

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said 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." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet." Others said, "He is the Christ." Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee? Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him. Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

"No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards declared.

"You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted. "Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law--there is a curse on them."

1. We are certainly spiritual beings; however our *expectations* as such are often very different than what God has in mind for us.

We have a tendency to consign God to a place where we are **COMFORTABLE**. (We lose the mystical nature of God).

We tend to substitute religious **TRAPPINGS** for genuine God encounter.

We don't ask ourselves the **CHALLENGING** questions about what it means to belong to God. (We assume God is what we want him to be).

4. Jesus brings an opportunity for genuine *encounter* with God.

Jesus **INVITES** us to the party!

Jesus **GIVES** the Holy Spirit so that we may live as God always intended.

Jesus simply asks that when we come to him we come **TEACHABLE**.

8. It doesn't take a religious expert to recognize truth. In fact religion can become a barrier. ***No one ever spoke the way this man does...*** John 7:46 (NIV)