

DAY 3 - SUN

THE LIVING WATER

[Read John 7: 14-44]

For over two millennia, Jews have been practicing Tevilah, immersion of the entire body in water, to remove ritual impurity. Entering the temple required ritual purification in a special bath called a “mikveh.” What made these baths special was a natural source of water that flowed into each one creating a small pool of “living water.” Living water was any source of naturally flowing water directed to a place of collection for ritual use. Once the water was “stored,” it ceased to be “living water.”

Every day during the feast (known to Jews as “Sukkot”), the priests led a procession from the Pool of Siloam to the temple to perform a ritual pouring of water. By the end of the festival, the temple courts were packed with worshipers. Jesus came to teach the people, and they marveled at His words. He taught as an expert yet had no formal education. He spoke with authority and boldness. The reactions in the crowd were diverse as they struggled to understand the true identity of this man. Was He a prophet? Was He the Messiah? Or was He simply a crazy troublemaker as dangerous as some of the religious leaders claimed?

But His words promised something incredible...

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”
-John 7:37-38

This was not the only time Jesus referred to Himself as “Living Water.” He said this in John 4:10 to the woman at the well. While most of the time we focus on the part of “quenching our thirst,”... the Jews understood Him in a different light. No longer would ritual bathing be required for purity. No longer would this ritual of purity be necessary. Jesus’ offer was open to anyone, the cost was believing in Him, and the result was a cleansing of the heart. A purification, NOT just for the body, but for our sins.

PROCESS:

- How amazing is it that we can have a relationship with THE Living Water?
- Thank God for providing a way of purification through Jesus, The Living Water!



WATER DEVOS 2021 • JUN 25-27

INTRO

It’s no secret that water is essential in our lives. Without it, all of us would die within a few days. Water covers about 71% of the surface of the earth. It’s our most abundant and natural resource and a basic necessity for humans.

The reference to water reveals many different idioms (phrases) that we tend to use frequently. For example...

- Something that stimulates the appetite is said to “make one’s mouth water.”
- A past event is called “water under the bridge.”
- Something that is “watered down” may be less potent or effective.
- If you are “sold down the river,” you are betrayed.
- One can experience or shed a “stream” of tears.
- People often “pool” their resources, such as in the allocation of funds.
- Heavy rain can be described as “raining cats and dogs.”
- During battle one might experience bullets “raining around them.”
- You may be “showered” with gifts or compliments in your life.

Water references can be detected everywhere *and* every day in our lives. But when it comes to the Bible, what exactly do we experience? This 3-Day Water Devotional will give you a glimpse into some of the spiritual or biblical meanings/symbols of water.

Read through these Devos TOGETHER (friends, small group, family) and discuss as a body.

DAY 1 - FRI

PASSING THROUGH THE WATER

[Read Exodus 14:1-31]

In the Old Testament... there was a defining story of the ancient Israel people coming OUT of slavery and INTO freedom. To experience this, they had to go THROUGH THE WATERS (The Red Sea). So every year when they celebrated the Passover Feast, they would retell the stories of how God saved them during Passover — as well as — allowing them to cross the Red Sea to the other side.

It was a symbol for a change of identity. The Israelites used to be slaves but came out on the other side redeemed people - FREED by God's grace.

Sometimes in our lives, we have to pass through the storm or the depth of the waters in our life. It feels as if we're drowning in everything we are experiencing. Yet, it will bring us to a new place or a change of identity in many of these instances.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

- Can you think of an case in your life where you faced the un-passable waters... yet God made a “way” for you?
- What have you been through in your life... that has changed you on the other side?
- Did God allow something in your life to bring you to a new place?
- How has your identity changed now that you've gone through “the waters”?

FOCUS:

Thank God for providing a “way” for you to endure those difficult circumstances. Reflect on how much you have changed or grown because of going through a challenging situation.

DAY 2 - SAT

BAPTISM BY WATER

[Read John 3:1-17]

John the Baptist preached a baptism of repentance, and people who came to him confessed their sins in anticipation of the coming Messiah. Jesus, the One whom John spoke about, also came to John to be baptized by him. John attempted to stop Him because John knew Jesus was without sin. Jesus explained the necessity of Him being baptized—it was to fulfill all righteousness. In other words, it was not to confess His sins but to set a pattern for believers to follow. The gospels tell us that Jesus came up immediately from the water. This is another indication that He had nothing to confess. His baptism was to set the pattern for us.

CONSIDER THIS...

- **Baptism is about identification.** When a believer is baptized, they publicly identify with Jesus and with other Christians.
- **Baptism is a symbol.** It's a physical picture of a spiritual reality. Just like a wedding ring symbolizes someone is married... being baptized is a symbol of your commitment & obedience to Christ.
- **Baptism is a picture of our death.** The person being baptized goes under the water, which is a picture of the burial of their old self that was enslaved to sin.
- **Baptism is a picture of our resurrection.** Being baptized is a picture of being raised from the dead to eternal life.

“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” -Romans 6:4-5, ESV

Are you ready to be baptized?

If you have questions or would like to be a part of our Baptism Service on Sunday, contact us TODAY by texting ANY questions or the word below.

TEXT, “baptism” to the number: 407-988-0991