

## KEEP IT MOVING

(John 7:37-39)

Intro: Last weekend.

-My son Josh.

-My daughter-in-law's sister Sowie.

#Both received their Masters degrees.

\*Josh.

+Master of Science.

=From OSU-Tulsa.

\*Sowie.

+Master of Management.

=From ORU.

At the party for them last Saturday.

-Pam reminded me of a story.

#College grad.

\*Returned to his alma mater.

+For a class reunion.

#At the alumni banquet.

#Alum said to the President of the University.

+ "The words you spoke to me when I received my degree,"

= "Have made the biggest difference in my life."

- "Personally."

- "Professionally."

#President of the University.

+Duly flattered.

+But also puzzled.

=Said to the alum.

- "I'm curious."

- "What exactly did I say to you?"

#Alum said:

+ "As I walked across the stage to receive my diploma,"

= "You looked me right in the eye and said:"

- "Keep it moving."

- "Keep it moving."

- "Keep it moving."

I. Holy Spirit's Job Is To Keep Things Moving.

A. To Keep The Water Moving.

1. At our house.
  - a. Water heater.
    - In a closet.
    - In the garage.
    - In the front of the house.
  - b. Master bath.
    - In the back of the house.
  - c. It took about a minute to get hot water.
    - For the sink.
    - For the shower.
    - For the Jacuzzi.
2. At the Women's Expo.
  - a. In February.
  - b. Pam got to talking to a plumber.
    - About the possibility of a tankless water heater.
    - #So we could have instant hot water
  - c. Plumber.
    - Came to our house.
    - Looked at our:
      - #Bathroom.
      - #Water heater.
    - Said:
      - #"Your water heater is new."
      - #"It's efficient."
      - #"If I were you,"
        - \*"I wouldn't install a tankless water heater."
        - \*"I'd install a re-circulating pump."
          - + "To keep the hot water flowing."
          - = "To your bathroom in the back."
          - + "Whenever you turn on the faucet,"
          - = "Your hot water is going to be right there."
  - d. We did that.
    - There's a timer on the pump.
      - #We can run it all the time.
      - #We can program it.
        - \*To run in the morning.
          - +When we're getting up to take showers.
        - \*To run at bedtime.
          - +To reduce energy consumption.

B. Holy Spirit Keeps The Water Moving.

1. Gospel lesson.

a. Jesus.

- In Jerusalem.
- In the Temple.
- During the Feast of Tabernacles/Booths.  
#John 7:2.

b. Feast of Tabernacles/Booths.

- Harvest festival.  
#In the fall.  
#People camped out in booths.  
\*For seven nights.  
#Commemorated:  
\*40 years of wandering in the wilderness.  
+By the Israelites.  
\*Giving of the 10 Commandments.
- Concluded the season of grain offerings.  
#Begun:  
\*Feast of First Fruits.  
\*Feast of Weeks.  
+50 days after Passover.  
=Pentecost.

c. Feast of Tabernacles/Booths.

- Festival of water and light.  
#Water.  
\*Drawn from the Pool of Siloam.  
+First thing in the morning.  
+In a golden pitcher.  
\*Processed to the Temple.  
\*Poured on the altar of burnt offering.
- #Light.  
\*Four large menorahs were lit.  
+In the evening.
- These ceremonies.  
#Thanked God for:  
\*Rain.  
\*Sunshine.  
#Asked that God would continue to bless the land with:  
\*Rain.  
\*Sunshine.

d. It was during the last day of this Feast of Tabernacles/Booths.

-Jesus:

#Stood up in the Temple.

#Said:

\*"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me."

\*"Let the one who believes in me drink."

+John 7:37-38.

-In the next chapter Jesus is going to say:

#"I am the light of the world."

\*John 8:12.

-Jesus is proclaiming himself to be the true source of:

#Rain.

#Light.

\*Gives life to the world.

2. It is the Holy Spirit's job to keep the water moving.

a. Life-giving water.

-Holy Baptism.

-Faith in Jesus.

b. Flowing.

-In our world.

#Following Jesus' ascension into heaven.

-Flowing in our hearts.

## II. Sometimes The Waters Stop Flowing.

### A. Rivers Get Dammed Up.

1. Eileen and Dave Imwalle's property.

a. Creek flowing.

-Near it.

-Through it.

b. Tree debris.

-From December's ice storm.

-Has been washed down the creek.

c. Where the creek flows under the road.

-Tree trunks.

-Tree limbs.

#Created a dam.

\*So the waters couldn't flow.

#If we had had a heavy rain.

\*Waters could have:

+Backed up.

+Flooded their home.

