

Jesus in the Midst of Chaos . 2020

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Billy Graham quoted, *“Church can become a drab thing and the bible, an irksome book if the Holy Spirit does not illuminate your soul with His indwelling presence.”*

The seventh chapter of John is all about Jesus in the midst of chaos while dealing with the world. Before this time, in all the preceding chapters and many that come after, people came to Jesus, to His “court” so to speak. They left the confusion of the life that was all around them and went to a healing service or went to Him for counsel or advice. He would teach them in parables. In essence, He had complete control and it was evident who He was.

But here in chapter seven we see Jesus presented in the middle of chaos, in the midst of political thought, in the midst of a whole generation in the Jewish faith that didn’t know what was truly going on. They were confused in the middle of all the things which go on in the every day perplexity of life, almost like the picture of what we see happening in Washington D.C. in our current day. Everybody has their own opinion and chaos is everywhere.

I remember one psychologist telling me, *“You know, Peter, the ability for an individual to survive in chaos is an indicator of their intelligence. Those who cannot handle it will retreat into a place where they have more control.”* Now, you may remember the story of Howard Hughes who became more and more controlling, more and more OCD in his environment. If his computer was a little cockeyed, he would have to immediately straighten it.

Maybe you have never been like that, but I have. When things get kind of “crazy,” I like to make things orderly. I would go into my micro-biology lab and say, *“What are these girls that work in the lab doing?!”* Everything was in disarray. In my way of thinking there was a place for everything so the first thing I would do was go around straightening things up.

But now today, I have to tell you; I have learned. Even this morning my bathroom sink doesn’t look very pretty. I have learned to live in chaos. I have learned to deal with the “retreating mechanism” in my psyche that wants everything ordered. You will find yourself, either today or later on, in a place where there is chaos around you. What you do and how you deal with that is an indicator of how much you are connected with the Lord Jesus Christ Himself through the Holy Ghost.

That is why Billy Graham said those words. He realized that just reading the bible wasn’t enough. You had to have the Holy Spirit within you to give you the wisdom to be able to go through those circumstances. You know biologists will tell you the reason we have such a huge brain, the cerebral cortex, compared to other animals, is what? I would think maybe so we could get food. No. So we could live in comfort. No. They say, *“No. The real reason for all of that grey*

matter is so you can understand human interaction, so you can understand and communicate with other human beings.” This is the reason you can understand and communicate in situations even like this in a church setting with other people. You would be able to come up front and to share a word of what the Lord has spoken to you. What an awesome thing. So now you know why you have such a big brain! Now, let’s use it!

It is so easy to retreat into my back brain, the medulla, and say, *“I just want everything lined up. It’s got to be just this way.”* If you think about it, that is the way the Holy of Holies was. You had the curtains on the outside of the temple and they were all folded in specific different ways. People would come in there casually talking, doing whatever, a lot of stuff going on in the world and they just happened to find themselves in the courts of the temple. But then as they go into the Holy Place, things become more ordered. Then they go further into the Holy of Holies and everything is even more ordered! Every garment, every part had to be just and so. If you go into a conventional church in this day, you will find the same thing going on. Outside, perhaps the stones need to be pointed, the sidewalk may be cracking but all of a sudden there is the door. The door is polished and everything is ready. You go in and there is the mat to wipe your feet on and it is not cockeyed. It is right in the exact, proper place. You go in and all the pews are lined up in the right place. It gets even more ordered as you go up behind the altar and even the flowers there are arranged just perfectly.

In some of these cathedrals it becomes unbelievable how much order is found the closer and closer you move towards the position of the Cross. It is just beautiful. Well, I am here to tell you that is really not God! That is human thinking. That is a human way of putting God in a box. It is a human way of saying, *“God can only work in a certain way and at a certain time. Jesus can only having healing services if He has everything under control.”* Well, I have news for you. Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. His Lordship permeates the earth, every part of it. Either that is true or it is not true.

The government is on His shoulders even in Washington! You can go to sleep easier tonight knowing that. It doesn’t matter what side of the curtain you are on or what politics you are embracing. Everybody is name-calling no matter which side you are on. Everybody is pointing fingers. People aren’t even really saying anything. They are posturing as I pointed out last week. They are trying to create a narrative so you will understand what they want you to believe, rather than thinking for

yourself, rather than listening to the Holy Spirit, rather than asking for the wisdom of God. Isn't that something?

