

## QUESTIONS FOR LIFEGROUPS:

### Ezekiel 47:1-12

On first reading this is a confusing passage. So lets break it down.

The prophet is given a vision of water flowing from the centre of the temple. It starts really small (just a trickle), flowing past the altar, out of the temple... and then every 500m or so the river, that began as a tiny trickle gets deeper and deeper. After measuring a few times the water has begun a strong river that no-one could cross.

The river flows from, the temple, through the wilderness (east of Jerusalem), into the Jordan Valley, and then down into the Dead Sea (an inland river so salty that no living thing can survive).

Temple.... Wilderness.... Dead Sea.

In the sermon on Sunday (see below). We looked at 3 questions: Which you might want to discuss as a Life Group?

- 1. *What is the source of the flow (a new move of God). What strikes you about the importance and symbol of the temple in our lives today?***
- 2. *What is the direction of the flow (the most Holy place out towards the place of death)? What does this tell you about the character of God, and the way he moves?***
- 3. *What was the fruit of the flow. Wherever the river (from the sanctuary) went - there was life. What does this say to you? What were the characteristics of the fruit that both challenge and encourage you.***

Final Reflection:

In John 7 - Jesus declares:

*On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." John 7:37-39*

**For believers in Jesus, we become a conduit for the Spirit of God to flow.**

**Pray for one another that this would grow from a trickle to a flowing river. Pray for areas in life where you long for God's Spirit to flow.**

## **SERMON NOTES:**

### **THE OVERFLOW.**

- in beginning of Ezekiel - Gods people had deserted God.... In idolatry & injustice... Had turned the temple into a place of idolatry (worshipping other gods) God had left the temple. (Ez 8-11)
- Then 34-37 dry bones - spirit brings life again
- Then we have this picture

### **GOD IS ON THE MOVE ONCE AGAIN! (Ezekiel 47:1-12)**

ENTER THE TEMPLE.... This passage begins with the temple of God

For God's people the temple was the most **significant place on the planet**. It had been there for generations. It was the building where God manifest presence rested... it was a symbol to them that God dwelt in their midst.

If I was filming this... I would spiral from the drone shot of the temple and it is though the camera is in zooming into the very heart of the temple - The Altar

And this is where the flow starts .

South of the Altar.... Why is this important? It shows us where the source of God's move is found.

#### **What is the source? What is the temple?**

1. Place where the community gathered
2. Place where Worship happened
3. Place of prayer
4. The Altar - Place where Sacrifice was offered

#### **The Direction of the flow.**

1. Started small....
2. Out.... Out..... Out.... Out... relentless flow
3. Deeper & deeper - until unable to cross it!
4. Destination - the Dead Sea - the place of death. the place of lifelessness. the place where nothing can survive. Barren. **THIS** is the destination

The place of worship. The place sacrifice The place of the gathered community was the source and the starting point of the move of God.

***But is not the destination. The destination is the place where life has yet to come.***

It's the OVERFLOW

### **What is the fruit of the overflow?**

1. Variety - all kinds...
2. Feeding - fruit
3. Healing - leaves
4. Life where there was once death! Salt water becomes fresh water.
5. Life in abundance - teeming with life.

### ***Everything will live where the river goes***

This is our story. This is God's story for us. We are God collectively and individually God spirit lives in us in this community in this place but this isn't the destination. This is simply the source

God wants us to live in the overflow. What God has placed in me he wants to overflow to the rest of the temple (us)... but it doesn't stop there... what he pours in us as the temple he wants to flow and flow and flow. to the places where there is no life where there is no hope.

To bring feeding for those who are hungry, and spiritually hungry, to bring healing to lives that are broken and bring life where there isn't.

This is our story

### ***Everything will live where the river goes***

Don't hold onto the blessings of God in your life

Live in the overflow.

*On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." **John 7:37-39***

**Thirsty? - start at the altar**

## Ezekiel 47

“The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple towards the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar.

He then brought me out through the north gate and led me round the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in – a river that no-one could cross. He asked me, ‘Son of man, do you see this?’

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river.

He said to me, ‘This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds – like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea.

But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.’”

Ezekiel 47:1-12 NIVUK