

and exhausted. Joy itself had at last become wearisome. Doubtless, too, the water supply had been considerably reduced by the presence of the unusual multitude in the city. And it was in the morning hours of the eighth day, when faintness was beginning to overpower the people, that Jesus, standing in the Temple court, lifted up His clarion voice and cried, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink."

In these words Jesus presents Himself to men as the Fountain of Life. Here, again, He claims the fulfilment, in His own person, of great Messianic prophecies. If Jerusalem is not awakened to the fact that Messiah has come, it will not be for lack of bold and definite announcement. Each visit which Jesus made to Jerusalem is signalled by some impressive deed of power or some startling, self-descriptive word, intended to drill into the national consciousness the fact that the prophecies are hastening to fulfilment and that the hour of supreme opportunity has arrived. Among all His words there are none of deeper import or loftier self-assertion than these in which He claims the power, from His own resources, to refresh the weariness and satisfy the thirst of men. He who can prove Himself