

From the Rector's Study, The Rev. Bryce Sangster
Sunday, May 28th, 2023, Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:25-35, 37 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 7:37-39

Out of our heart shall flow rivers of living water. Sounds very poetic and encouraging. And if you're thirsty come and drink. This follows from John 6:35 *whoever comes to me will never be hungry whoever believes in me will never thirst.*

Then the sermon on the mount, the Beatitudes: *blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

I like the translation as justice rather than righteousness. This seems to suggest justice and freedom for all while righteousness as more of an individual aspect to it in my mind.

Therefore, these rivers of living water that Jesus talks about flowing out of our hearts have to flow into our hearts first. Pentecost, flow of the spirit, the living water into our hearts and then to be expressed in our thoughts, words, and actions.

In Acts:

*"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.*

*¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.*

Dreams, visions, and prophecies. The sense of hope and therefore we make the change so that good news can come about. So not so much a prediction but hope with our efforts and actions. The possibility of having our hunger and thirst filled.

This all sounds well and good, but where do we start? Where does it end? With television and the Internet, and other forms of communication, we have so much more information about the problems and the issues facing others throughout the world than they did at the time this was written. How can we ever have our hunger and thirst for justice filled? Maybe that's where the two parts come together. Not only does the bad news get communicated from all parts of the world, but we can be in touch with others as well to bring support and good news. This means that we are aware of more that is going on but also that we can communicate with others, and they can share with us. This means that there is a broader base of where the support and help can come from. We can work together and not have to keep coming up with solutions on our own, not having to reinvent the wheel ourselves and overtime

find out how others are responding, and we can share the dreams and visions together.

The actual quote I began with is: *“Out of the believer’s heart^{ab} shall flow rivers of living water.”*

And from 1 Corinthians today: Paul talks about the different gifts of the spirit and says: *All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.*

The believer and individually. The believer and individually are singular. Does that mean we are on our own in this?

Paul goes on to say: *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹⁸ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

Thus, we can share our visions and dreams and hope for the future for all of us as a way forward together. And all have a part to play.

And just like Jesus last week praying for his followers and not the world, we don’t have to do it all at once but move toward where the Spirit, the rivers of living waters are leading us.

Amen

Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing ...