: for I am tormented in this flame.” (Luke 16:24.). There is nothing so terrible and hard to bear as thirst. If natural bodily thirst is so unbearable and so painful How much worse and more painful is the thirst of the soul. Physical suffering is not the worst part of eternal punishment and also in this world in which we live now. The worst suffering is of the mind and the inward man, to see and realise the value of our souls and find out they are in danger of eternal damnation. To feel the burdain of unforgiven sin and not to know whre to turn for relief. To have a heart so sick and not to know of any remedy. To discover we are dying daily and yet unprepared to meet

God to have a clear view of our own wickedness and hardness of heart and yet be in utter darkness where to look for Pardon. This is the Highest degree of distress and pain which drinks up the soul and pierces to the marrow! This is the thirst our Lord is speaking of. It is a thirst after PARDON forgiveness. And peace with God The craving of an awakened conscience wanting cleansing but not knowing where to find it. Walking through dry places unable to get rest.

This is the Thirst the Jews felt when peter preached to them on the day of Pentecost It is written that they were “pricked in their heart, and said, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37.)

This is the Thirst the Philipian Jailer felt the earthquake reel under His feet. It is written He came trembling and fell down before Paul and Silas and brought them out saying Sirs what must I do to be saved. Acts 16:30. Many of the great men of yesteryear felt this Thirst. Luther, Bunyan and Whitfield All realizing and feeling unsatisfied till that thirst was quenched, Realising how unfit they were to meet God Conscious they would have to give an account of their entire lives.

We too ought to realise this thirst. A thirst for peace with the living God Yet sadly mans fallen nature is proved, by what he thirsts after. He thirsts for money for position and power and influence. For pleasure and happiness, this is what the vast majority of people seek. People seek recognition – How man desires to be regonised as the best in his field. The best soccer player the best marathon runner. How hard they train for these Corruptible crowns. But how many thirst for an incorrubtible crown. Its so few, its not the majority. It’s a sure sign of the deadness of a mans heart His loss of feeling. Nothing reveals our dead spiritual state like the symptom of the absence of SPIRITUAL thirst. How terrible to hear the words from our saviour. **Revelation 3:17** Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; **and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:**

It is only the Lord Jesus Christ that puts this spiritual Thirst in us. Know this day that flesh and blood hath not revealed these things unto you, but our Father which is in heaven. Universities may give degrees, and schools may impart knowledge of all mysteries, but they cannot make men feel sin. To realize our spiritual need, and feel true spiritual thirst, **this alone is the A B C in saving Christianity.**

Here is the Remedy “If any man thirst,” says our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, “let him come unto Me, and drink”

How can a man have peace with God, the answer hidden for so long but now revealed. Seen clearly in 7 golden and true scriptures.

1. “I am the Bread of life: he that cometh unto ME shall never hunger; and he that believeth on ME shall never thirst.”—
2. “I am the Light of the world: he that followeth ME shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”—
3. “I am the Door: by ME if any man enter in, he shall be saved.”—
4. “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father but by ME.”—
5. “Come unto ME, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”—
6. “Him that cometh to ME I will in no wise cast out.”—

Add to these six texts the one we are looking at today. Know them memorize them. Rivet them down in your mind, and never let them go. When your feet touch the cold river, on the bed of sickness and in the hour of death, you will find these seven tests above all price. (John 6:35; 8:12; 10:9; 14:6; Matt. 11:28; John 6:37.)

They are the sum and substance of this living water. Only Christ is the fountain of Living water which God has so graciously provided for thirsting Souls. From Him flows an abundant stream. The rich provision Christ has purchased for us by His own precious blood. **He started by paying the full price for our sin to be forgiven, raised again from the dead to make us righteous and justified.** There is more than enough supply for all that men could need. —pardon, absolution, mercy, grace, peace, rest, relief, comfort, and hope. Christ rich provision He is the reliever of all those who are labouring and heavy laden. He is the giver of water. It is His pleasure to Pardon and give peace. **If any man thirst let Him come. This is the prescription let Him come. To me and drink.** The effectiveness of medicine depends on the measure you apply it to your life. Even the best Doctor can prescribe the best medicine. But it doesn't help us if we don't use it like prescribed. If we refuse to follow the directions.