Now it is good to have order. It is—with things in place. I believe the reason we have order is so that when chaos does come, we are ready for it! We know right where the tool is and can go to it. Therefore we learn the scriptures, we learn the bible. Why do we have that ordered concept of learning scripture? So when we need it, it is available to us. The scripture says that when we need it, the Holy Spirit will bring it to our remembrance.

Seven Observations from John Chapter Seven

1) The timing of events. In this particular text there are several things that come to my mind because Jesus says, *"I'm not going there. I'm not going to this feast. There is just so much chaos. I'm just not going."* However, in this chapter we will see the *timing* of God is important. You don't just act. You wait for the timing of the Lord.

2) Jesus does not avoid chaos. He is not afraid of it. You might be afraid of chaos but He is not. He brought order in the midst of chaos.

3) Jesus is Lord. He is the Christ. He is the one in charge.

4) There is the promise of the Holy Spirit that He gives to these disciples when they had no way of knowing what He was talking about. But we here today DO. The Holy Spirit is so awesome and it is critical for us to understand and navigate through very chaotic times. Let us back up a bit and discuss the holidays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Eve. These family times can be very chaotic even when the table is spread out and the chairs are all in place. Once everybody starts talking and the volume rises, *"AAAAAaaaaah! Where is another room I can go to?"*

So, we need to call on the Holy Spirit even in those times. You ask the Lord, *"Who do you want me to talk to? What do you want me to bring?"* And the most important thing you can do in this life is to ENCOURAGE each other even if it is one person The most important thing you can do is to encourage. This is true. Yes.

5) Crowd psychology. We will also find in this chapter something about crowd psychology. We find ourselves in crowd psychology more and more. I don't have to go too far, just Walmart or whatever store, and I am finding people "all over the map." There is a certain "think" that goes on in crowds. Either you believe *this* or you believe *that!* Either you are a Republican or you are a Democrat. You are Con-

servative or you are a Liberal, or you are a *this* or a *that*, whatever it might be. But, your thinking as a Christian should not be to make or choose sides. Your thinking should be, “*What does the Lord want me to do?*”

6) All authority comes from heaven. Jesus said to Pilot, “*The only control you have over me is given to you from heaven.*” Do you believe that? Jesus said it.

7) Sadly in this chapter, everyone has their own ideas. We know that from Isaiah. Everyone does what is good in their own eyes and then they walk away. That is the end result of human understanding. All this grey matter, all the thinking we can do, results in everybody doing what they think is right. But, there is a higher calling that we have as Christians, not to do just what we think is right, but to *find the purpose and the calling of the Lord in the Holy Spirit*. Being filled with the Holy Spirit gives us that unction to say, “*This road is wrong.*” Even though everything might be lining up telling us it is the right way to go yet the Holy Spirit might say, “*Don’t go through that door.*” When you hear a voice saying that, listen to it. Hesitate for a moment and ask the Lord. “*Is there another way? Is there another purpose? Is there another thing you want me to do?*”

—*Seven Absolutes from John Chapter 7*—

Number 1 - The Timing of God

Everything under God has a season.

(John 7) ¹After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill Him. ²But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, . . .

The society Jesus was finding Himself in, where everybody is doing their own thing and the Feast was at hand.

³. . . Jesus’ brothers said to him . . .

I’m guessing that James the brother of Jesus was among them.

. . . “Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that Your disciples there may see the works You do. ⁴No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since You are doing these things, show Yourself to the world.” ⁵For even His own brothers did not believe in Him.

Whoa. All they are saying to Him is, “*Jesus You have a ministry. We can see the miracles You are doing. You fed the 5,000. Look at all the people You’ve healed from diseases. You need to go to the Feast and show Yourself. This is Your time for advertising.*” Have you ever had people say that to you. “*You need to speak up for yourself. This is your time for advertising. This is your time to say who you are to the people.*” Well Jesus says:

⁶ Therefore Jesus told them, “My time is not yet here; for you any time will do . . .

You are always ready to give an account, to give a defense on how good you are. Even if you did something wrong you would think, “*I did it because . . .*” We are always ready for that, aren’t we? I know because it is there in me. My time is always ready. Go ahead. Ask me a question! Well, it isn’t so in the Holy Spirit. The Spirit may say, “*Your time isn’t now. Cool your jets and walk away.*”

⁷ “The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify that its works are evil. ⁸ You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because My time has not yet fully come.” ⁹ After He had said this, He stayed in Galilee.

