

**Outside The Box Series - *Outside The Box Spirit Led and Spirit Filled Church***

**Outside The Box – 1<sup>st</sup> Church - *Tradition* has a way of holding you to your past, which some people love. *But it also has a way of limiting your future.***

**2<sup>nd</sup> Evangelism - Observers or Participants?**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Friendships -** That have the strongest relationships, have probably been though a few things together. We have a friend in Jesus!

**4<sup>th</sup> Great Grace -** only comes after *Great Mistake*

**5<sup>th</sup> Outside The Box Worship -** Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God *whatever the cost, "I'm going to worship God"*

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**Outside The Box Spirit Led and Spirit Filled Church**

**John 7:37-39 – KJV -** <sup>37</sup> In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. <sup>38</sup> He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. <sup>39</sup> (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

**John 7:37 – NKJV - The Promise of the Holy Spirit -** *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

**John 7:37 – CEV - Streams of Life-Giving Water -** *On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and shouted, "If you are thirsty, come to me and drink! <sup>38</sup> Have faith in me, and you will have life-giving water flowing from deep inside you, just as the Scriptures say." <sup>39</sup> Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit, who would be given to everyone that had faith in him. The Spirit had not yet been given to anyone, since Jesus had not yet been given his full glory*

***This bold statement of Jesus promises to the believers an experience that is nothing like anything they have ever heard or seen before.***

- ***“Out of their belly shall flow rivers of Living Water.” - KJV***
- ***“Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” - NKJV***
- ***“Life-giving water flowing from deep inside you.” - CEV***

**Jesus used living water in 4:10 to indicate eternal life.**

- Here He used the term to refer to the Holy Spirit.

***The two go together: Wherever the Holy Spirit is accepted, He brings eternal life!***

***The setting for this statement is a feast that would end the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles where many people have come ready to eat.***

- They have traveled from far away to come to this feast.
- They are hungry. They are thirsty.
- They are ready to sit down and fill their hungry bellies with whatever the host has provided for them.

***Jesus, understanding that the guests are hungry and ready to drink and eat, stands up and shouts to the people –***

***The Promise of the Holy Spirit - On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink!”***

***Come to me and drink – Alluded to the theme of many Bible passages that talk about the Messiah’s life-giving blessings.***

**In promising to give the Holy Spirit to all who believed in him, Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah, for that was something only the Messiah could do.**

- Jesus extends this open invitation to everyone today.
- Come to Him and accept his deeply satisfying love for you...

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<sup>38</sup> He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

I'm sure many people thought he was strange. But many who comprehended what He was promising understood that He was offering them something much better than what the Great Feast was going to provide.

- The feast was important. The feast was well prepared.
- The feast was rehearsed. The feast was expensive.
- The feast was what everyone expected.
- The feast was tradition. The feast was Great!

Jesus stands up and cries out to the people, *"I've got something much better than this prepared for you!"*

He let them know that there was coming something that no level of expertise, or preparation or rehearsal or expense or tradition could ever substitute for.

There was coming something that was ginormous if you will.

- It was something that no glass of water could compete with.
- *He likened it to not just a nice glass of cold refreshing water, but*
- *He said it is like a River of Living (Eternity) water.*
- *He said, "what I have to offer you will not just keep you alive and refreshed for a day or two, but*
- *He said, This living water will be alive inside of you and will flow out of you."*
- "There will be no holding this thing in,"
- *He said, "It will flow out of you whether you want it to or not.*
- *It will flow out of you when you want it to and when you are not expecting it to."*
- *He said, "It's like a river. It will be continuous, constant, relentless..."*

<sup>39</sup> But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Now verse 39 tells us - He's not really talking about water per say, but rather He's talking about the Holy Spirit Infilling.

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I want to talk to you about the Spirit Filled and Spirit Led Church.

*Here's a question for you - How can a person talk about something that they have never experienced before?*

- How could you be a successful salesperson of a product you yourself have never tried?
- How can a church talk about and promise to the world the help of the Holy Spirit if in fact it is not a Spirit Filled and Spirit Led Church?

Church must be more than something that is important to do on a Sunday.

It must be more than well prepared.

- *It must be more than* rehearsed, expensive, and more than expected.
- It should never be tradition.
- I believe My Church needs to be Spirit Filled and Spirit Led.
- I believe My Church needs to be a place where the Holy Spirit of God has free reign to operate and manifest.

*I don't know about you, but I am after more than a social gathering here today.*

- I am not a good enough speaker to captivate you with my Words.
- I am completely dependent upon the Spirit of God for the words that I share with you.

This church is prepared. We are rehearsed, we do aim for excellence in all that we do,

- But beyond that, On top of all of that, more important than all of that,
- What you should expect beyond all the work, rehearsal, expense, and preparedness is for God to show up!

**Without His touch on this service, we're just another nice place to gather to worship on Sunday morning.**

**We've been talking about the church that is Outside the Box!**

**If we're going to be a boxed church, then we don't need to talk about John 7:38.**

***If we are going to be a church that is Outside The Box,***

- Then we are going to **need His help** getting there -
- **And the key** to **becoming an Outside The Box Church** is **found in John 7:38!**

**We must be willing and able to allow the Holy Spirit to flow through us as individuals and as a corporate church.**

**Realize My Church will never become a Spirit Filled and Spirit Led Church until you and I as individuals become Spirit Filled and Spirit Led.**

**Can I ask, "Why Not?" - People want to make up all kinds of excuses and reasons why we should not get too carried away in church.**

- They want to **keep everyone quiet**.
- They want to tell us all to **settle down!**

**Why? - Church is not a mortuary. Church is not funeral home.**

***Church is a place where the Holy Spirit is supposed to have free reign and opportunity to touch lives that are hurting and who need ministered to.***

- There is **no form** here. There is **no fashion** here.
- We have **no real program**.
- **We are ready** at any moment **to stop whatever we are doing and allow God to work** and minister to people.
- **We are not** **led by the clock** or **the program here**.
- ***The Spirit leads us!***

**There is only one requirement for us as a church and as individuals: to become a Spirit Filled and Spirit Led Church...**

Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. <sup>38</sup> He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

**We have to want it!**

- We have to be **thirsty for it!**
- It has to be **what we desire** when we come to church!
- **We can't be nonchalant** about it.
- **We can't be careless** about it.
- **We have to want it!**

Listen, I appreciate all of you who work so hard to minister to the church on Sunday.

I appreciate our singers, sound technician, children's pastors for what they are doing, **Thank you!**

But Can I say **if we don't have the touch of God** and the moving of His Spirit upon all that we do, we are missing out on an amazing opportunity around here.

**CLOSE:**

God wants to meet us here.

- Jesus wants to touch lives.
- The Holy Spirit wants to fill somebody today.
- We say we are a church where Real Needs Are Met and where Lives Are Transformed,

Listen you and I cannot do that... Only Jesus can do that!

I have no ability to transform anything, but Jesus can, and He will if we as a congregation will only become Spirit Filled and Spirit Led!

**Church** is a place where the Holy Spirit is supposed to have free reign and opportunity to touch lives that are hurting and who need ministered to.

**Jesus stands up and cries out** to the people,  
***“I’ve got something much better than this prepared for you!”***

**The Promise of the Holy Spirit** –

***On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying,***

***“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink!”***

- Jesus extends **this open invitation** to everyone today.
- Come to Him and accept **his deeply satisfying love** for you...