

[John 7:37-39](#)

Jesus' Incredible Invitation:
Come - Drink - Believe

Introduction

What if Queen Elizabeth invited you on an all-expense paid two week vacation in England with her royal family? That would be an incredible invitation wouldn't it? What if Aaron Rodgers, all-pro quarterback of the Green Bay Packers, invited you to attend every game this season free of charge? That would be an incredible invitation wouldn't it? In those examples, whether fictitious or not, the invitation itself is special. More importantly, the one who gave the invitation is what really makes it incredible.

According to the text ([John 7:37-39](#)), during the last day of the Jewish festival, the Feast of Booths, Jesus stood up and cried out. He made an incredible invitation, which is the very essence of the gospel, the good news. Jesus' good news invites anyone who is thirsty, spiritually thirsty, to come to Him, to drink from Him and to believe in Him.

So, let's take a look at three (3) main points concerning Jesus' incredible invitation. They are:

- Come
- Drink
- Believe

Background

The setting of the text ([John 7:37-39](#)) is on the last day of the week-long Feast of Booths ([Leviticus 23:33-43](#)). This Jewish festival is also known as the Feast of Tabernacles and its Hebrew name is Sukkot. It occurs at the end of the growing season when grapes and olives are typically harvested in Israel. This celebration was the most joyous and the last of three festivals ordained by God, requiring a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to worship in the temple.

As in all of the festivals, the Feast of Booths was a time to remember God's faithfulness and all that He had done for His people. Specifically in this case, there was a special emphasis on God providing dwellings during the 40 year trek through the desert wilderness after the Exodus from slavery in Egypt. By the way, in 2019, the Feast of Booths is from October 13-20.

1. Come

Jesus invites anyone who is thirsty to **come** to Him ([John 7:37](#)). Anyone may come. Anyone implies rich or poor, well or sick, Jew or Gentile, male or female, you or me. In other words, there is no partiality in Christ. There is no criteria to meet in order to come to Jesus. No, Jesus says come anyone.

Jesus is incredible! To think that the King of kings, Lord of lords, the One who is sovereign over all things invites us to come to Him. Are you kidding? With the Queen of

England or even Aaron Rodgers for that matter, they might take back their invitation for someone with more power, wealth or clout. Jesus wouldn't do that. All of God's promises are "yes" in Him ([2 Corinthians 1:20](#)). Come to Him anyone. Come as you are.

For nearly 60 years, Billy Graham held evangelistic Crusades throughout the world. At the end of each sermon, Mr. Graham invited anyone to come and receive Christ as Lord and Savior. At that invitation, the signature hymn titled "Just As I Am" would be sung. The words of this old hymn captures the gist of the invitation to come to Jesus. The first verse goes like this:

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Yes, Jesus came to save sinners. In one of the accounts from the book of Mark, Jesus sat down to eat with tax collectors, misfits and other unwanted people. The Pharisees questioned it, but Jesus responded to their query. Here's [Mark 2:17b](#).

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.
[Mark 2:17b](#) (ESV)

Another good example of Jesus calling anyone to come to Him was His encounter with the woman at the well ([John 4](#)). Remember, Pastor Dan Cravillion preached on this awhile back. One of Dan's points was that God calls the least and the lost.

In John's account, this woman was certainly lost. She was living in sin with a man who was not her husband. In addition, she was one of the least of society, a half-breed, a Samaritan. Jews had no dealings with Samaritans. Yet, Jesus explained to her that unlike the water from the well she had come to draw, the water He gives will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life. Here's a look at [John 4:14](#).

..."but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
[John 4:14](#) (ESV)

As a young boy growing up in rural North Carolina, I spent my summers on a farm near our home. There was a spring of water that bubbled continuously with fresh, clear, cold water. Even at that young age, I was amazed at how the water's flow was unending. There was always more than enough water and it was free. There was no price for that water.

Jesus is the spring of Living water. He is the water that is free of price. He is the water that flows endlessly. Take a look at [Isaiah 55:1](#).