So here He is in Galilee and you would think that would be the end of the conversation. Isn’t that interesting. Jesus says, “*I’m going to stay in Galilee. You go ahead.*” But His actual motivation for saying that was so that He could be there for a little while yet undiscovered.

Number 2 - Jesus as Lord in the Middle of Chaos

¹⁰ However, after His brothers had left for the festival, He went also, not publicly, but in secret.

Jesus is listening to everything we say even in secret. To all of the things we’ve said in secret, they are not private to Him. He knows what you are thinking before you say it.

¹¹ Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, “Where is He?”

They were thinking He was going to be there. There was much complaining amongst the people concerning Him. “*Why isn’t He here?!*” You can imagine the confusion going on.

¹² Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about Him. Some said, “He is a good man.” Others replied, “No, He deceives the people.”

So here is the dichotomy.

*“No, He deceives the people.”*¹³ *But no one would say anything publicly about Him for fear of the leaders.*

So what is the reason for all this chaos? Fear! Fear. Fear of what was going to happen. Fear of the Jews, those who were in authority. Now, about the middle of the Feast Jesus went up to the temple and taught. He makes Himself known.

¹⁵ The Jews there were amazed and asked, “How did this man get such learning without having been taught?”

You know you don’t have to know everything in order to be led by the Holy Spirit. Is that a surprise to you? Ha. How many times have you looked back after having had a conversation with someone and said to yourself, *“Boy, that was the Holy Spirit. It didn’t come from me.”*

*¹⁶ Jesus answered, “My teaching is not My own. It comes from the one who sent Me.”*¹⁷ *Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether My teaching comes from God or whether I speak on My own.*¹⁸ *Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.*¹⁹ *Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill Me?”*

Jesus isn’t trying to make friends or influence the crowd in a particular way. He is simply stating things the way they are, the truth of what the Father is doing in His life and in His ministry.

*²⁰ “You are demon-possessed,” the crowd answered. “Who is trying to kill you?”*²¹ *Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all amazed.”*

Really? He did more than one. It is interesting He said that. One work may be referring to the feeding of the 5,000. But what about all the people He healed. It is almost like He is saying that all those healings He did, all those diseases were just part of the mercy of God and not His specific ministry or calling. Think about that in your prayer closet.

²¹ Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all amazed.

*²² Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath.*²³ *Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with Me for healing a man’s whole body on the Sab-*

bath? ²⁴ Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.”

So many times people say not to judge lest you be judged. Scripture, right? That kind of judgment is hypocritical. We are not to partake of hypocrisy but He said *not* to judge according to appearance but judge with *righteous* judgment. This means that there is something about the Holy Spirit within you that is able to discern evil from good! It doesn't mean we start name-calling but we can certainly find out whether what people are doing is right or wrong. *Judge with righteous judgment.* I love that.

So Jesus is in their midst. Jesus is Lord and He is a teacher in their midst. He doesn't avoid being in the middle of conflict or chaos.

Number 3 - Jesus is the Christ

Jesus begins to make statements that in this context, I cannot believe He would venture to make. They cannot possibly begin to understand what He is saying. Sometimes a prophesy may come to you and the Holy Spirit may say something to you which is not understandable. Don't throw it away. Write it down and ask the Lord to make it real to you. Sometimes *He is saying things that are not for this season but for seasons to come, not for this week but for next month.* In this chapter, many things that Jesus said are just like that.

²⁵ At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, “Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? ²⁶ Here He is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to Him.

So they were afraid, but why isn't Jesus afraid of the authorities? So they said nothing to Him.

“Have the authorities really concluded that He is the Messiah? ²⁷ But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where He is from.”

So now Jesus makes a statement. He proclaimed **loudly**. He didn't whisper it. He didn't say it in private. He said it publicly so all could hear. This is His first announcement.

*²⁸ Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, **cried out**, “Yes, you know Me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on My own authority, but He who sent Me is true. You do not know Him, ²⁹ but I know Him because I am from Him and He sent me.”*

Do you think that in the context of this chaos, any of them could understand what He is saying?! Before the Cross could anyone under-

stand what He is saying? Before the revelation that He is Very God of Very Gods could they understand what He is saying? There are denominations today that don't believe that Jesus is the Christ. The Mormon's believe Him to be an arch-angel. Islam believes that He is a holy prophet. But that is simply not enough. Jesus is Very God of Very Gods. He is saying that in these verses in ways they couldn't possibly understand.

