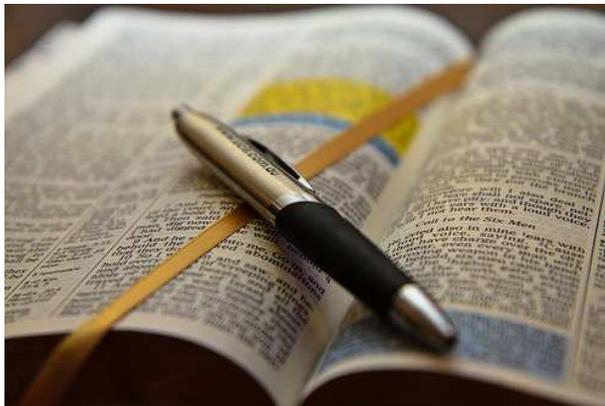


Bible Study

Gods Word in Focus



Week Fifteen

Gospel of John

John 7: 32-53 & 8:1-11

Jesus offers "rivers of living water" to those who thirst

John 7:32-39

On the great day of the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus invited the thirsty to believe in Him and to receive what He offers. Through the presence and work of the Spirit, those who believe will have eternal life.

Although the Spirit is not mentioned in verse 37, the life-giving work of the Spirit is surely present. Even before the glorification of Jesus, the Spirit worked in the lives of the believers. After the glorification, the Spirit's presence and work would be far greater. Jesus likened the Spirit to streams of living water!

Theologians have debated for centuries whether the pronoun "his" in verse 38b refers to Christ or the believer. John may have stated a general principle that applies to both Christ and the believer. Both approaches are valid.

Reaction to Jesus' words

John 7:40-53

Are you willing to give yourself totally to the Lord Jesus? No one could be indifferent for long when confronted with Jesus' message. It caused division for many who heard it. Some believe he was a prophet, some the Messiah, and some believed he was neither.

The reaction of the officers was bewildered amazement. They went to arrest him and returned empty-handed because they never heard anyone speak as he did. The reaction of the chief priests and Pharisees was contempt. The reaction of Nicodemus was one of timidity. His heart told him to defend Jesus, but his head told him not to take the risk.

“He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first”

John 8:1-11

Do you know the joy and freedom of repentance? The grace of Jesus Christ has power to change our lives and to set us free from our unruly desires and passions. Jesus' association with sinners upset the religious leaders. They confronted him on the issue of adultery and retribution. Jewish law treated adultery as a serious crime since it violated God's ordinance and wreaked havoc on the stability of marriage and family life. It was one of the three gravest sins punishable by death.

This incident tells us a great deal about Jesus' attitude to the sinner. The scribes and Pharisees wanted to entrap Jesus with the religious and civil authorities. That is why they brought a woman caught in adultery before Jesus. Jesus turned the challenge towards his accusers. In effect he said: *Go ahead and stone her! But let the person who is without sin be the first to cast a stone.* The Lord leaves the matter to their own consciences. When the adulterous woman is left alone with Jesus, he both expresses mercy and he strongly exhorts her to not sin again.