2. Last July.
  - a. We had the funeral service for Arvis Taylor.
    - DB Wood's brother-in-law.
  - b. When the family gathered in the adult classroom.
    - Prior to the funeral.
    - #We turned on the AC.
    - #But the room never cooled down.
  - c. When the AC repair person came.
    - He told me that this "dryer" was the problem.
    - #I never learned about these things in seminary.
    - #But I saved this part.
      - \*I knew one day I'd use it in a sermon.
      - +Today is the day.
    - It is filled with a material.
      - #Like the silica gel.
      - \*You might find:
        - +In your camera case.
        - +Packed with electronics.
        - =To absorb the moisture.
    - This "dryer."
      - #Is to absorb the moisture out of the coolant.
      - \*Flows through the AC system so it won't freeze.
      - #Got clogged up.
        - \*Coolant wasn't flowing.
        - \*Room wasn't cooling.
      - #Wasn't all that expensive.
        - \*But it cost several hundred dollars.
        - +To recharge the system.
        - =After this little "thingamabob" was replaced.
  - d. We have problems when:
    - Coolant doesn't flow.
    - Water doesn't flow.

## B. That's What Our Sin Does.

1. Our sin.
  - a. Clogs things up.
  - b. Keeps the living-giving waters of God from flowing.
2. Sometimes we do it on purpose.
  - a. We're:
    - Hurt.
    - Bitter.
    - Angry.
    - Spiteful.
    - Vengeful.

- #Our hearts get clogged up.
- #Life-giving water doesn't flow.
  - \*To us.
  - \*Through us.
- b. We're lazy.
  - Sitting back.
  - Waiting for someone else:
    - #To make the first move.
    - #To volunteer.
    - #To take care of the problem.
      - \*Our hearts get clogged up.
      - \*Life-giving waters don't flow.
        - +To us.
        - +Through us.
- 3. Sometimes we mean well.
  - a. Our actions have unintended consequences.
    - We try to do the right thing.
    - We still mess things up.
  - b. May/June 2008 issue of AARP Magazine.
    - Article about Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
      - #Environmentalism.
    - Lamenting the fact.
      - #Glen Canyon Dam.
        - \*In Arizona.
          - \*Has contributed to the extinction of four species of fish.
            - +In the Colorado River.
            - +In the Grand Canyon.
  - c. Pam and I were at the Glen Canyon Dam a couple years ago.
    - We went through:
      - #Dam.
      - #Museum.
    - I know that dam wasn't built to kill off the fish.
      - #It was built for:
        - \*Flood control.
        - \*Hydroelectric power.
        - \*Recreation.
        - \*Irrigation.
    - I don't know.
      - #If there was an environmental impact statement.
        - \*Before the dam was constructed.
      - #If an environmental impact statement.
        - \*Said anything about fish.

- d. But sometimes there are unintended consequences.
  - We want to do the right thing.
  - We want to do good and Godly things.
  - #But our sinful nature has a way of:
    - \*Clogging things up.
    - \*Building dams.
      - +So the life-giving water doesn't flow.
      - =To us.
      - =Through us.

### III. Holy Spirit's Job Is To Keep The Water Moving.

#### A. Sometimes The Holy Spirit Looks Like Dave Imwalle.

- 1. Eileen told me.
  - a. When:
    - City.
    - County.
  - b. Was slow in responding to her call for action.
    - To clean out the creek.
  - c. Dave got out there with his chain saw.
    - Cut up the limbs.
    - Unclogged the creek.
- 2. I don't recommend that with the Glen Canyon Dam.
  - a. But the Holy Spirit keeps the living-giving waters flowing.
  - b. Sometimes the Holy Spirit looks like us.

#### B. Sometimes The Holy Spirit Looks Like Eileen Imwalle And Barbara James.

- 1. Tuesday morning.
  - a. I spent about an hour and a half or so with:
    - Barbara James.
    - Eileen Imwalle.
  - b. To see how our Helping Hands Food Pantry operates.
    - You'll be hearing more about this in the weeks to come.
    - Church Council already knows.
      - #I'd like each of them to do what I did.
      - I'd like to encourage every one of you.
      - #To have a first-hand experience.
        - \*Of our Helping Hands Food Pantry operation.
        - +Probably starting in June.

2. That food pantry.
  - a. One of the ways the Holy Spirit keeps the life-giving waters flowing.
  - b. Only in this case.
    - Flowing water looks a lot like:
      - #Cans of vegetables.
      - #Bags of rice.
      - #Boxes of cereal.
3. Holy Spirit keeps the life-giving waters flowing.
  - a. To us.
  - b. Through us.
    - “Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.”
    - #John 7:39.

C. Sometimes The Holy Spirit Looks Like Mom.

1. Holy Spirit uses:
  - a. Moms and dads.
  - b. Grandmas and grandpas.
  - c. Great-grandmas and great-grandpas.
2. To keep the life-giving waters flowing.
  - a. Waters of love.
  - b. Waters of faith.
  - c. Waters of forgiveness.
  - d. Waters of mercy.
    - Flowing from generation to generation.

Concl: So when you come to the altar in a few minutes.

- Dip your finger in the waters.
  - #In remembrance of your baptism.
- Stretch out your hands for the gifts of:
  - #Bread.
  - #Wine.

Remember these life-changing words:

- Keep it moving.
- Keep it moving.
- Keep it moving.

