**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Rivers of Revival |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Ezekiel 47:1-12 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2475 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. There are three categories of people in every church:
      1. Those who make things happen.
         1. These are they who pray for God to send a mighty revival and to send it through them.
      2. Those who watch things happen.
         1. These are Sunday morning spectators.
         2. They think they have done God a favor by getting to the church service.
            1. But the real “service” is when you walk out the church doors and begin to serve the Lord.
      3. Those who don’t even know anything is happening.
         1. They go to church for appearances or out of habit or because someone invited them.
         2. They don’t really understand what is going on.
   2. John 7:37-38
      1. There was a feast of the Jews called the Feast of Tabernacles.
         1. It was the tenth feast in the Jewish year.
      2. It was a feast of great joy and exhilaration.
      3. On the last day of the feast, the priest would go down to the Pool of Siloam.
         1. He would fill a golden flask with water and go back to the temple.
      4. He would pour out the water by the altar, and the people would begin to shout and to praise God.
         1. The trumpets would sound.
      5. In the middle of all of this was Jesus Christ.
         1. All of the Old Testament symbols were about Jesus.
         2. All of the feasts were about Jesus.
         3. Jesus Christ, the Water of Life, was standing in their midst, but they didn’t recognize Him or know who He was.
      6. As they were pouring out sparkling water (symbolizing the Lord Jesus Christ), Jesus invited any who were thirsty to come to Him and to drink.
         1. Jesus knew that these people, who were so full of religious fervor, would go back to their same old fears, foibles and failures.
            1. After the enthusiasm of the moment had died, they would go back to their old way of life.
         2. Jesus knew that what they needed was not to come to a service to get their cup filled but to become a river of living water.
            1. We are to be a river of revival.
            2. Revival power is to be flowing though us.
   3. Ezekiel 47:1-5
      1. This Scripture illustrates the passage in John 7.
      2. This applies to us personally.
      3. The illustration here is the Old Testament temple of God.
         1. The author is using supernatural symbolism to describe something that is happening from the temple.
         2. He is not talking about the literal temple here, but there is a greater spiritual lesson.
      4. As Christians, we are the temple of God.
         1. The Old Testament temple was an illustration of the Christian.
         2. In the Old Testament, God had a temple for His people.
         3. In the New Testament, God has a people for His temple.
            1. 1 Corinthians 6:19
   4. There is a river of revival that should be flowing through us.
2. the mysterious source of this river (Ezekiel 47:1)
   1. This river comes from under the threshold.
      1. Ezekiel 47:1
      2. The idea here is that it’s about as low as you can get.
   2. This river has a humble source.
      1. Revival never begins without God’s people humbling themselves, on their faces before Him.
         1. Have you really, truly been broken and humbled before God?
         2. We often strut into the presence of God; heady, high-minded, unbent and unbroken.
      2. James 4:10
   3. It comes from a holy source.
      1. It flows past the altar.
         1. Ezekiel 47:1
      2. The altar was the place where the blood was shed.
      3. The blood that was shed in the Old Testament speaks of the blood of Jesus Christ.
         1. 1 John 1:9
      4. If we want to be a river of blessing, then we must be humble and holy.
         1. The only way to be holy is to let the water of our lives flow past the altar for cleansing.
   4. The river is a heated flow.
      1. Ezekiel 47:1
         1. The waters flowed toward the East.
            1. The sun rises in the East.
         2. The waters flowed from the south side of the altar.
            1. That is the sunny side of the altar.
      2. People should feel the warmth of Jesus in our churches.
      3. We should be full of enthusiasm and love for the Lord Jesus.
         1. Our hearts should be hot toward the Lord Jesus.
3. the marked course of the river (ezekiel 47:2-5)
   1. This humble, holy and heated flow becomes an ever-deepening and ever-enlarging river.
      1. It is a supernatural river because there are no tributaries.
      2. It grows in width and in depth.
   2. Ezekiel 47:3-5
      1. There’s a man with a measuring line, measuring the depth of the river.
      2. The man wades in the river, which is ankle deep.
         1. This speaks of walking in the Spirit.
      3. The river becomes knee-deep.
         1. This speaks of praying in the Spirit.
      4. The river deepens to waist deep.
         1. This signifies strength in the Spirit.
         2. The loins are spoken of in the Bible as the center of our strength.
      5. The waters become so deep and forceful that he couldn’t pass through.
         1. These are waters in which he would be swept up.
         2. This is genuine, Holy Spirit control of our lives where the water of revival is flowing out of us and getting wider and deeper.
   3. You cannot stop a river.
      1. The only place where you could stop a river would be at its source.
         1. The only thing that can stop the river of revival in your life is you.
            1. John 7:38
   4. Where do the waters flow?
      1. They flow to the depressed places.
         1. Ezekiel 47:8
            1. The waters flow down from the mountain into the depressed places.
         2. We live in a land of depressed people.
            1. They may be sick.
            2. They may be out of work.
            3. They have wayward children.
            4. They are confused, perplexed, unsatisfied and fearful.

