

Grow Group Resources

Sermon Summary – “Abundance in Chaos” John 7

Context and Chaos

- **Festival Background**

- Event takes place during the Festival of Booths/Tabernacles:
 - A major Jewish feast remembering God’s faithfulness in the wilderness.
 - People lived in temporary shelters to recall God’s provision (including water).
 - Also a harvest festival.
 - Held during the dry season—water imagery is vivid and meaningful.

- **Chaos in the Crowd – Mixed Reactions to Jesus**

People respond to Jesus in *many* conflicting ways throughout the chapter:

- Some want to kill Him.
 - Some think He should be more public.
 - His own brothers don’t believe in Him.
 - Some hate Him; some look for Him.
 - Some say He’s a good man; others say He deceives people.
 - Some marvel at His teaching; others call Him demon-possessed.
 - Some think He can’t be the Christ; others think He might be.
 - Some try to arrest Him.
 - Some believe; others mock.
 - Nicodemus speaks up for fairness.
 - Result: division, confusion, controversy.
 - Amid this, Jesus steps forward and speaks clearly.
- **Jesus’ Invitation: “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink”**

Four Key Reminders

1. Jesus still speaks in chaos

- Even in confusion, division, grief, or personal turmoil, Jesus’ call remains: “Come to Me.”
- His invitation is for the weary, burdened, hungry, thirsty, and hurting.

2. Jesus still satisfies

- He doesn't offer *something* to drink—He offers Himself.
- Only Jesus can satisfy the deep longings of the human soul.
- When He satisfies, striving stops and rest begins.

3. Jesus still offers abundance

- “Rivers of living water” → not a cup, trickle, or creek.
- The Kingdom is a place of overflow, lavish supply, more-than-enough.
- Echoes themes:
 - Wine at Cana
 - Feeding of the 5,000
 - Old Testament imagery of rivers bringing healing and life

4. Jesus still has a mission

- The water flows outward from believers.
- God's design: His life in us becomes life for the world.
- The mocking question about Jesus teaching the Greeks actually foretells the mission:
 - The gospel will reach Gentiles, the dispersed, and the ends of the earth.
- Rivers bring life—cities flourish around them.
- Likewise, the Spirit in believers brings renewal to their surroundings.

How Do We Take Hold of This Promise? (T.A.K.E.)

• T — Trust the Promise

- The promise is for “anyone” and “whoever believes.”
- Our experience doesn't define reality—His promise does.
- Ask Jesus to show you the abundance He's already working in your life.

• A — Acknowledge Your Lack

- Thirst is the qualification.
- Recognizing your spiritual thirst is a gift.
- Ask Jesus to reveal your need if you've grown numb or distracted.

• K — Keep Coming (Abide)

- The Greek verbs imply continual belief and ongoing receiving.
- Like keeping a faucet open—water flows as long as it remains turned toward the source.
- Abiding leads to ongoing refreshment.

• E — Engage in the Mission

- Water that doesn't flow out becomes stagnant.
- Faith isn't meant to be hoarded; it's meant to be shared.
- Serving, giving, witnessing, and showing compassion keeps the river flowing.
- Where God sends us on mission, He also supplies power (Acts 1:8).

Discussion Guide

1. **Prayer:** Have someone pray before you begin and ask God to give you understanding as you study His word.
2. **(Ice Breaker)** When you are really thirsty, what's your favourite drink to quench your thirst?
3. **Discussion:** The context surrounding our main text today has people divided about the true identity of Jesus. (Deceiver, good man, powerful teacher, the messiah, a threat, etc.)
 - What views does our culture have about who Jesus is today?
 - Based on our journey through John's Gospel so far, who is Jesus?
4. **Read:** Have people take turns reading portions of **John 7:32-39** out loud.
 - What stands out to you in this passage? What questions arise?
5. **Discussion:** Jesus invites those who are thirsty to come to Him. This imagery connects to God supplying water in the desert and also speaks to the seasonal drought that occurs during the Festival of Booths (our context).
 - Jesus is speaking spiritually. What are the 'thirsts' that humanity feels, and how does Jesus offer satisfaction?
 - What might it look like to 'come' to Jesus in practical terms?
6. **Discussion:** Belief (drinking of Jesus) leads to a river of living water flowing from the heart. This river, as John describes, is the Holy Spirit.
 - Why do you think Jesus uses the picture of a river to speak about the flow of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer?
 - What might hinder this abundant flow?
7. **Discussion:** The Scriptures that Jesus points to in verse 38 (ex. Ez 47, Zech 14:8) speak to a river that brings healing wherever it flows.
 - The direction of the river flows out of the heart and into the world. What might it look like for the life, love, mercy, and Spirit of God to flow into our everyday lives?
 - Our homes? Our schools and workplaces? Our neighbourhoods? Our cities?
8. **Prayer:** Take some time to bring up prayer requests. Pray for these and also pray that each person present would be able to take hold of Christ's promise and experience an abundant internal reality that flows into transformation in the world around them.