

Living Water Fellowship

5th Sunday after Pentecost – 23rd June 2024

Living Water Fellowship @ 11

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION REJOICE (MODERN POST)

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

SONG: VIDEO – Great Are You Lord (*All Sons & Daughters*)

BIBLE READING: John 7:37-52

³⁷ “On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood & shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! ³⁸ Anyone who believes in me may come & drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from their heart.’” ³⁹ (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

⁴⁰ When the crowds heard him say this, some of them declared, “Surely this man is the Prophet we’ve been expecting.” ⁴¹ Others said, “He is the Messiah.” Still others said, “But he can’t be! Will the Messiah come from Galilee?” ⁴² For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David, in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born.” ⁴³ So the crowd was divided about him. ⁴⁴ Some even wanted him arrested, but no one laid a hand on him. ⁴⁵ When the Temple guards returned without having arrested Jesus, the leading priests & Pharisees demanded, “Why didn’t you bring him in?” ⁴⁶ “We have never heard anyone speak like this!” the guards responded.

⁴⁷ “Have you been led astray, too?” the Pharisees mocked. ⁴⁸ “Is there a single one of us rulers or Pharisees who believes in him?” ⁴⁹ This foolish crowd follows him, but they are ignorant of the law. God’s curse is on them!” ⁵⁰ Then Nicodemus, the leader who had met with Jesus earlier, spoke up. ⁵¹ “Is it legal to convict a man before he is given a hearing?” he asked. ⁵² They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? Search the Scriptures & see for yourself—no prophet ever comes from Galilee!”

FAITH CHAT:

What do you think are the big obstacles to people coming to faith in Jesus?

SONG: VIDEO – What Love My God (*CityAlight*)

BIBLE READING: John 19:38-42

³⁸ After Jesus had died, Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus' body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came & took the body away. ³⁹ With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh & aloes. ⁴⁰ Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth. ⁴¹ The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before. ⁴² And so, because it was the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover & since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

FAITH CHAT:

How do you try to overcome the "obstacles" people have between themselves & Jesus?

THE MESSAGE: *LIVING COURAGEOUSLY: NICODEMUS*

OFFERING SONG: VIDEO – I Want to Know You (*CityAlight*)

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion:

VIDEO – Good and Gracious King (*City Alight*)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
Christ has made you his to live courageously in his Name!
-- Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: VIDEO – The Lord is By My Side (*CityAlight*)

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SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read John 7:37-52 & 19:38-40. What questions come to you as you read the text? What do you find most challenging/encouraging?
2. At this festival, water would be poured out as part of the celebration in thanksgiving to God for providing water for his people in the wilderness. How is Jesus' proclamation of himself here both a contrast & a continuation of God's promised provision?
3. In what way is John pointing us to the truth that Jesus is the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah & Saviour? What is the significance & the challenge of Jesus' offer to "anyone"?
4. There is a strong word here from Jesus that life in him (living water) is not meant to be contained but continuously pouring forth from the believer giving life, spiritual life, to the world. How is this convicting to you? How is this happening in your life? If you don't think it is, what might be something you ask the Spirit to do in you?
5. How might someone's loyalty to a group, other people, or specific ideas influence their opinions or beliefs about Jesus more than he himself or his word informs their opinions & beliefs? How might you speak into that circumstance?
6. What does the "rustled on" mindset the leaders have about Jesus & their lack of firsthand exposure to him say about them? Why didn't they believe?
7. Why do you think Nicodemus suggests giving Jesus "a hearing"? Remember, he has already spoken to Jesus privately at least once. (John 3:1-21) For what might he be hoping if the other Pharisees agree to bring Jesus in for questioning?
8. Quite often, as here, the question that arises is, "Who is this Jesus?" If you were to talk to someone about who Jesus is, what would be most important for you to share? If someone wanted to do some further investigation, what would you invite them to do with you?
9. What does this text call you to do?

Remember:

We don't have to defend Jesus, just listen to him & courageously trust him.