

Into Deeper Water

Ezekiel 47:1-12

9/20/03

Intro

- A great trip to CA and AZ

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As the book of Ezekiel comes to a close, he tells us an amazing prophecy about the last days. He is telling us about the 1000 year period of time we call the millennium when Jesus will rule and reign on the earth.

He also tells us about a river that will flow from the temple of the Lord toward the east. This river will become deeper as it flows and represents a picture of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last days like never seen before.

This becomes a great picture for us of how deep into the river of God we are willing to go because Ezekiel describes the water at first to be only at the ankles and then the knees, then the waist and finally to the point where he was swimming in the river of God.

The lesson for us is the importance in our lives of being willing to go deeper and deeper into the things of God and then we will see the fruit of this in a glorious way.

These, then, are the principles of going deeper in the river of God.

I. Go farther in

A. Water begins in the sanctuary

- It begins in a place of devotion to God
- The source of the water of life is God Himself

Psalm 63:1-2, “O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water. Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory.

B. Water reaching to the waist

- Ezekiel told of the places in our lives when the water is up to the ankles, and then the knees,
- “Getting your feet wet,” we say.
- And here he mentions the water is **up to the waist**.
- When we first come to the Lord, we just getting started in the Lord, and then says, “I want you to go deeper.”
- Then to the knees, and He says, “I want you to go deeper.”

Illus – this is a great picture of the dying to the flesh, the dependency of human effort, and being made alive unto God

C. Water that cannot be forded

- This a man who is wholly into the things of God.
- He doesn’t keep reaching for the ground

Illus – We love the safety of the shore. I remember a time when I tried to cross the Willamette River and struggled, all I wanted was to touch the bottom, to feel the security of the land.

- But here is a place of swimming in the river of the Holy Spirit. Letting Him fully lead. In that place there is fullness of joy.

Psalm 36:8-9, “They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; and You give them to drink of the river of Your delights. For with You is the fountain of life.”

II. Everything will live where the river goes

Vs 9b

A. The dry places are healed

- Jesus was speaking to the crowd that had gathered in Jerusalem...

John 7:37-38, “Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, “From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.”

- The desert is even healed by the Holy Spirit.
- “**Dryness**” is a great picture of a life without God.

B. The bitter waters are healed

- The river flows from the sanctuary of God and flows through the desert, healing all it touches, and then it flows into the Salt Sea; we call it the “**Dead Sea**.”
- **The salt water is a picture of bitterness of soul** and that no life comes from it.

James 3:11-12, ‘Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.’

- Here, also is a great promise of God, that the bitter soul is healed in the Lord. **It the only place it can be.**

Illus – when Israel came into the desert, they were thirst and came upon a spring where the water was bitter. They began to grumble to Moses...

Exodus 15:25, “Then he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree; and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet.”

- The cross is put into our lives and the bitter becomes sweet.

Illus – the old, bitter women, who no longer had to choose to be bitter... she simply was bitter.

C. But the swamps do not live

- Where the water does not flow, there is no life.
- The swamp is a place where the waters are stagnant.
- This an important question, “How are we doing in the Lord? Is there stagnation in our lives?”

Illus – have you ever been near a stagnant pond? It stinketh.

Matthew 24:12, “and because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.”

III. **There the trees are mighty**

Vs 7, 12

A. The trees will flourish

- The picture of a tree is used often in scripture to describe our lives.

Psalm 1:1-3 he will be like a tree firmly planted...

- To be a mighty tree should be a desire of us all.
- **A tree can stand in the storm, it has great strength.**
- **The roots reach deep**

B. Their leaves will not wither

- The leaves are green...

Jeremiah 17:7-8, “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.”

- And the leaved will be for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:1-3 the healing of the nations.

C. Their fruit will not fail

- Fruitfulness in our lives means a lot to all of us.
- Most people would say that when they leave this earth, they would like to leave it better than they found it.
- We want our lives to count for something.
- But there is nothing more valuable than the fruit we produce because the Holy Spirit is flowing within us.

Illus – a sickly tree produces no fruit, it is concerned only about its wound. Be healed in Jesus and then be free to produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you ‘living water.’”