

Pentecost

Text: John 7:37-39 (NIV)

³⁷On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” ³⁹By 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.

Come and Get It!

Mother’s Day is the day that we give honor to our mothers and grandmothers. When I was a child, the place where I loved to be was at grandma’s house. I loved to go there on Sunday afternoon. Sunday just wasn’t the same if we didn’t go to grandma’s. Grandma was a lot different from mom. I never remember grandma saying, “No, you can’t have that.” She was different from grandpa too. He would tell us not to be so loud or to stop running, but Grandma never complained. My favorite time of year was the week that I spent at grandma and grandpa’s in the summer. We would eat things that we never had at home such as pickles or sauerkraut right from the crock and pigs in a blanket. It was food that made me think of this text. I can never remember grandma raising her voice except when she stepped out the door and yelled, “Supper!!!” My uncles and grandpa would come up to the house from the barns and shed.

In our text Jesus tells us to “Come and get it.” He is the water that gives us everlasting life. Today it is His Spirit that tells us to “Come and get it” to come and quench our spiritual thirst with Jesus.

I. Jesus is living water for us.

Without him we are parched and thirsty. There are many things that sap our energy just like a hot day zaps our strength. We often live with regrets. There are things that we have done which haunt us. We wonder over and over why we did those things. This past week I saw a woman on Good Morning America who said that she hasn’t forgotten anything since she was 14. That means that she also remembers every regret. There are also times when we are too blind to see our wrongs. We can’t seem get along with anyone, but somehow it is always the other person’s fault. In addition, there are all kinds of trials and suffering that we go through. We sometimes feel like we can bear our own loads, but we soon feel like we are carrying a heavy backpack up a steep hill on a hot day.

God’s Word shows us just how thirsty we are. It tells us that we are sinners. Romans 3 says, “*All have sinned and fallen short of the kingdom of God.*” It shows us our sins and imperfections. We have nothing to boast about at all. We are all sinners, who have done things that we can and should be ashamed of.

It also shows us just how weak we are. Psalm 121 begins, “I lift up my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from?” When we look to ourselves we find that we are not as wise and strong as we would like to think. Paul describes us this way, “*God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that*

no one may boast before Him." (1 Cor 1:27ff) Our strength, our weaknesses, our struggles, and trouble parch us.

Christ quenches our thirst. It is He who takes away our sins. John wrote in his first letter, "*He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*" (1 Jn 2:2) As Christians we preach Christ crucified because it was on the cross of Calvary that He paid for all of our sins. He died in our place, so that as He rose from the dead, we will also live eternally. Baptism in His name washes away all of our sins. In Holy Communion we are reminded in a very personal way that He gave His body and shed His blood for me.

He also gives us the strength that we need in all the troubles and the trials of this life. We have the promise that nothing can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ our Lord. He rules all things for the good of those who love Him. So invites us, "*Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.*"

When we hear the words, "Come and get it!" Jesus is what we come to get. In John's Gospel He tells us that He is the Living Water, He is the Bread of life, He is the way, the truth, and the life, He is the resurrection and the life. When we have Him as our Savior, we have all of these gifts.

Jesus even quenched the thirst of those who came to arrest Him. This story takes place during the festival of booths. It was a harvest festival in the fall when the Jews lived in tents to recall the time that they had spent in the desert. Jesus was in Jerusalem to celebrate this festival. While He was at the temple, the pharisees sent the temple guards to arrest Him. But they did an interesting thing. They stopped to listen to Jesus. Some of them even became convinced that He is the Christ. Finally, they went back to the chief priests and pharisees empty handed. When they were asked why, they answered, "*No one ever spoke the way this man does.*" He had even become living water for them.

II. The Holy Spirit is the fountain who offers us the living water, Jesus.

Jesus gave His life for us on Calvary. He rose as our Savior on Easter morning. On Pentecost the Holy Spirit was sent out to tell the world, "Come and get it!" There is forgiveness, life, and salvation in Jesus Christ." On the Day of Pentecost they people were cut to the heart when Peter told them that they had crucified the long-awaited Savior. They asked what they should do. Peter answered, "*Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" (Acts 2:38) Peter pointed the crowd to Jesus for their forgiveness. The Holy Spirit was working through him to bring them to faith in Jesus as their Savior. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. He never brings glory and attention to Himself. He always points us to Jesus as our Savior. He works through the Gospel, through the washing of rebirth and renewal in baptism, and through Holy Communion to bring us to faith and to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior. He is the fountain who tells us to come and get it. Here is salvation. It is through Jesus Christ.

It is a blessed thing when He leads us to drink of Christ. Our sins no longer trouble us. We have the peace of forgiveness. When the burdens of this life begin to take their toll, we remember that we have been baptized into Christ. We have been born again as children of God. He is our Heavenly Father who always watches over us and will never leave us or forsake us. We sometimes come to

this altar filled with all kinds of burdens. Through this sacrament we leave in peace. He brings us to know that when we drink of Jesus we have life to the full now and life eternal with our Lord in heaven.

III. He also makes us into His living fountains.

Jesus promises that streams of living water will flow from those who drink of Him. The Holy Spirit uses us as His living fountains. The life of ever Christian says, "Come and get it!" We love each other as our Lord has loved us. Jesus said, "*As I have loved you, so you must love each other. By this all men will know that you are My disciples if you love one another.*" (Jn 13:5) Our deeds point others to Christ as we share that Christ-like love. That is also expressed in the fruits of the Spirit which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5)

But our words also say, "Come and get it." We teach our children right from wrong, and especially about God's forgiveness in Christ. We bring them to the baptismal font and to worship. The Lord puts people in our lives who despair over their sins and their troubles in life. When we share God's forgiveness and peace with them, the Holy Spirit is using us to point them to Christ. Even the fact that you got up this morning and drove here was a call to other people to "come and get it." The Holy Spirit uses us in different ways and at different times and even in ways that we never expected to draw others to Christ for salvation, peace, and forgiveness.

"Come and get it." Just like our mothers or grandmothers might have cried out to come for supper, the Holy Spirit cries out today through the preaching and sharing of the Gospel to come to Jesus for salvation. May His call move our hearts to trust in Christ and may He also use us as His living fountains to call those who thirst to come and drink of the salvation that is found in our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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