Here are the directions clearly listed for those who thirst.

You must come to Christ Himself. Never be content with just church going or the prayer of a pastor. It wont be long and you will be thirsty again. Come to Christ and you shall not thirst again. You shall be satisfied.

He who thirsts must actually come. Its not enough to want to come but never come you must actually come. Don't just talk of coming , actually come.

Hellitsself is a terrible place it's a place said to be paved with good intentions. We must arise and come. What if the prodigal son only thought about going back to His father. No He arose and went.

Remember in Coming we offer nothing I come just as I am without one plea. Save that thou blood was shed for me.

How simple that remedy is for the thirsting. Simple yet so hard to persuade people to come by faith through grace. Men are still liked the Jews and the greeks, Human nature still the same. John 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Simple as this remedy may seem it is the one and only cure for mans spiritual disease. And the only way from earth to heaven for all people for kings and their subjects, Preachers and their congregations . For rich and for poor. This alone is the cure for our condition all alike must drink of this living water. How thankful we should be that we live in the gospel age where the great remedy for spiritual thirst is known, —in a age where Bibles are freely available. Where some Godly men still preach a pure gospel.

III. In closing we turn to *the promise held out- to all who come to Christ.* “He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water”

Gods word is full of eternal promises, promises of I will and I shall. His promises never fail. All of us trust in promises in our everyday life. The Labourer works a whole week for a man with just a promise of pay at the end of the week. The sailor goes to sea with a promise that when he compleats the voyage he shall be paid. We believe the promises made to us by man, The bank conducts its business loans on promise you will pay back what you owe. Many of our dealings with

fellow man are based solely on promise. In the same way God holds forth promises to man. Not just ordinary promises. He promises to do great things. If only man would believe. the Bible says *“There are given to us exceeding great and precious promises.”* (2 Pet. 1:4.). The Bible is full of promises, a great wealth of promises are spread all through scripture suitable for every kind of experience and every condition of life. These promises are what the Lord is willing to do for us if you hear my terms. Take your bible and read. Know what is offered know the condition. **Know this there is a vast defiance between a promise made by man and a promise made by God.** Promises made by man are not sure to be fulfilled. Even sometimes with the best intentions man is unable to keep His word. Anything can happen disease or death can step in before the promise is fulfilled. War pestilence or famine can come making it impossible to fulfill the promise.

The Promises of God are Yea and Amen. He is certain to fulfill what He has promised NOTHING can prevent Him from doing what He promised. He will always keep His word.

There is only one thing that it is impossible for God to do. And that is to lie. (Hebrews 6:18). Even if it seems impossible when God promises He shall bring it to pass. Think of the Birth of Isaac. It seemed impossible but God did it. He fulfilled what He promised. When God says it shall be It shall be so. Whatever He promise He is certain to fulfill it.

No one can form an idea of the abundance of Gods promises unless he carefully searches the Scriptures, keeping the subject steadily before them. If anyone doubts it, I can only say, **“Come and see.”** Like the Queen of Sheba at Solomon’s Court, you will soon say, **“The half was not told me.”** (1 Kings 10:7.)

This golden and rich promise we began with is so valuable, we all thirst Let us come therefore and drink. Some have hearts overburdened with cares. *Psalm 36: 8 They shall be satisfied with the fatness of Your house; and You shall make them drink of the river of Your pleasures. 9 For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light. -*

“Come unto Me and I will give you rest,” says our master and Lord, Mat 11:28 “peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you,” John 14:27 - “be careful for nothing,” Philippians 4:6 - “take no anxious thought,” - Matthew 6:25 “the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your heart and mind.” Philippians 4:7

Revelation 21:6 And He said to me, It is done. I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who thirsts I will give of the fountain of the Water of Life freely.