There needs to be a supernatural river flowing out of us and into these depressed places so that we can be a river of revival to these hurting people.

* + 1. They flow into the desert places.
       1. Ezekiel 47:8
          1. The desert mentioned here is the Judean desert.

Nothing much grows in this desert.

There is no real fruitfulness there.

* + - 1. Many people are living desert lives, parched lives.
         1. They do not know the joy we as Christians know.
         2. They do not know joy unspeakable and full of glory.
         3. They do not have the answers to life that we have.
    1. They flow down into the deadly places.
       1. Ezekiel 47:8
          1. The sea spoken of here is the Dead Sea.

No organic life can live in this sea.

The Dead Sea is saltier than any ocean.

There is so much salt in the Dead Sea that you can sit in it and not sink.

But the Dead Sea is also a deadly place.

It has no fish because it is a deadly place.

* + - 1. There are people around us who are dying and going to Hell.
         1. There is a place of death, and it can even be next door.
         2. Romans 6:23
         3. Ezekiel 18:20
         4. 1 Timothy 5:6
         5. We have to show them the way to life in Christ.
      2. A river of life has to flow out of us.
         1. Will you touch their lives?

1. the mighty force of the river (ezekiel 47:7)
   1. Where the waters flow, the trees will grow.
      1. Ezekiel 47:7
         1. The Jericho road going down to the Dead Sea is dry and barren, yet these trees on the bank of the river were green and succulent.
         2. These trees represented here are not literal trees.
            1. Psalm 1:3
            2. These are healthy Christians who are finding strength and life.
      2. A healthy saint is like a tree.
   2. Where the waters flow, the fish will go.
      1. Ezekiel 47:8-9
      2. This river cascades down into the depressed places, the desert places and the deadly places.
         1. The water comes to the Dead Sea, and a transformation takes place.
         2. This sea where no fish could live now begins to swarm with fish.
            1. We are to be fishers of men.

Matthew 4:19

* + 1. We catch so few fish because we fish in a stagnant pond.
       1. Revival is not evangelism.
          1. Evangelism is the fruit of revival.
    2. When we get on fire for the Lord Jesus, it will be noised abroad.
       1. Acts 2:6
          1. On the Day of Pentecost, there were only about 120 disciples.
          2. Historians estimate there were approximately one million people in Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover.
          3. How do 120 people impact one million?

The unsaved will come when they see the reality of Jesus Christ.

* + - 1. The world is not looking for a new definition of the Gospel; they’re looking for a new demonstration of the Gospel.
    1. Souls will come by the multitudes.
       1. The sea will swarm with fish, and our nets will be full when we let the Spirit of God flow out through us.
       2. Your life will be a testimony.
  1. Where the river flows, the fruit will show.
     1. Ezekiel 47:12
     2. Psalm 1:3
        1. There is fruit.
     3. People should see the fruit of the Spirit in us.
     4. The test of our ministry is this:
        1. Are we helping others become more like Jesus?
        2. Colossians 1:28
     5. The fruit spoken of here in Ezekiel is the fruit of the Spirit.
        1. Galatians 5:22-23
           1. This is a description of the character of Christ.
     6. When a river of revival flows out of our innermost being, then those around us will be discipled, and they will become fruitful.
  2. Where the waters flow, the health will glow.
     1. Ezekiel 47:12
     2. Many churches today (the body of Christ) are sick, weak and anemic.
        1. What would happen if every church member became a river of revival?
        2. What would happen if we became real in our service to the Lord?
     3. We are to have a healing force on this world and our cities.
     4. Everywhere we go, there is to be spiritual health because the river is flowing out of us and touching lives.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Are you thirsty today?
      1. John 7:37
         1. It begins with a thirst.
   2. We have all of God that we want.
      1. Matthew 5:6
      2. A shallow thirst, a shallow satisfaction.
      3. A deep thirst, a deep satisfaction.
   3. Do you have a genuine thirst for Jesus?
      1. It’s not a one-time thing; it’s a constant thing.
         1. You drink and keep on drinking.
   4. Matthew 10:32-33
      1. The faith that will not lead to confession will not lead to Heaven.
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16