



Ghosted – Living Water

Opening:

We've been exploring aspects of the Holy Spirit over these past few weeks to help us understand the person of the Holy Spirit.

This week we will be exploring a further symbol; one of water.

Water is life giving and its properties are the basis of life itself. All forms of life need water, Plants, Animals, Humans.

In fact, Human Beings are said to be made up of 70% water and we cannot go more than 3 days without water.

Water refreshes, hydrates, cleans, replenishes, brings relief (think about rain on dry lands) and has the power to transform and bring new life again!

Introduction:

It's not just any water, specifically Jesus references this "living water" as a metaphor for the Holy Spirit.

Living Water symbolizing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit from God into a person's life, cleansing our hearts, purifying us, refreshing us, and quenching our spiritual thirst.

This Living Water is an endless supply to us!

It's striking how much water mirrors our need for God's Spirit.

Main:

1. Form – In the beginning Genesis 1v1-2 we read how God's spirit was right there at the beginning of the creation of the heavens and the earth. It's always been there and was central in the forming of the earth and heavens.

Life began with water, in fact before the 1st day of creation, you'll see that water covered the earth and the Spirit of God covered the water.

Out of that formless, even chaotic state, God formed, he started to shape the earth and the heavens, he brought water under his control.

He spoke life into, separated light from darkness, day from night. On the 2nd day he continued and separated water from water, created sky above. He then proceeded the next day to gather the land and the waters (calling them seas).

Later on, in the chapter in v20 you see that God put life into the water "let the water teem with living creatures...."

He formed it and gave the water a purpose - to carry life!

This is just like the Holy Spirit being central in the creation of the new person, he is there at the beginning of your spiritual life too.

2. Flow - In John 7 v37-39 you'll find Jesus specifically referencing how if you come to him and drink "streams of living water will flow within you or out of you will flow rivers of living water"

His audience would have understood this reference within the context of the Feast of Tabernacles that they were currently observing.

This feast lasted 8 days and during the first 7 days, priests would go and draw water from the pool of Siloam and carry back to the temple and pour out at the base of the altar as an offering before the Lord.

They did this by way of remembering and honouring the water that was supplied to them whilst wandering in the desert.

However, the 8th and last day, no water was drawn or poured out. They would simply enjoy the water from within the springs itself!

The theme of water brining new life was at the very heart of the festival.

The significance of Jesus quoting "scripture" on the 8th and last day was also significant too. Scriptures from Zechariah 14v8-9 and Ezekiel 47v1 were probably the scriptures that typically would have been read out on the last day.

Both speak about rivers of living water, flowing forth from Jerusalem or the Temple, bringing life to all the earth. A future hope that would be brought forth.

Jewish teachers would often refer to the Temple as the navel, belly, or centre of the World.

Therefore, Jesus is declaring here, I AM he who fulfils those scriptures. I am that centre, the new temple where living water comes from.

I am the epicenter! I am the source of where the water of life comes from. I am the giver of new life but not only that, I am also the sustainer of life as my river will never run dry!

Application:

1. If God is the source of the Living Water, he is where the initial flow of the Holy Spirit comes from, which we can receive as a gift at the point of salvation, his promise made to us as you'll read in Acts 2 - he will pour out his spirit on ALL men and women:

Is the Holy Spirit in you?

2. If it is - then are you taking the responsibility to ensure the Holy Spirit is flowing through you and then out of you?

What are you doing to allow his spirit to flow? Are you surrendering to his spirit and allowing its transformation work to take place within you, bringing new life to you?

Are you living by the Spirit as Paul states we should be doing in Galatians? How will you know? One of the ways is to look for outward signs - the fruits of the Spirit as outlined in Galatians 5.

Think about it being like when you are dehydrated. There are signs that your body needs water! We must all drink water every day on a continual basis and the same is of the Holy Spirit, we need to be continually filled with the spirit, every day!

Every believer now is the temple where the Holy Spirit (when we come to Christ) has been poured out into us (as Jesus has now ascended into heaven and his promise was to leave his Holy Spirit) now dwells. Not only should it live within us, but the Holy Spirit needs to flow through and out of us. It has the power to transform - not only us but also those around us!

As a Christian we know our lives are more than just about us. We are referred to as a body and to gather together as his church.

If we think about Rivers of water, they move and flow and also lead somewhere. As his people, are we allowing God to lead us by his spirit?

Ezekiel 36v25-27 shows the impact that the people of God, filled with his spirit can have.

Ezekiel reveals that after God cleanses us (with his water), he'll put in us a new heart and a new spirit and will recognise us as his people.

It's only after then that you see the transformational power that has on the land around them. Promises that land that was once desolate, in famine and destroyed, will be rebuilt, start to flourish again, show new life and be productive. It is even compared as a Garden of Eden!

Conclusion / Call to action

1. Who or what is your source? What have you allowed to be poured out into you? Is it the Holy Spirit? Jeremiah warns the Israelites in Jeremiah 2 v13 that they committed a couple of sins in God's eyes. One of them being "forsaking the spring/fountains of living water" and instead started to dig their own cisterns.

This is a metaphor for his people turning their back on God and looking to other things. They are worshipping other Gods, setting up idols that they put their hope and trust in. The text describes how these man-made cisterns can't hold the water and are starting to leak.

Is God your source, pouring into your life?

2. Is the Holy Spirit following through you and out of you?

3. What do you need the Holy Spirit/Living Waters to flow within you bringing new life and transforming you from the inside out?

God's living waters – Poured out into us, flowing through us and out of us, bringing new life and hope to us and others around us.