³⁰ *At this they tried to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.*

Jesus is going to go before you even in circumstances that mean evil towards you. Jesus can go before you. Isn't that true? It is true in my life.

³¹ *Still, many in the crowd believed in Him. They said, "When the Messiah comes, will He perform more signs than this man?"*

So some believed Him. They believed because of what He proclaimed but *mostly* because of the signs that were following Him.

³² *The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about Him, . . .*

There's a lot of chaos going on, a lot of thinking, that gray matter burning with energy. What does this mean? Where do we go from here? What is Jerusalem? How is the Jewish community going to receive this? How do we respond? What do we do? This is a crowd problem, murmuring, good and bad.

. . . then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest Him. ³³ Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the One who sent Me. ³⁴ You will look for Me, but you will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come."

There is no way that they could understand what He was saying. But the disciples remembered it. John remembered it and he wrote it down. It was spoken through the chaos, through the circumstances Jesus was in and He spoke right into eternity! I've tried to make that point before. Sometimes when Jesus speaks He isn't speaking for the moment at all. He is speaking into eternity. Those words are true today, true then and true forever when we've been there 10,000 years.

³⁵ *The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find Him? Will He go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks?" ³⁶ What did He mean when He said, 'You will look for Me, but you will not find Me,' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?"*

So they heard the words but they didn't have any way of understanding. Understanding comes out of the chaos.

Number 4 - The Promise of the Holy Spirit

The most important observation in this text, in all of this Jesus speaks something that is so very true.

³⁷ *On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a **loud** voice, . . .*

He cried out His first proclamation saying He is Lord!

. . . *“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.*

“First of all, I have the answers. First of all, ALL of your desires are not out there in your thinking, but they are right in here, in Me! Let him come to me and drink.” Isn't that why I would come and worship the Lord on Sunday? Yes.

³⁸ *“Whoever believes in Me, as Scripture has said, rivers of **living water** will flow from within them.”*

Whoa. Really? Isn't that what He said to the woman at the well? Isn't it true in our lives? We don't have to wait for some person to speak into our life. We know, from our relationship with the Lord, comes the water that cleans, that gives us the satisfaction to our thirst. Nothing else can quench it. Rivers of LIVING water, not just water. Living water speaks of something that has initiative all its own. You don't have to worry about turning a tap on or off. It has its own life.

³⁹ *By this He meant the Spirit, . . .*

The Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost, the one that we have, the one that we were baptized in, the one we speak in tongues with.

. . . 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.

Jesus wasn't going to send the Holy Spirit and the power of the baptism of the Spirit until after He was crucified and He was sitting down at the right hand of the Father. He was saying to His disciples, *“If you knew what I was going to do, if you knew of that gift, you would be glad I was going.”* When you are finally filled with the Spirit everything you have learned up to this point is going to make perfect sense. Up unto this point you are only guessing.

Let's go back to the crowd.

Number 5 - Crowd Psychology

The crowd is always conjecturing, trying to figure things out. Isn't that what is going on in the media today?! The crowd gives all kinds of comments trying to find out what is going on. Well, good luck. One thing I know is true: Jesus Christ is Lord. In that Lordship is life, not death. So my bottom line to measure whether something is true or not is to ask, "*Is this thing bringing life or death, in actual fact? Or even Spiritually?*" Does it bring Spiritual death or is it bring Spiritual life? Are the innocent, unborn children being killed or are they being allowed to live? That's a powerful statement that would be criticized by some outside of this room.

⁴⁰ On hearing His words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet." ⁴¹ Others said, "He is the Messiah."

They are still confused. Prophet, Christ? Who is this guy? What is going on?

Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee?"

So now they are speculating about the scriptural text, the history of who they are as a Jewish people. The Feast wasn't for the Gentiles. It was just for the Jews. "*Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Well, we know that is not true.*"

⁴² "Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" ⁴³ Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Some wanted to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him.

Number 6 - True Authority comes from Heaven

Isn't that interesting. They knew He should come from Bethlehem and yet they didn't know that He was. They need to get their facts right. True authority doesn't come from a "crowd think," of what people think. True authority doesn't come from the Pharisees. True authority doesn't come from those who have the political or military power. The truth comes from heaven and the *authority of the truth* comes from heaven.

