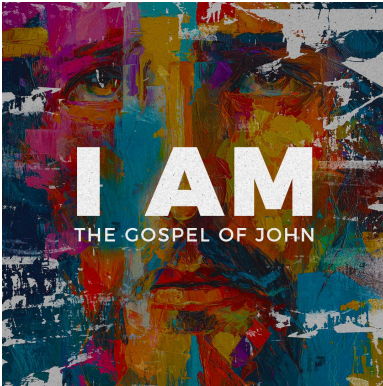


Title: Come and Drink
Series: I Am
Speaker: Kevin Sneed
Date: August 9, 2026



Key Texts: John 7:1-52, Ezekiel 47:1, 5-7, Isaiah 12:3

Introduction

John 7 drops us into the middle of a debate that the crowds cannot seem to let go of: who is Jesus? Three rounds of public interrogation about Jesus' teaching, origin, and destination all land on the same answer: everything about Jesus flows from God the Father. As they argue, doubt, and even plot against them, Jesus responds by interrupting the ceremony on the final day of the Feast of Tabernacles with an invitation calling anyone who is thirsty to come and drink.

Icebreaker

What is something you've always wanted to try, but just haven't yet? What has kept you from doing so?

Discussion Questions

1. Read **John 7:1-52** aloud as a group, and, as you do, imagine that you are among the crowd listening to Jesus speak. What kind of details would you pay attention to? What stands out to you from Jesus' words?
2. What stands out to you about the different ways that people describe Jesus in this passage (re-visit **John 7:1-13** if needed)? What do you think surprises the people about Jesus? How do you think people would describe Jesus today?
3. Read **John 7:14-36**. In these verses, we see the trial or interrogation theme emerge again. What do these verses reveal about Jesus' relationship to the Father? Why do you think Jesus kept emphasizing His connection to God the Father?

4. Read **John 7:37-41**. In the middle of a ceremony (the Festival of Tabernacles) that carried all sorts of different meanings – a prayer for literal rain, a reflection of the provision of God in the wilderness, a forward-looking prayer for the promise of the new age to come, Jesus stands up and says, “Come to me and drink.” He places himself at the center of both God’s past faithfulness and future promise. What does this reveal about Jesus, and about the quality of life he offers us right now – not just someday, but in the present?

5. Resist the urge to answer “correctly,” and take a moment to honestly reflect before sharing your answer. Who do you say Jesus is right now, today – not just who you were taught or who you’ve assumed him to be, but who you actually believe he is?

6. Kevin said that we cannot just take Jesus at his word (his declaration alone is not enough) - we must “come and drink”. It is possible for us to affirm everything Jesus claims about himself and yet never draw near. Answer the following question in pairs or triads before closing out your time together in prayer. What do you think hinders you from accepting Jesus’ invitation to “come and drink?” Is there a thirst or longing you are experiencing that you want to courageously bring to him?

Key Takeaways

- Every person carries a deep thirst for ordinary things that do not satisfy (achievements, relationships, pleasure, the pursuit of meaning). As Augustine said, our hearts are restless until they rest in God.
- Everything about Jesus traces back to God the Father. We cannot understand Jesus on merely human, earthly terms.
- Jesus himself is the living water and the fulfillment of Israel’s hope. The signs point toward Him.
- Knowing the right answer about Jesus is not the same as knowing Him. We must come and drink.

Silence and Solitude

Re-visit John 7:37-38 this week, reminding yourself of Jesus’ invitation to you. In the quiet with the Lord, ponder the following questions. Resist the urge to analyze or judge your answer. Just be honest with Him:

Who is Jesus – who do I say he is?

What am I thirsting for, and what wells have I been drinking from? How can I bring that thirst to Jesus?