

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 7:1-44

Lesson #27

The Great Feast

01/17/2016

Four spiritual postures that put you in position to get the most out of life.

Can you identify them?

It's not:

1. Go to church every week.
2. Read your Bible & pray daily.
3. Share your faith with others.
4. Snap out of it (sin) in the name of Jesus.



1

John 6

"60 Many therefore of His disciples, when **they heard** this said, "This is a difficult **statement**; **who can listen to it?**"

Jesus had made three statements, that to Jewish ears, had to be blasphemous.

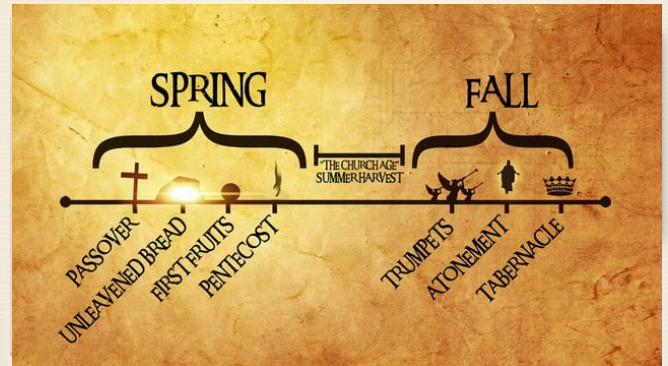
1. It's all **ABOUT ME!**
2. **I AM** the bread that came down from heaven. vs.41
3. You must **EAT MY FLESH** to have eternal life. vs.52

No Jewish prophet would ever say this.

2

John 7

"1 And after these things Jesus was walking in Galilee; for He was unwilling to walk in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. 2 Now the feast of the Jews, the **Feast of Booths**, was at hand."



3

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Each day of the weeklong Feast of Tabernacles the Priest would draw water from the pool of Siloam and pour it out at the altar.

4

John 7

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Isaiah 12:3

"Therefore, with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation,"

Psalms 118:24-25

"This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O Lord, do save, we beseech You; O Lord, we beseech You; do send prosperity."

The Mishna (Jewish oral traditions in written form) **states**, "He that has never seen the joy of the [ceremony of the water drawing] has never in his life seen joy." (Sukkah 51a)

5

- This is no doubt when Jesus spoke these words.

³⁷ Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, **"If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink."** ³⁸ **He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'** ³⁹ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

Some have claimed that this is the greatest declaration that Jesus made while on earth.

6

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- Isaiah is paraphrased in vs.38.

"For **I will pour out water on the thirsty land** and streams on the dry ground; **I will pour out My Spirit** on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants;" *Isaiah 44:3*

"Ho! **Every one who thirsts, come to the waters;** and you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost" *Isaiah 55:1*

7

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Summary of John 7:3-44

⁴⁰ Some of the multitude therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, "This certainly is the Prophet." ⁴¹ Others were saying, "This is the Christ." Still others were saying, "Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He?" ⁴² Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" ⁴³ So there arose a division in the multitude because of Him. ⁴⁴ And some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him."

8

When was the Spirit given?

John 20

²¹ Jesus therefore said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, **"Receive the Holy Spirit."** ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."

Jesus does four things here.

1. He **sends** the disciples out (John's "Great commission").
2. He **"breathed"**. "On them" does not appear in the Greek text.
3. He says to the disciples, **"Receive the Holy Spirit."**
4. He gives them the **authority** to dispense the grace of God.

Most commentators see this as prophetic of what would take place at Pentecost.

9

The gift of the Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit was not only the means of eternal life, he was the fruit of it in this passage.

'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke of the Spirit,'

2. The permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit was unique to the New Testament church age.
3. All who believe in Jesus will receive this gift.

1 Corinthians 12:13

"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

10

4. John (like Luke and Paul) does not make a distinction between the receiving of the Spirit and the "baptism with the Spirit".
5. The "promise of the Fathers" was the gift of the Spirit (Joel 2:28-32) that the disciples were to wait for (Acts 1:4-8) and to receive at Pentecost (Acts 2).
6. The benefits of the Holy Spirit (understanding, insight, courage, direction, peace, witness, etc.) were not evident in the disciples until after Pentecost.
7. The Spirit would not be given until after Jesus was fully glorified having departed to the Father.

11

John

12:16 “These things his disciples did not understand at the first; but **when Jesus was glorified**, then they remembered that these things were written of him,”

16:5,7 “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for **if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.**”

This was the “helper”, “Spirit of truth” (15:26), “guide” (16:13);

Acts 2:33

“**Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God**, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.”

12

“**If any man is thirsty**, let him come to Me and drink.
38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.’”

1. Thirst for the right thing.

- The right questions and longings lead to real life.
- “Seek and you shall find”.

Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself in the LORD;
And He will give you the desires of your heart.

Three critical questions

Mortality
Meaning
Morality

Three universal longings

Peace with God
Peace with self
Peace with others

13

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2. Trust the right Messiah.

- It’s all about Jesus (not religious tradition or ethics).
- “The Word of the Cross”.

Our functional messiah is

that which most makes us feel alive -
what we sacrifice for, make big decisions around,
prize the most, and invest our lives in.

14

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3. Turn in the right direction.

- The outer life is a reflection of the inner heart.
- It is easier to find the path if facing in the right direction.

4. Train for the right response.

- Expect to be on call to display the image of God.
- It’s not what happens to you but how you respond.

15

Lava Falls
Grand Canyon

Rivers of Living Water

16

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17