

THE UNSTOPPABLE GOSPEL AND THE DIVIDED CROWD

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Text: John 7:37-52

1. **THE SETTING:** Jesus stands in the middle of the Feast of Tabernacles and **in a loud voice** declares Jn. 7:37:

I. The INVITATION:

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink"

Apply's to:

- "Anyone" **Universal** _____ v37
- "Come to Me" **Personal** _____ v37
- "Drink" **Simple** _____ v37
- "Rivers of Living Water" **Ongoing** _____ v38

II. AN INVITATION: FOR THOSE WHO THIRST

Three Requirements:

1. **Recognize Your Thirst**

Everyone thirsts for something:

- Purpose - a reason to live
- Peace - a calm & confidence within
- Pardon - forgiveness from falling short & missing the mark. Grk. Hamartia: **"sin"**
- Passion - someone and something to love
- People - a place to belong
- Promise - a belief that tomorrow will be better than today

2. **Come to Christ**

Not religion.
Not tradition.
Not self-help

... but a **Personal Relationship**

3. **Drink Deeply** (Greek:"pinein" def. Urgent, decisive, complete action; Until satisfied)

III. The VARIED PERSONALITY TYPES IN THE CROWD

John 7:40-52

1. THE **CONVINCED** "Believers"

v. 40,41

Characterized by: Open hearts, Responsive spirits, Willing faith

2. THE **CONFUSED** "Skeptics"

v. 41,42

Characterized by: Questions, Doubts, Intellectual barriers

3. THE **CONFLICTED** "Divided"

v. 43

Characterized by: Torn loyalties, Some wanted Him, others wanted rid of Him

4. THE **COMBATIVE** "Opponents"

v. 44-52

Characterized by: Hard hearts, Pride, Resistance

V. CALL TO ACTION

The crowd represented four groups: **Which personality type do you most closely identify with today?**

The **GREATEST** news is...

The invitation remains open *today*... and is *unstoppable*... because Jesus never withdrew it!

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength... and love your neighbor as yourself."
- Mk. 12:30,31