

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Rivers of Revival

SERMON REFERENCE: Ezekiel 47:1-12

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2475

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There are three categories of people in every church:
 - i) Those who make things happen.
 - (1) These are they who pray for God to send a mighty revival and to send it through them.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) But the real “service” is when you walk out the church doors and begin to serve the Lord.
 - iii) 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.
- b) John 7:37-38
 - i) There was a feast of the Jews called the Feast of Tabernacles.
 - (1) It was the tenth feast in the Jewish year.
 - ii) It was a feast of great joy and exhilaration.
 - iii) 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.
 - iv) 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.
 - v) 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.
 - vi) 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.
 - (a) 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.
 - (a) We are to be a river of revival.
 - (b) Revival power is to be flowing through us.
- c) Ezekiel 47:1-5
 - i) This Scripture illustrates the passage in John 7.
 - ii) This applies to us personally.
 - iii) 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.
 - iv) 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.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 6:19
 - d) There is a river of revival that should be flowing through us.
- 2) THE MYSTERIOUS SOURCE OF THIS RIVER (EZEKIEL 47:1)
- a) This river comes from under the threshold.
 - i) Ezekiel 47:1
 - ii) The idea here is that it's about as low as you can get.
 - b) This river has a humble source.
 - i) 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.
 - ii) James 4:10
 - c) It comes from a holy source.
 - i) It flows past the altar.
 - (1) Ezekiel 47:1
 - ii) The altar was the place where the blood was shed.
 - iii) The blood that was shed in the Old Testament speaks of the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) 1 John 1:9
 - iv) 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.
 - d) The river is a heated flow.
 - i) Ezekiel 47:1
 - (1) The waters flowed toward the East.
 - (a) The sun rises in the East.
 - (2) The waters flowed from the south side of the altar.
 - (a) That is the sunny side of the altar.
 - ii) People should feel the warmth of Jesus in our churches.
 - iii) 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)

- a) This humble, holy and heated flow becomes an ever-deepening and ever-enlarging river.
 - i) It is a supernatural river because there are no tributaries.
 - ii) It grows in width and in depth.
- b) Ezekiel 47:3-5
 - i) There's a man with a measuring line, measuring the depth of the river.
 - ii) The man wades in the river, which is ankle deep.
 - (1) This speaks of walking in the Spirit.
 - iii) The river becomes knee-deep.
 - (1) This speaks of praying in the Spirit.
 - iv) 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.
 - v) 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.
- c) You cannot stop a river.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) John 7:38
- d) Where do the waters flow?
 - i) They flow to the depressed places.
 - (1) Ezekiel 47:8
 - (a) The waters flow down from the mountain into the depressed places.
 - (2) We live in a land of depressed people.
 - (a) They may be sick.
 - (b) They may be out of work.
 - (c) They have wayward children.
 - (d) They are confused, perplexed, unsatisfied and fearful.
 - (i) 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.
 - ii) They flow into the desert places.
 - (1) Ezekiel 47:8
 - (a) The desert mentioned here is the Judean desert.
 - (i) Nothing much grows in this desert.
 - (ii) There is no real fruitfulness there.
 - (2) Many people are living desert lives, parched lives.
 - (a) They do not know the joy we as Christians know.
 - (b) They do not know joy unspeakable and full of glory.
 - (c) They do not have the answers to life that we have.
 - iii) They flow down into the deadly places.

- (1) Ezekiel 47:8
 - (a) The sea spoken of here is the Dead Sea.
 - (i) No organic life can live in this sea.
 - (ii) The Dead Sea is saltier than any ocean.
 - (iii) There is so much salt in the Dead Sea that you can sit in it and not sink.
 - (iv) But the Dead Sea is also a deadly place.
 - 1. It has no fish because it is a deadly place.
 - (2) There are people around us who are dying and going to Hell.
 - (a) There is a place of death, and it can even be next door.
 - (b) Romans 6:23
 - (c) Ezekiel 18:20
 - (d) 1 Timothy 5:6
 - (e) We have to show them the way to life in Christ.
 - (3) A river of life has to flow out of us.
 - (a) Will you touch their lives?
- 4) THE MIGHTY FORCE OF THE RIVER (EZEKIEL 47:7)
- a) Where the waters flow, the trees will grow.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) Psalm 1:3
 - (b) These are healthy Christians who are finding strength and life.
 - ii) A healthy saint is like a tree.
 - b) Where the waters flow, the fish will go.
 - i) Ezekiel 47:8-9
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) We are to be fishers of men.
 - (i) Matthew 4:19
 - iii) We catch so few fish because we fish in a stagnant pond.
 - (1) Revival is not evangelism.
 - (a) Evangelism is the fruit of revival.
 - iv) When we get on fire for the Lord Jesus, it will be noised abroad.
 - (1) Acts 2:6
 - (a) On the Day of Pentecost, there were only about 120 disciples.
 - (b) Historians estimate there were approximately one million people in Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover.
 - (c) How do 120 people impact one million?
 - (i) The unsaved will come when they see the reality of Jesus Christ.

- (2) The world is not looking for a new definition of the Gospel; they're looking for a new demonstration of the Gospel.
- v) 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.
- c) Where the river flows, the fruit will show.
 - i) Ezekiel 47:12
 - ii) Psalm 1:3
 - (1) There is fruit.
 - iii) People should see the fruit of the Spirit in us.
 - iv) The test of our ministry is this:
 - (1) Are we helping others become more like Jesus?
 - (2) Colossians 1:28
 - v) The fruit spoken of here in Ezekiel is the fruit of the Spirit.
 - (1) Galatians 5:22-23
 - (a) This is a description of the character of Christ.
 - vi) When a river of revival flows out of our innermost being, then those around us will be disciplined, and they will become fruitful.
- d) Where the waters flow, the health will glow.
 - i) Ezekiel 47:12
 - ii) 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?
 - iii) We are to have a healing force on this world and our cities.
 - iv) Everywhere we go, there is to be spiritual health because the river is flowing out of us and touching lives.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Are you thirsty today?
 - i) John 7:37
 - (1) It begins with a thirst.
- b) We have all of God that we want.
 - i) Matthew 5:6
 - ii) A shallow thirst, a shallow satisfaction.
 - iii) A deep thirst, a deep satisfaction.
- c) Do you have a genuine thirst for Jesus?
 - i) It's not a one-time thing; it's a constant thing.
 - (1) You drink and keep on drinking.
- d) Matthew 10:32-33
 - i) The faith that will not lead to confession will not lead to Heaven.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

- f) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16