

Getting Practical:

Once again we are challenged to live as a body. We are not called to be individual temples that God works through. We are called to be the Temple of God, together, and we must do this within community. It is a communal call to mission:

Pieces of a Healthy Community

***Piece 1** – Do I have people surrounding me that agree with God’s mission and desire to join in it with me? If so, LIST them. If not, FIND them. Sometimes new relationships need to be formed in order to find these people.

***Piece 2** – Do I have wiser people pouring into my life? Am I being “discipled?” If not, write out a list of 2-3 people who you respect and may want to ask.

***Piece 3** – Am I involved in bringing living water to others’ lives? Am I “discipling” anyone?

The “Dead Sea” is stagnant water. Many rivers pour into it, but it doesn’t give anything away. This is why it is a place of death and chaos. It just takes, takes, takes, and gives nothing away.

- Are We Stagnant Water?
- What does it look like to bring living water within our workplaces, politics, family, and neighborhoods?

Ending Thoughts:

- “God begins His story by providing order from chaos. A beautiful creation is spoken into motion. This creation includes water, which will continually bring life to every part of his creation. Later God comes and dwells in the Temple among His people. The Temple was to serve as a place of sustenance for the people and influence for the nations. Jesus comes to bring a new temple....us, the Church, the body of Christ. His Spirit dwells within us and empowers us to live on this mission of influence, reconciliation, healing, and bringing of Shalom to the world. We are bringers/springs of living water in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.”

Don't Miss

- Look at the “Love Your Neighbor” section in the weekly bulletin
- The Four Corners Offering during June is for Kids Food Basket.
- Look for opportunities to help those in our community who are hurting

Ezekiel 47 “The River of Grace”



EverGreen
Ministries
June 20, 2010

message notes:

- Broken World
- Life Giving Water
- Our Hope in Christ

Explore the Story, Discover Your Life A Study for Small Groups and Individuals

Remembering – “The River of Grace”

- Look at your message notes. What part of the message made you wonder, want to know more, held particular meaning for your life, or just caught your attention?

1. Water is Life: Ezekiel 47

In the Jewish culture **water was equated to life**. Century after century the Jews would rely on God to bring rain in order to sustain them. Even today, water is in short supply in many areas. We may take water for granted in the United States, but it is the source of physical sustenance. It brings life.

- Read Ezekiel 47:1-12:
 - We just said that water brings life. According to these verses how and to who does this life come?
 - What does this tell us about God’s desire for restoration? Read Rev 22:1-3

2. Dead is Dead

The name “Dead Sea” is actually a kinder form of the Hebrew word “Yam ha Maved,” which means, Killer Sea. The surface of the Dead Sea is over 1300 feet below sea level. It is made up of 35% dissolved salts. Everything is dead, nothing moves, nothing lives. In fact, the shores and the bottom of this Sea is just salt.

Ezekiel sees this “Killer Sea” being renewed & giving/creating life from the river that is flowing into it. Something that once brought death and chaos now brings life on behalf of this flowing water.

EXPLORE!

Questions to Discuss

*What is special about this river/water that is being poured out that would cause life to be formed in a barren and chaotic land?

*Do you see any echoes of the Garden of Eden in these verses? What similarities and connections do you see? Look through Genesis 1:1-31 and try to find some themes (chaos, water, life, etc).

Read John 4:4-14

*Focus on verse 14. “The water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” We were as “Dead” as the Dead Sea prior to this living water being within us. Because of Jesus we are now a spring, from which, water continually pours out to all of creation.

3. Temple – Giving Life

The Temple was the location of God’s presence among His people. Ezekiel sees living water (renewal, restoration) being poured out from this temple bringing healing, justice, and righteousness to all parts of creation.

Important! - Read John 7:37-39

*Jesus is the water from which we drink! His Spirit is given to us in order that our lives may give off living water (healing, restoration, justice, righteousness, etc) to all of creation.

Important! – Read Ephesians 2:14-22

*We (as a body) are now the Temple in which His Spirit lives. We are God’s dwelling place. We are God’s plan for this world...**There is no backup.**

Question to Discuss

*Would you say that streams of living water are being poured out in all areas of creation within the body you associate with? How? In what ways?

*What is the role of the Holy Spirit in bringing this living water to creation? How does this provide us with confidence?