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
[Isaiah 55:1](#) (ESV)

God is calling to taste and see that the Lord is good ([Psalm 34:8](#)). Delight in Christ the eternal satisfaction, instead of hungering and thirsting for temporal, worldly things that only satisfy for a short time. Look to God in Christ whose work is being accomplished in places, people and situations least expected. As Pastor Dan said in his sermon a couple weeks ago, "There's no one God can't reach." Let me reiterate that by saying nothing is impossible for God ([Luke 1:37](#)).

Come to Jesus anyone who hungers and thirsts for righteousness, and you will be satisfied ([Matthew 5:6](#)). In other words, come anyone who is thirsty for the living water of eternal life that is Jesus. The fountain of living water Jesus offers is free to anyone who would come and drink. As Charles Spurgeon, renowned preacher in the 1800's, said "However poor the man is, there is the fountain, and, just as he is, he may drink of it."

2. Drink

Jesus' invitation for anyone to come to Him and **drink** was especially timely on the last day of the Feast of Booths. On this last day of the festival, the "great day", a special water-pouring ceremony occurred. The officiating priests would draw water from the pool of Siloam into golden pitchers. The priests would then proceed into the temple, singing words of praise to God written in the book of Isaiah. Here's [Isaiah 12:3](#).

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
[Isaiah 12:3](#) (ESV)

After circling the altar seven times, the water was poured into a basin near the altar. Meanwhile, wine was also poured into the basin. The mixing of the water and the wine was the high point of the ceremony. This was probably when Jesus gave His invitation for anyone who thirsts to come to Him and drink.

All of this ceremony reminded the people of God's provision of water in the desert wilderness. In the accounts of the Old Testament books of Exodus and Numbers, God provided His chosen people with water from the rock at Meribah, in spite of their grumbling and complaining ([Exodus 17:1-7](#) and [Numbers 20:2-13](#)). Water gushing from the rock was also a picture of the Messiah. Jesus is the rock, that when smitten, life-giving water flows freely from Him for anyone who is thirsty.

Jesus cried out to anyone to come to Him and drink the living water that is so desperately needed. He is the living water, the spring of endless and priceless water, welling up to eternal life. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only One that can quench or satisfy our spiritual thirst ([John 6:35](#)). He is the only One who is living water unto salvation, which means being saved from sin and death. Jesus is also the only One who is living water unto sanctification, which is the process of becoming more like Him. Whether believer or unbeliever, we all desperately need to come, drink and believe.

If you and I were dying of thirst in a desert, would we decline the invitation to drink to our heart's content; to drink until our thirst was satisfied? No! We'd be foolish if we didn't

come and drink. The Israelites in the desert wilderness knew they'd die without water. We need to know that we'll die without the life-giving water that is the Lord Jesus.

Unless a person drinks from the living water that Jesus freely offers, death is certain. Without Jesus there is no hope for life whether it be for today, tomorrow or eternity. Scripture describes weeping and gnashing of teeth in an eternal, conscious punishment in hell awaiting those who have not received the life-giving water that is the Lord Jesus Christ ([Luke 13:28](#), [16:24](#)).

How about you? Have you received the life-giving water unto salvation found in the Person of the Lord Jesus? If you haven't, death is certain. Hell is certain. But there's good news! Heaven is certain too through the sin-cleansing, all-atoning blood of Christ. That's the good news message of the cross.

The good news message of the cross is that God appointed Jesus to suffer and die a substitutionary and sacrificial death on the cross ([Isaiah 53:10](#)). He's incredible isn't He? The perfect and sinless Son of God exchanged His righteousness for our unrighteousness. Jesus' innocence was swapped for our guilt. His blood avails for sinners like you and me. His resurrection validates all of that. Anyone embracing this good news drinks life-giving water from Christ Jesus.

Remember the text ([John 7:37-39](#)), states that if **anyone** thirsts, let him come to Jesus and drink. Do you thirst for the water that only Jesus can give? If so, you can drink deeply from the fountain of life by simply coming to Him. Today is the day. If you haven't already done so, now is the time to heed Jesus' cry to come to Him and drink. He is the only source of life-giving water. Come. Drink. Believe.

