

March 25 - The Great Day

[John 7:37-39](#)



I wonder if John writes these tiny words with a Mona Lisa grin on his mouth. Like he is pointing to something bigger than that “the great day” of the marvelous Jewish festival. The Feast of Tabernacles was being remembered. It was a remembrance of the end of the wilderness. Their wandering was done—the Promised Land inherited. This was the festival of pure wonder fully accomplished.

It began on a Sabbath and ended on a Sabbath. Each day, a priest would descend from the temple and take with him a golden ewer (pitcher). He would go down to the pool of Siloam, reach down deep into the water, scoop up the water of the under-temple and then ascend back up the steps to the altar of God. There, with great formality, he would pour out the water at the base of the altar.

Then the people would go out of the city into their sukkoth, tree-lined tents to memorialize their wandering days from the time of the forty years. Kids love these times. Nights under stars. It was eight days of camping. Each day, the men would return and watch the pageantry of the priest entering and pouring the water.

This last day is when our story begins—the great day. On this day, the priest would once again descend to the pool of Siloam, but when he got back, the men would walk around the altar seven times, and then the priest would dump the water at the base of the altar. Shouts of joyous remembrance would ring out. Jericho! Finally, God had brought them into the promised land.

It was a remembrance of Isaiah 12:3. “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” (Please read the rest of that

song—[verses 4-6](#) today) God is always a constant revealer of his promises.

After walking around the altar, the priests would sing these verses in tumultuous remembrance. We aren't given the exact moment, but one could guess that as soon as they finished their last lap, Jesus stood up.

Then it became the great day.

Jesus' words finally fill out the importance of the moment. Water has been brought up from below. The world is ready to erupt. Jericho/sin is ready to collapse.

And then he cries out above the tumult: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me, and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" (John 7:37-38)

Isaiah talked about the wells of salvation.

Jesus commands the people to come to him and drink.

Honestly, can you imagine being there for that? It is the "great day" of the feast of tabernacles. Everyone is ready for the joyous Isaiah verse. But then the fulfillment of the Isaiah verse shouts out in their midst. That would have been exhilarating.

That would have been a great day.

But it all points toward the great day. There is only blood that day. All people will dip from its wells. We strangely call it Good Friday. It probably should have been called "Great" Friday. If anyone is spiritually broken, then they should come to Jesus. If anyone is heathen, they should quench their thirst in him. If anyone has pharisaical bondage, they should find Jesus—quickly. Figure out where you are on your worst day.

And then...

See where John points with his great day. It is to Jesus and the centurion's confession.

Truly.

Jesus, truly You are our Well of Salvation. May your living water flow through us today into the lives of those around us. Amen.