

Living Lent | Saturday, March 15

Lucas Ramirez

Tapping Wells of Living Water

Today's Reading: John 71-2, 10; 25-40

"On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.' By this, he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time, the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. On hearing his words, some of the people said, 'Surely this man is the Prophet.' Others said, 'He is the Messiah.' Still, others asked, 'How can the Messiah come from Galilee? Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?' Thus, the people were divided because of Jesus."

John 7:37-40

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

In this passage from the Gospel of John, we encounter Jesus during the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles. This festival is specifically designed to help the Jewish nation remember the period when their people had no permanent homes and wandered in the desert for 40 years. To engage in this act of remembrance, people would build "sukkahs" or tent booths outdoors and live in them for seven days!

In the flurry of the festival, the air is also thick with tension as some seek to arrest Jesus while others

marvel at His teachings.

In John 7:37-38, Jesus stands teaching in the temple courts and cries out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." His words carry deep historical and spiritual significance. Water was scarce during the desert years for Israel - and right in the midst of the festival remembering those desert years, Jesus declares that he is the source of living water. Water flowed from a rock when Moses struck it in those years, but now Jesus is saying that he is the

source of living water.

Lent is a season of reflection and preparation, much like the Festival of Tabernacles. Just as the Israelites celebrated God's provision of water in the wilderness, we recognize our need for spiritual refreshment. Jesus invites us to come to Him, acknowledging our need to be rescued from our own deserts, and thirst for righteousness and renewal.

In this season, we may also confront our doubts and questions. Just as those in the crowd in Jerusalem debated Jesus' identity, we, too, may wrestle with who He truly is. Within the Christian community, we seek answers in Scripture and in prayer, allowing the Holy Spirit to illuminate our hearts and minds.

As we journey through Lent, may we recognize Jesus as the only source of "living water" and receive the promise of the Spirit. May we come home from our wandering through faith in Christ, the only hydrating solution to our thirst, believing that His presence alone will satisfy our souls with living water. Let us remember that Jesus offers life-giving sustenance

to all who seek Him, drawing us closer to God during this sacred time of Lent.

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ:

Lucas Ramirez is the Senior Pastor at Wesley Church at Frederica on St. Simons Island. The church's worship follows a pattern of revelation and response: learn of God and his message, and respond through worship and discipleship. In this way, worship becomes a two-part dialogue with God. To learn more about this church body visit wesleyssi.org