

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. In John 7:27 some of the Jews argued against Jesus being the Messiah, arguing, *“we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from.”*
 - a When they argued that they knew that when the Messiah appears, no one would know where he came from, how did they know that? Where did that knowledge come from?
 - b What teaching and prophecies from the Old Testament did they have regarding where the Messiah would come from? To what degree did their beliefs agree with the Bible?
 - c In his message, Pastor Mike said that people today often hold and share sincere opinions about Jesus that have no basis in biblical teaching, but are little more than their own or the culture’s opinion. Do you agree that this is the case? If so, what are some examples of this?
 - d Often these beliefs not only are without any biblical basis, but they actually contradict what is clearly taught in the Bible. Why are these unbiblical beliefs about God so common amongst many, even those who claim to be Christians?
 - e How can we be sure that our own beliefs about Jesus and his teachings aren’t really just our opinions which are unrooted in and/or in conflict with biblical teaching?
 - f As followers of Christ, how should we respond to people when they confront us with this kind of unbiblical views of Jesus and his teachings?
2. In John 7:37 Jesus said, *“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.”* We all understand what it means to thirst and drink physically, but what is Jesus talking about here?
 - a What does it mean to thirst? Why does Jesus appeal to our thirst?
 - b Is Jesus teaching that we should come to him out of the motivation of seeking satisfaction of our desires? Explain your answer. Is this the same as the teaching of the health and wealth gospel? If not, why not?
3. In his message Pastor Mike argued that we all thirst, the only questions are, what is our deepest thirst, and what do we look to and thus believe in to satisfy this deepest thirst.
 - a What does the Bible say is our deepest need or our ultimate deepest thirst? What are other things that people often identify as their deepest thirst?
 - b What are some of the different things that people in our culture look to and thus believe in to satisfy their deepest thirst?
 - c Do you think there is often a difference between what many people would say is their deepest thirst in theory, and what they actually pursue in practice to satisfy their thirst? Explain your answer.
 - d What is your deepest need? What do you look to and believe in to satisfy your deepest need? Would an honest assessment of your thought life and actions reveal that in practice you actually trust in what you say you trust in to meet that need?
4. Jesus explains what it means to come to him and drink in verse 38, saying, *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”*
 - a How is believing in Jesus the same as coming to him to drink?

- b According to what Jesus is teaching, what does it mean to believe in Jesus? Is intellectual ascent with the truth of Jesus life and death believing in him?
- c Are you coming to Jesus to drink and satisfy your thirst? Can you truly say that out of your heart flows rivers of living water? Explain your answer.