

J.R. Miller:

"If any man thirsts â€" let him come unto Me, and drink." John 7:37

Every word here is full of meaning!

"If" marks the one condition to which the Savior's invitation is addressed. Of course, if we do not thirst â€" then we will not care to come to the well and drink. Souls are dying all around us, not because there is no water near â€" but because they are not thirsty! Intense thirst is a pitiable condition; but the lack of soul-thirst â€" is infinitely more pitiable! It is eternally hopeless.

The words "any man" show us how universal is our Lord's invitation. The cry was not to "any Jew," nor to "any man of good character," but to "any man." No one is left out.

The word "thirsty" describes the need which Christ is able to supply. It is not bodily thirst â€" but thirst of the soul â€" which He offers to quench. For the soul as well as the body has its thirst â€" and there is no earthly spring at which the soul can be satisfied.

The words "let him come" show us that the gate to the fountain flung wide open! There is no barrier in the way. "Let him come" reminds us, however, that if we would have our thirst quenched by Christ â€" then we must sincerely come to Him. We must leave our dry wastelands where there is no water â€" and come to Christ. We cannot find Christ â€" while we stay in our sins!

The word "drink" tells us that we must sincerely receive Christ Himself into our hearts â€" if we would have our thirst satisfied in Him. Merely going to a spring and looking at its sparkling waters â€" will never quench anyone's thirst; we must actually drink of the waters. Just so, merely looking at Christ is not enough to bless us; we must receive Him into our life â€" and His Spirit will fill our hearts.

This new picture of Christ â€" presents Him as a great well in the dry and barren desert. The water gushes from a cleft in the rock. We understand the meaning of the cleft â€" Jesus died that there might be living water for our soul's thirst!

"Smite the rock â€" and water will come out of it for the people to drink!" Exodus 17:6