3. Believe

In Jesus' incredible invitation, not only does He cry out for anyone to come to Him and drink, but He states a profound truth, which resonates across the ages - "Whoever **believes** in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" ([John 7:38](#)) To believe is to have faith. And faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen ([Hebrews 11:1](#)).

The Scripture Jesus referred to, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water' is not found anywhere word for word in the Bible. Rather, Jesus seems to be referring to different places in Scripture where there is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, resulting in life, joy and salvation. Let's take a look at [Isaiah 44:3](#).

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.
[Isaiah 44:3](#) (ESV)

In this context, the Holy Spirit is poured out on those who are spiritually thirsty. He is poured out on those destitute of and desperate for living water. Whoever believes in Jesus not only has life in Christ, but through the Holy Spirit becomes a source of life and blessing to others. In other words, the living water transforms from the inside-out. Others

can't help but see there's something different about a person who is born-again as a new creation in Christ.

Charles Colson was transformed from the inside-out by accepting Jesus' incredible invitation to come, drink and believe. Colson received Christ in a "flood of tears" in a friend's driveway in 1973. Here was a man who had served as a "hatchet man" in President Richard Nixon's administration, was guilty of involvement in the Watergate scandal, and was incarcerated for seven months in federal prison.

Years later, Colson was interviewed by Dan Rather, CBS news correspondent and anchor of the evening news. Colson recalls Rather saying, "Mr. Colson, you look so different than you did thirty years ago when I covered you, Watergate, and the White House." That's the Holy Spirit flowing like rivers of living water out of the heart of someone who has been born-again to a new life in Christ and become a source of life and blessing to others.

In addition, Jesus says that the Holy Spirit would be received by those whom believe in Him, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified ([John 7:39](#)). The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was manifested on the day of Pentecost, which is celebrated 50 days after Resurrection Sunday. He descended on the apostles at Pentecost ([Acts 2:1-4](#)). As a result, believers in Christ to this day have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit ([John 14:17](#)). He is Comforter, Counselor and Advocate for the church.

Consider the following statements. If inspiration, guidance and leading doesn't come from the Holy Spirit, then the work of ministry in the church, whether it be preaching, teaching, praying, or leading worship is in a spiritual drought. At La Crescent Evangelical Free Church (LEFC), is there evidence of the Holy Spirit's outpouring in the hearts of those gathering as the church? In fact, if the Holy Spirit wasn't being poured out to inspire, guide and lead at LEFC, would anyone notice? If there's no Holy Spirit, then there's no gospel, and certainly no invitation to come, drink and believe.

Conclusion

In Jesus incredible invitation, there's a call to action. He says trust me. There are no maybe responses; it's either accept or decline. Jesus' invitation is to come to Him, drink from Him and believe in Him. Nothing or no one else will do.

Remember that spring of water I told you about when I was a boy growing up in North Carolina? I never did drink from it. Perhaps it was ignorance, inconvenience or fear. I could get water to satisfy my thirst elsewhere. Besides, it was scary to go down to the spring; there might have been spiders and snakes along the way, and I know there were crayfish in the spring.

We can be that way with Jesus where we ignore Him or view Him as an inconvenience or even be afraid of Him. The spring of living water is right there, but we'd rather satisfy our thirst in something else; something more convenient; something safer than following Him. But Jesus calls and cries out to trust Him.

He's the only One who can satisfy the spiritually thirsty. He's the only One who is the living water that's offered without price. He's the only One to believe in because He is the only Way, the only Truth and the only Life and no one comes to the Father except through Him ([John 14:6](#)).

In conclusion, here's a Scripture to help us realize the staggering magnitude of how incredible Jesus is and how incredible His invitation is. Here's [Revelation 22:17](#).

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. [Rev 22:17](#) (ESV)

Are we thirsty to enjoy and be satisfied with the living water or will something or someone else do? In a world full of sin, chaos and despair, thank goodness Jesus' invitation is as good today as it was over 2,000 years ago. What will the response be; accept or decline? The incredible God-Man, the King of kings and Lord of lords, the living water is standing up and crying out. Come. Drink. Believe. Amen.