

Holy Hydration

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-4 Larry: Nat day of Prayer. Care. REAL.
- B. Slide5 Greg: Father/Son
- C. Slide6 Sun Night of Prayer: Next Sun.
- D. Slide7 Spring Baptism: at CCBC. May 19th. 2:30pm. Grab a flyer in info booth so you can attend a baptism class May 8 or 13. .

II. Slide8 **Intro: Holy Hydration** [sounds like something Robin wud say to Batman, 60's]

- A. From ch.6's *Living Bread* to ch.7's *Living Water*.
 1. We now move into John 2nd section, *the period of conflict*. (6 months till cross)
 2. The Jewish leaders have seen Christ's **signs** and heard His **sermons**; bought a **T-shirt** (ok maybe not) and now they begin to **oppose Him**.
- B. **Water**, the most important liquid in the **physical** world. W/o water, there would be no life. *Living water*, the most important **thirst quencher** in the **spiritual** world. W/o living water, there is no spiritual life.
- C. **Outline: Where is Jesus** (1-11) *before the feast begins*. **Who is Jesus** (12-36) *in the middle of the feast*. **Believe in Jesus** (37-39) *at the end of the feast*.

III. Slide9 **WHERE IS JESUS (1-11) before the feast begins**

- A. Slide10 **FEAST OF TABERNACLES** (succoth, booths, lean-to, make-shift shelters, pup tents)
- B. (1,2) Only John mentions. **Occurs in Fall** (sept/oct). Lev.23.
 1. Think of this feast as a **national campout**.
 - a) It commemorated the days when the Israelites wandered in the wilderness & **lived in tents/booths**. It was also an agricultural festival a **harvest festival** (grapes/olives).
 - b) And **every male Jew** had to attend as it was **1 of the big 3** (Pent & Pass).
 2. Daily, during this **7 day feast**, **water was drawn from the Pool of Siloam**.

- a) All kinds of **lavish celebrations** took place, involving lighting of lamps, dancing by torchlight, a march of priests and people around the altar carrying **citrus fruit** **Slide11a** (*ethrog*) and **waving branches** (*lulab*: palm, willow, myrtle branches).
- b) It was a key symbol of the great national hope: the **coming of the Messiah**, and **liberation from Rome**. The celebrations started and ending with *a special sabbath*.
- c) A **priest**, accompanied by a **procession** of people & musicians would go & fill a **golden pitcher** from *the pool*.
- d) It was carried back through **the Water Gate**, while the people recited *Is.12:3*...
 - (1) **Slide11b** *Is.12:3* **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation**.
 - (a) Maybe **joy** is our **bucket** and the **rope** is *the measure of our need*?
- e) The water was carried up to *the Temple altar* & **poured out** as *an offering to God*.

C. (3-5) Jesus brothers try to **double-dog-dare** Him to go down [anybody have older brother's...ok you get it]

- 1. **Vs.5** makes the issue clear...they *didn't believe* in their 1/2 brother, at least in the full sense of biblical belief. (till Acts 1:14)
- 2. They saw him as an extraordinary wonder-worker, who might **gain a larger following** if only he would appear on a larger stage (Jerusalem).

D. **Slide12a** GOD'S TIMETABLE

E. **Jesus** lived on a *divine timetable*...& so should **we**.

- 1. Vs.10 explains that *He was going to go*, **but** that **when & how** are always important. [*when?* later. *How?* private not public]
- 2. Jesus **had** a plan, **followed** a plan, & it had a **Passover shape to it**, not a **Tabernacle** shape to it. Piper
- 3. Jesus' **time**, then, will not come this autumn, **but** in the spring. **Thus it wouldn't be right, then, for him to go to Jerusalem in the pilgrim convoy, healing and teaching as he went, gathering more followers en route.**
- 4. **The world**, of course, doesn't enjoy being told that it's **radically out of line** (vs. 7); **but** it cannot at the moment see that **the doctor who is diagnosing the disease** is **also** about to **provide the remedy**.

