

Week of April 22-28

## **AN ARTESIAN WELL**

**Scripture Reading:** Read John chapter 7

The majority of wells from which people draw water today require pumps to draw the water out of the ground. In the case of an artesian well, however, no pump is required. Artesian wells are formed when an inclined layer of loose rock, gravel, or sand is sandwiched between two layers of solid rock. The middle layer of permeable rock, such as limestone or sandstone, absorbs water from an inlet path at high elevation, such as the top of a mountain. The water source might be fed by snowmelt or precipitation. The water percolates downward through interconnected pore spaces. The water held in these spaces is under pressure because of the weight of water in the portion of the aquifer above it. Farther down, if an opening is made, there is pressure that makes the water spurt out and you have an artesian well. In areas where the slope of the aquifer is great enough, pressure will drive the water above ground level in an amazing and permanent fountain. Because the water has to pass through porous rock to reach the aquifer, it is naturally filtered. It is usually cold and free of organic contaminants, making it desirable for drinking.

In today's Scripture reading, Jesus speaks of a "spiritual artesian well." The setting for the chapter is the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem. It was one of the three required feast days in the calendar when all Jewish males were to appear before the Lord. One aspect of the feast included a daily procession of priests from the temple to the Pool of Siloam, from which they drew water that was poured out as an offering at the altar. This was accompanied by the recital of Isaiah 12:3: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." The offering of water served as reminder of God's provision of water in the wilderness.

How fitting, then, that on the last day of the feast, Jesus would call out in a loud voice, *"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."* Imagine what this moment must have been like. Physical water was being poured out in worship by the priests while spiritual water was being offered by the Son of God with faith the only requirement to receive this water of life.

For those who would come to Jesus, notice what he also offers as well. Jesus mentions streams of living water flowing from within the believer. According to verse 39, Jesus is referring to the Holy Spirit. He is promising that the life-giving Holy Spirit will take up residence in each believer after He is glorified. The result would be like streams of water bubbling up and gushing out of a person. This is similar to what he promised the Samaritan woman, *"Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* It's a spiritual artesian well and I guarantee you that this life-giving water from the Spirit is free of all sinful contaminants and is safe and good to drink!

**Action Step & Prayer Focus:** Reread the sections in John 4 and John 7 about the water of life. Ask the Lord to release an artesian well of the Spirit in your life.

**Take-away:** *Spiritual artesian wells are possible when you tap into the aquifer of the Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ.*