⁴⁵ Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring Him in?"

So they sent henchmen out to get Jesus yet they didn't bring Him in!

⁴⁶ “No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards replied.⁴⁷ “You mean He has deceived you also?” the Pharisees retorted.⁴⁸ “Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in Him?”⁴⁹ No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.”

⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked,⁵¹ “Does our law condemn a man without first hearing Him to find out what He has been doing?”

Wow, Nicodemus is making an appearance in this chapter, talk about confusion. Remember Nicodemus. He came to Jesus in the night because he was afraid. A man who came and cared for Jesus after He was crucified.

This statement, “Does our law condemn a man without first hearing Him to find out what He has been doing?” could or should be read into our House of Representatives.

⁵² They replied, “Are you from Galilee, too? . . .

. . . from these crazy people, from this new sect?

. . . “Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.”

So they are quoting the Law saying, “You are crazy. You should have taken Him. That was the time. That was the place you could have made your statement.” Well, the only authority they have, whether they send out the Federal Marshals, Attorney Generals, doing all kinds of things in this world, there is still only one power and authority and that is in Jesus Christ and Him alone. I believe that and am willing to stake my life on it. Amen. Either it is true or it is not true at all.

Number 7 - Everyone has their own Ideas

Lastly and sadly, everyone has their own opinion. That is the state we find ourselves in today, in politics, in every issue of what the United States represents. Every single person has their own opinion. What a chaotic world we live in. Some of these media persons take a microphone onto a college campus and interview students about what they think. You get so very many different answers! Everybody has their own opinion. I’m tired of it. I want to retreat back into my little orderly world. I want to retreat back to the time when I was an altar boy. I want to retreat back to when I knew exactly where the communion elements were supposed to be next to the minister. I want to retreat back to

where I know every book of the bible in sequence. I want to go back to my lab that is totally organized. I want to know where every tool in my tool chest is. I'm not going to listen to the media any more or think about it anymore. I'm going to walk away, retreat from this chaos we are currently confronted with today.

Several times a week I think this way. But then the Lord speaks to me, "*Well, that's your option. It is a free country.*" I look at some of the pictures I recently took of the Rocky Mountains and want to go over there again. In one photo of a long, long 7-8 mile stretch, there is one lone pedestrian, no cars and I thought, "*Wow. That's where I want to be.*" But the Lord said, "*You are not going that way. Where I am taking you, you will be able to **confront** chaos. You are going to be able to take the chaos and bring order in the midst of it just as Jesus did. The order is to proclaim, 'Jesus is Lord.' The order is to proclaim the Holy Spirit and understanding the ways of the Holy Ghost.*" These are essential to understanding human nature. It isn't found in the grey matter that we have. All of that is just thinking. All of that will only lead to our own opinion. However, I don't want my own opinion. I want His opinion and His opinion is not an opinion. It is truth. I want the truth. I want to be a seeker of truth. I never want to retreat from that. I never want to say, "*I don't care any more.*" Rather I want to say, "*I DO care.*" And to those who confront me about my stance on a subject, I will come back with "*Jesus is Lord.*" I will come back with, "*Are you seeking the Holy Spirit? Are you reading the scriptures? Are you in fellowship with one another, encouraging each other?*" Those are the things that are important.

So the state of the world is not good. The state of the Jewish nation in chapter seven is not good either. In fact, if I'd have been the Lord I would have left behind that conflict thinking the situation was really bad, much worse than I had thought. I would have thought to never go back. "*I'll never go to that church. I'll never go to that fellowship.*"

This is the scripture we end with.

⁵³ *Then they all went home.*

Have you ever thought about what some simple scriptures like this one may mean? What does this mean? It is a metaphor. When you go to your own home, you go to your own way of thinking. You go back to the order that you have. You go back to the closed doors, the windows, the carefully placed rug mat. Everything you have and own is there. Everyone went to their own house. It is a sad testimony to the church when everybody goes to their own house. It is not good. We will

go to our own houses but they are not supposed to be closed. They are to be open. They should be open with an invitation to anyone who would come. Our house should be an open place for the word of God and for the Spirit of the Lord to move. It is not a retreat center, not a place to hide.