5. Christ lived according to God's schedule for His life.
 - a) Unsaved people can *come and go* as they wish, **but** the child of God must *let the Lord lead*.
 - b) How sad that Jesus' brothers *left the Savior behind so that* they might *attend a religious feast*. [**never** leave Christ behind to *go do spiritual things*]
6. Slide12b David said in Ps.31:14,15 ***But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, You are my God. My times are in Your hand.***
7. Job 14:5 (speaking of *man* said) ***his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.***
 - a) Know that ***unsaved family & friends*** do not understand this & will often give you advice **contrary** to **God's will** when it comes to **the timing** of things.
 - b) Slide12c Wiersbe said, ***Live on God's schedule & you will always have God's help.***

IV. Slide13 **WHO IS JESUS (12-36)** *in the middle of the feast*

- A. Slide14a **JESUS IN THE LIONS DEN**
- B. The Jews debated 5 different topics: *His character* (10-13) *His doctrine* (14-18). *His works* (19-24). *His origin* (25-31). *His warning* (32-36).
- C. Slide14b **CONFUSION & UNBELIEF**
- D. This discussion reveals the confusion & unbelief of the people.
 1. **Some** were for Him because of His miracles. **Some** were opposed to Him because he broke the Sabbath laws. **Some** waited to see what their leaders would do. **And some** of the leaders wanted to kill Him.
 2. Slide14c **Some felt** He was a **good man**, **others** a **deceiver**. **Some felt** He was **demon-possessed**, **others** an **ordinary man**. **Some felt** He was a **prophet**, **others** the **Messiah**.
- E. **Jesus taught** that His mission & message originated from God. **He taught** that people in His audience do not keep the law of Moses. Some want to kill Him right then. **Jesus taught** that both healing & circumcising on the Sabbath are permitted by the law. **He taught** that He will soon leave **but** they wont be able to find Him.
- F. Slide14d See Jesus didn't only have a ***different timetable*** (8) **but** also a ***diff program*** (18).

- G. (21-24) Jesus asks them about *the purpose of the law*, was it to **stop people from doing things**, or *to enable people to do and be what God meant them to do and be?*
1. How can something which **enhances human life and brings dignity and hope** to someone who *hadn't got much of either* be against the good purposes of God and his good law?
 2. Eg. a **boy will be circumcised on the 8th day after birth**, *even if it's a sabbath*. In other words, something that *looks as though* it's breaking the sabbath has to be done even on that day, in order to make one tiny part of a baby boy's body conform to God's will. Now, supposing it's possible to make a person's **entire body whole and sound** on the sabbath: **isn't that even more important?**
- H. (27) **No one will know where he** ^(Messiah) **comes from** - some 1st-cent Jews believed the Messiah would appear mysteriously
- I. (28) **Him** (God) **you do not know** - Jesus turns this around. Instead of proving who **He** is, He goes deeper. He says, you're ignorant of something...*not your ignorance of Me, but of God*. Their problem wasn't that they weren't sure if **Jesus** comes from **God**; *it is, rather, that they don't even know God*.
1. Often people look at **Jesus** and draw conclusions about him based on **faulty ideas of God** and **the world**. **But** the Christian message insists that people must learn afresh **who God is, what the world is, & who we ourselves are, by looking at Jesus**.

V. Slide 15a **BELIEVE ON JESUS (37-39)** *at the end of the feast*

A. LIVING WATER

B. Day 7, the last day of the feast.

C. Remember *the daily ritual* we talked about in the beginning? The priest. The procession. The pouring out of **water** in the Temple.

1. When we read passages out of the Old or NT, we must always remember that our Bible stories are about **desert people**. Desert people are intimately bound by life-giving, life-sustaining water.
2. Jesus finds His **spring board**...and **dives** right into His **water analogy**.

