

“IT’S BUBBLING”

Pastor Mike Corwin

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

TEXT: JOHN 7:37-39

GOD’S WORD: JOHN 4:1-30

I – BAD DAY:

As I look at the 7th chapter of John, I get the distinct feeling that Jesus is having a bad day. The very first verse tells us that he got up that morning knowing that while he was in Galilee, the Jewish leaders were in Judea plotting his death. His preaching and teaching had angered them, it had upset the status quo, it had started to erode their power base and they planned to put an end to it by making sure his life was snuffed out. Your day couldn’t get much worse could it?

But it did. His brothers came by and started to give him lip and attitude. His brothers, James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas (named in Matthew 13) didn’t yet believe he was the Son of God. They didn’t believe until after his death and resurrection. They stopped by as they were on their way to Judea for the Harvest Festival and sarcastically invited him along, telling him that if he was who he said he was, he should go to Judea so his followers could be amazed by all his miracles. They told him he should go and prove to the world he was the Messiah as he claimed to be. Jesus did end up going to the festival and was listening to what people were saying about him. And the Bible says that none of his followers had the courage to speak up about him in public because they were afraid of getting in trouble with the same Jewish leaders who were plotting to kill him. So they kept quiet.

Jesus did not keep quiet. Midway through the weeklong festival he went to the Temple and spoke in front of the very people who were planning to kill him. Not only did he speak, but he told all those present about the conspiracy to kill him. He exposed them to all.

II – HE WAS BUBBLING:

Why would you do such a thing? Let's think this through for a moment shall we? If I'm Jesus, the last place I'm going to go is into the midst of those who want to murder me. If I'm Jesus I'm going to stay in Galilee and let the festival go on without me, aren't you? Jesus isn't wearing a bullet proof vest...he isn't surrounded by the Israeli secret service...their aren't snipers on the roof top watching the crowd for possible threats...there is no SWAT team hiding around the Temple corner with weapons of mass destruction strapped to their camels...no military power has an aircraft carrying barge on the Sea of Galilee so they can call in an air strike...and he not packing any weapons under his robe. Why would you even think about invading the enemy's fortress and putting your life at risk?

Not only was he putting his own life at risk by just being there, but he aggravated the situation by opening his mouth and telling them the way it was. Telling them that they were no better than anybody else, which they themselves were sinners and broke the very laws of Moses that they expected everyone else to live by. Telling them that the very plan to kill him was a huge sin in itself. The Pharisees and other Jewish rulers were livid! How dare he do this, how dare he speak about them in public, how dare he accuse them of sin, and how dare he publicly embarrass them. We know they were mad because they tried to arrest him so they could do what they wanted that very day (verse 30).

We would believe that Jesus would have been better off to keep his mouth shut and insure his own safety...but he couldn't. He couldn't because of what it says in verse #16:

So Jesus told them, "I'm not teaching my own ideas, but those of God who sent me."

Jesus was so full of the presence of God that it was bubbling over. He couldn't help but show his faith in a relationship with God.

III – TEXT – JOHN 7:37-39:

This is the same thing that happens to a follower of Jesus. You get so full of God's presence, the Holy Spirit that you bubble over. In this same Chapter we read this passage:

JOHN 7:37-39 (NLT)

³⁷On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! ³⁸Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" ³⁹(When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given

to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

The harvest festival lasted 7 full days as the people gave thanks to God for the harvest that had been given to them. On the 8th day there is a day for spiritual observance and an offering to God. On this day Jesus stands and speaks again. He uses the image of water to make a point about the fact that he is the Messiah. Each day of the festival the priests had a procession to the pool of Siloam and drew water out of the pool. This water they took back to the temple and poured it out on the altar while the people recited Isaiah 12:3 shouting, "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." This was to memorialize how God had given water to the people wandering in the wilderness with Moses to keep them alive.

Jesus stands and says that if anyone is thirsty they should come to him. He is saying that he is the Messiah, that he is the well of salvation and that anyone who believes in him can come and drink and find that Salvation.

He also says that when you drink from this well, when you believe and claim him as the Messiah, as your Lord and Savior, you will have rivers of living water flowing from your heart. And then it explains that he is speaking about the Holy Spirit, which is given to everyone who believes. When you accept Christ you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in you, fills your heart, and once that happens you are so full of the love of God that you bubble over! You can't keep the water to yourself, you have to share it! It gushes out of you.

IV – HOW THE WORK GETS DONE:

This is how the work of the Church of Jesus Christ get's done. People get so filled up with Jesus that they bubble over. Remember the story about the woman at the well we started last week and you heard read this morning? The woman gave Jesus a drink but he gave her the Living Water. He filled her with his love and filled her heart with his Salvation. And she bubbled over. She dropped everything she had and ran to her village and the message of Christ's love gushed out of her to the point the whole village came streaming out to see Jesus and meet Jesus, and to get a drink of this Living Water themselves.

There is just something about getting this drink of Salvation that makes you bubble from within. Makes you so happy that you can't keep it to yourself. The love you receive bubbles over and gets others wet. You have to tell others, you have to hug others; you have to share the Good News with others. Some of you have made mention of the fact that I get a

little excited when I preach. That I have a tendency to dance around, to hop, to prance, or whatever other word you want to use to describe me, but the best description is the fact that I'm bubbling! I'm so in love with Jesus, so filled by the presence of the Holy Spirit that when God grants me the opportunity to open my heart it just all comes gushing out in a torrent, and I won't apologize for it. I hope you all drown in this Living Water.

The Church of Jesus Christ was born and lives by this bubbling over of the Living Water. Remember Pentecost? The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and filled them so much that they began speaking in foreign languages. Filled them so much that they took the message of Jesus Christ to the streets, and filled them so much that the preaching and worship was so effective that 3,000 people joined the church that day! The disciples bubbled over. And people have continued to bubble over for the last 2,000 years so you are here today.

V – IT'S BUBBLING:

And my message for you today is "**IT'S BUBBLING.**" The Church is still bubbling. For the last few years it would appear that the bubbles had ceased. Especially this last year as we faced the pandemic of Covid. It seemed like the fizz had gone out of Christianity. All the churches around had turned off their fountains and started to die because the thirst of the people was not being met.

But I believe it's still bubbling. I believe that the water pressure has been turned up and the Living Water is flowing again. I believe that humanity is on the verge of another great revival and I believe it may very well start right here in this town through this church!

I look out on those God has brought here and I see bubbling. I see Living Water flowing from you as you dream and vision how to tell others about Jesus Christ. I see those who were thirsty sitting here drinking of the Living Water because you've bubbled over and brought them here to have their thirst quenched. I see a church and a people who are bubbling over and ready to flood a community with the love of Christ and the Grace of God. It's bubbling so open the doors and let the flood begin!