Our homes should be a safe place of comfort and encouragement, not a place of chaos. But, you *cannot retreat* there to get away from chaos. Amen.

Summary - Jesus is Lord in All Human Interactions

1) Jesus is never afraid of human chaos. It doesn't bother Him. He is not nervously pacing in front of the throne of grace, wringing His hands, wondering what to do next. That is not His style. Rather He is firmly rooted in the truth of eternity and He is asking every one of us as Christians to walk in that eternity in this upcoming 2020 U.S. election, through all of the things standing before us. Healthcare. Abortion, etc.

2) Jesus proclaims Himself as Lord. This proclamation is not an idle, religious proclamation. It is one that is truth and the center of your strength. The Lordship of Christ, He reigns. He is the one who is in control. He is the one with absolute authority. He is the one who is in charge, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, no matter what coming chaos confronts us as a nation and to us as individuals.

And lastly, 3) **Without the Holy Spirit it is virtually impossible to walk through all of what is coming without tripping**, stumbling and falling all over ourselves. We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit every single day in every circumstance. If you wake up in the morning thinking you don't need the Holy Spirit today, you are deceived. I ask the Holy Spirit for even the simplest of solutions. "*Okay, what's going on? What do You want me to do today?*" Many times He may say He doesn't want me to do anything but pray for a, b, and/or c.

I will say this over and over and over. **There is more power in prayer than anything else** because you are connecting with eternity when you pray. You are connecting with He who is in power over all things. He who is omnipotent. He has no limit to His power. When He pours out His Holy Spirit, the Living waters, it isn't just a portion. It is **POURED** out so that you can have it to overflowing until you bubble up and you cannot stop it anymore!!! You are so excited about what God is doing. The emphasis of the gift and the value of the Holy Spirit in this chapter is very significant. Later on in this gospel, it goes over all of the

intricacies of that relationship you will have and what the Holy Spirit can further do for you.

We may have thought that we wouldn't want to go into the chaos of chapter seven. Better chapter seventeen perhaps. But we wouldn't want to go into the chaos of 2019-20 either if we knew all of the political things about to happen. I was once the president of the Vermont Young Republicans. I am no longer Republican; I am Conservative but it doesn't matter. I still have to confront that in myself which always wants things ordered, always wants things to go the way I think they should go. But they don't always go that way.

Let's take a closer look to home. Now in this church, we have brought some young, neighborhood children into our assembly. Let's do a "here and now." The parents of these little ones are not here and the kids are hard to control. Do you think Jesus is afraid of that? Going back, the disciples said, "*Take these kids away.*" Jesus answered, "*Do not hinder them from coming for from such belongs the kingdom of heaven.*" These children do need discipline and more control and understanding.

However, Jesus is not afraid of that. He is not afraid. He is more concerned about how you respond to it. So I am falling in love with them just as I'm falling in love with all of you. It doesn't matter what side of the argument you might take. I am so blessed to be in this fellowship and with this company of believers. I know that if I come with a problem, you are going to pray for me. When I come with an issue that I don't understand, you are not going to say, "*There he goes again.*"

You are going to pray. You may not have a word immediately but you are going to pray and ask the Lord. We do that in our home groups routinely as we share our lives together and on Friday nights when we come together in prayer. And so we should do at every juncture when we meet each other even if we just bump into each other in the store, whatever.

Let's pray: Father, I am so thankful this morning, for this day, cloudy and rainy. It matters not. Some people are not here. They should be here, people who are not here because of commitments to family and to travel. Those too, people who have walked away, the "prodigals." People that are here but are troubled. People that are concerned. I am thankful for each one that You are calling to Yourself.

Lord, I pray that all of the things we are confronting this year, through this Holiday season, the Senate, House of Representatives, Executive Branch, the Judicial, etc. It doesn't matter. All of them seem to be in chaos. Everywhere we look, everyone has their own opinion. But, Lord, we look to You and are thankful, so thankful, so very thankful that there is only ONE truth, not two. There is only one God, the three in one, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. You are Very God of Very God. You are King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Help us not to lose track of that and be thankful for You meeting us every morning in prayer, meeting us every day in our circumstances.

I pray that You would give us words of encouragement, supernaturally through the Holy Spirit. Awaken the Holy Spirit within us that it would be that living water that Jesus was crying out and testifying of in the midst of chaos, the living water from the very people of God, which will transform this world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

