

- I. Opening Thoughts
  - A. The division over Christ is as serious as it was in His day
  - B. Just as the people did then, we have to do now: make a choice
- II. Scriptural exegesis
  - A. Vss. 37-38
    1. Jesus told the Samaritan woman these same words (4:13-15); yet in this instance, He cried it out with a loud voice, while the people were drawing water for the feast
    2. Jesus is the only One who can quench our thirst, the only One who can satisfy and sustain us
    3. Three things summarize the gospel invitation: thirst, come, drink. "A recognition of need leads to an approach to the source of provision, followed by receiving what is needed. The thirsty, needy soul feels the craving to come to the Savior and drink, to receive the salvation that He offers" – Mac Arthur
    4. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles anticipated (the water pouring ceremony). If Isaiah could invite the thirsty to drink from the waters (Isaiah 55:1), Jesus announces that He is the One who can provide the waters
    5. Vs. 38 – Jesus here speaks of the inward work of the Holy Spirit in a believer as a river of water flowing out to bring blessing to others. Salvation is a life-giving source of water
  - B. Vs. 39
    1. "As yet the Spirit had not been given" – does not mean that there was no work of the Holy Spirit prior to Jesus' resurrection. In Genesis 1:2, it speaks of the Spirit "hovering over the face of the waters". Also, some OT verses even speak of the Spirit of God at work within believers prior to the coming of Christ – Genesis 41:38; Numbers 27:18; Deut. 34:9. This verse meant that the Spirit had not been given in the full and powerful sense that was promised for the new covenant age – Ezekiel 36:26-27; Joel 2:28-29
  - C. Vss. 40-52
    1. Different reactions to Jesus. Some believed, others were hostile, some were contrary, confused religious authorities
    2. "The Prophet" – refers to Moses 18:15-18
    3. "The Christ" – Messiah
    4. Many Jews thought that of the Prophet and Messiah as two separate individuals. Instead, Jesus fulfilled both offices; just as He is both Savior and Lord
    5. The crowd betrayed their own ignorance because Jesus was born in Bethlehem, not Galilee – Micah 5:2. If they would have looked carefully, they would not have jumped to the wrong conclusions. Always search the Scriptures before jumping to conclusions.
    6. Vss. 43-44 – once again, there was division. Further division took place in 9:16; 10:19; 7:12
    7. As Christians, we must expect division as we witness for Christ, even among those close to us
    8. Vss. 45-46 – The officers, who were religiously trained, were confronted by Jesus Himself and His powerful teaching. His ministry was undeniable
    9. Vss. 47-48 – The Pharisees mocked the officers on religious grounds; they accused them of being seduced by a deceiver. The Pharisees were so arrogant they thought no one could deceive them. They also viewed "the crowd" as ignorant and unlearned because they did not belong to their elite group or follow their beliefs.
    10. Vss. 50-52 – Nicodemus, who met Jesus at night, in private (John 3), now openly spoke in Jesus' favor. It is assumed that Nicodemus became a believer.
    11. Vs. 53 – Obviously, in their ignorance and hypocrisy, the Pharisees did not read their Bible! Jonah, Elijah, and Nahum were from Galilee. Their anger and frustration blinded their hearts to the truth.