- D. **Quick reminder:** In the Bible, **water for cleansing** symbolized **the Word of God**. **Water for drinking** represents **the Holy Spirit**.
1. **Slide15b** Is.44:3 **For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.**
 2. **Rule of first mention** - Gen.1:1,2 **In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**
- E. (37,38) Not **come** to church. Not **come** to CM. Not **come** to Brian. **But come** to **Jesus**.
- F. **He that believes in Me** - **not** he that's **perfect**, **nor** he that's **holy**. Not he that's **rich**, **nor** he that's **good looking**. **Not** he that's **mature**, **nor** he that went on a **90 day fast**. **Not** he that **takes communion** every morning. **No!** The criteria is...**he that believes on Me**.
- G. **Wells/springs of salvation** – not a cistern.
1. **He's talking drinking fresh water daily from wells of** **unfailing assurance**, ever flowing **consolation**, gushing **hope**, & streaming **victory**.
- H. **Slide16 Water**, the most important liquid in the world. **W/o water**, there would be no life
1. We now have over 3,200 brands of bottled water, from more than 130 countries. **Yet most North Americans go around in a constant state of dehydration.**
 2. **But**, the cells of our bodies aren't the only parts of us that are parched.
 - a) **Even more dry** is the state of our **souls**. Instead of pouring in **living water** to cure our **dehydration** however, we grasp out at a huge variety of **the worlds crackers**. **Crackers?** [I'm so thirsty...eat a cracker]
 3. **How many crackers will quench your thirst?** (no amount, yet we keep trying)
 - a) **This world** won't quench your thirst. Your **boyfriend** won't quench your thirst. **Travel** won't quench your thirst. **Fine Food** won't quench your thirst. **Prestige** won't quench your thirst. a **New Car** won't quench your thirst. **Moving in** with her won't quench your thirst. **Pornography** won't quench your thirst. **Leaving** your husband won't quench your thirst. No amount of **money** will

quench your thirst. No amount of **experiences** will quench your thirst. No amount of **goals** will quench your thirst.

- b) No amount of *this worlds crackers* will quench your *physical* thirst or fully satisfy you. Because you were created w/a yearning for relationship w/your Heavenly Father. Only *the Holy Spirit* can **satisfy & meet** that need.
- I. **Slide17a Life** has made you *thirsty*. Only *the Holy Spirit* can quench your thirst. *Your spiritual thirst. Your marital thirst. Your business thirst.*
1. And when you **drink**, your heart shall **not be** a **sponge** to absorb, **nor a pitcher** to contain, **but a conduit** in which the Spirit's love flows *right through us*.
 2. When Ezekiel had his great vision of the Temple & Jerusalem restored after the exile, in ch.37. There is description of how a **new river** will flow from under the Temple threshold. It will make its way down to the Dead Sea. **When it reaches the Dead Sea, it will make it fresh, so that people will fish in it and wonderful fruit trees will grow all around it.** This is the **same picture** that is used at the end of the Rev.22, as part of the description of the New Jerusalem.
 - a) But no need to wait for *the New City*, Jesus is suggesting that **the promise will be fulfilled in individual human beings**. **Then** Jesus **shouts out** the **invitation** to anyone who wants this *water of life* bubbling up **inside** them, **and flowing out** to the world around them.
 - b) **Slide17b** Living water. *Life Water. Our Holy Hydration!*
- J. **Believers**, you can find your thirst quenched **again** by *drinking from Christ*.
1. **Thirsty, come, drink** - not only for **salvation**, **but** quench your thirst on Jesus for life. **Drink in the Holy Spirit today**.
 2. Jesus offers *streams of living water* to His children that are **thirsty**.
- K. **The Water of Life**: Its **source** is in God. Its **flow** is from Christ. Its **channel** is through believers. Its **receivers** are simply *thirsty*.
1. Is.55:1 **Come, everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters**.
 2. **As** in the **1st chapter** of the bible, Spirit & water...**so** in the **last chapter** of the bible, **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 (freely). Rev.22:17

a) Will you come & drink...of His *Holy Hydration*?