

## John Lesson 7

John Chapter 7

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Memory verse for this week: *Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

### ***Introduction:***

In the last part of John Chapter 6 , we found that Jesus made one thing perfectly clear. Salvation is wholly of the Lord. This week, The seventh chapter deals with Jesus' next journey to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. He was again was accosted by the Jews. The first part of the chapter deals largely with Jesus' answer.

The last half of John 7 completes Jesus' strained dialogue with Jews at Jerusalem. It was about 6 months until His last Passover and Calvary and therefore His final visit to Jerusalem before His passion. (The reference to passion refers to the sufferings of Jesus Christ from the Last Supper until his crucifixion.)

### **I. Jesus is Urged to Attend the Feast of Tabernacles.**

*John 7:1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.*

*John 7:2 Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand.*

*John 7:3 His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.*

In John's writings, he uses the phrase, "*after these things,*" on seven different occasions. There is a chronological gap of about six months between John 6 and 7. The synoptic record indicates that during this interval, Jesus had gone to Caesarea-Philippi. Jesus had a purpose in avoiding Galilee as well as Judaea because of the developing antagonism of the Jewish leadership in both areas against Him.

He knew the time for both His public presentation as King and His death were not yet at hand. He returned to Galilee with a purpose greater than merely avoiding the Jews at Jerusalem. The reference to *Jewry* literally means Judea or the region of Jerusalem, the seat of worldwide Judaism. He had not been there for approximately 18 months. He remembered from the events recorded in John 5:18 that even then they were ready to kill Him. In verse 2, the "Jew's feast of tabernacles" also known as Succoth was one of the seven major feasts of Jehovah. It occurred in late September or early October and lasted a total of eight days. It was one of the three convocations in which all devout

Jewish men were to attend each year.

It says that Jesus walked in Galilee and he no longer walked in Jewry because they sought to kill him. The religious leaders hated Jesus because He came to fulfill the law, and they were not ready for any kind of change. During the last year of his ministry, Jesus confined His activities to Galilee. He followed the divine schedule that God had laid out for Him. We are now entering the last six months of His life. There is a storm gathering about Jesus at this time, and it would ultimately break in all fury upon Him on the Cross. The Feast of Tabernacles was the first occurrence in these last six months of Jesus' ministry. We need to remember that Jesus kept all the Law. There were three feasts the every male Jew had to attend in Jerusalem. There was the Feast of the Passover, the Feast of the Tabernacles, and the Feast of Pentecost.

The feast of Tabernacles was a feast of great joy as they celebrated Israel's deliverance out of the land of Egypt. And all through the times of wandering, they lived in tents. You remember how that God guided the people with a cloud in the day and a pillar of fire by night. These were both pictures of our Lord Jesus Christ.

J. Vernon McGee said that all the feasts of Jehovah have been fulfilled except the Feast of Tabernacles. And this will be fulfilled when our Lord returns to the earth. There will be great joy we know when Jesus comes to take us out of this old sinful world. The feast of Tabernacles was a time the Jews commemorated their forefathers wilderness wanderings. For eight consecutive days, the Jews dwelt in tents. (These represented the "Tabernacles" or "Booths".)

*Lev 23:33 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

*Lev 23:34 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD.*

*Lev 23:35 On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.*

*Lev 23:36 Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.*

*Lev 23:37 These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day:*

*Lev 23:38 Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD.*

*Lev 23:39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath.*

*Lev 23:40 And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.*

*Lev 23:41 And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month.*

*Lev 23:42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:*

*Lev 23:43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.*

*Lev 23:44 And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.*

Also see Nehemiah 8:14-18. We see the disciples ask Christ to go down to this feast where he could reveal himself to the people. Christ's disciples thought this would be a good time for Him to present Himself to the people as the true Messiah. Many times we desire to direct God in when and how He should do things in our life. But our timing and God's timing are normally not in synch. God does things perfectly and in order, and each thing has a perfect time. At the appointed time, the world and man were created. At the perfect time, Jesus was born. And each thing that was accomplished in His life came according to God's Will. We know many times they sought to kill the Lord, but He walked right past them because "His time was not yet. "

*John 7:30 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.*

*John 7:4 For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, show thyself to the world.*

*John 7:5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.*

*John 7:6 Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready.*

*John 7:7 The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.*

*John 7:8 Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast: for my time is not yet full come.*

*John 7:9 When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee.*

We see Jesus replies that this is not yet the time for Him to be revealed as the Messiah of the world. I thought upon reading verse 5 that this verse spoke that even his own disciples did not yet believe on Him. But this refers to Jesus' own brethren, his half-brothers which included James, Joses, Simon and Judas. We see in verse five that even as yet, His own brethren did not have the faith to believe that He truly was the Son of God. They had perhaps seen some of the miracles, yet their faith was still not perfected. Sometimes those closest to us are the ones hardest to deal with about the Lord. But that should not deter us from witnessing to them.

Matthew Henry said that the Jesus would not go with His brethren up because they were carnal and hypocritical in it. I don't know if that is correct, but I do know that God desires us to worship Him in purity and in honesty and truth. And if we go up for any religious activity, and Jesus and the Spirit go not before us, we are worshipping in vain.

*John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

*John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

Jesus had a number of (half) brothers. Yet ironically, they did not truly believe in Him.

It may have stemmed from sibling rivalry or it may have been from deeper spiritual problems such as the blindness that overshadowed the Jews. Their urging for Jesus to 'go public' arose not so much out of genuine interest in Jesus' ministry. It seemingly was one of goading Jesus into public embarrassment. Their motive may have been to purge Jesus of His 'messianic delusions.' Notice the inherent unbelief in the statement, "*If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.*" The little word *if* is a sure sign of unbelief and doubt. Recall how Satan tempted Jesus with the caveat, "If thou be the Son of God" (Matthew 4:3).

*Mat 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*

*Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

They urged Him to show himself to the world. However, their evident motive was less than pure. Jesus' answer was as concise as it was pointed in verse 6. His time or the right time for His formal revelation and passion was not yet at hand. He knew God's timing. They had no clue, though they may have been ever ready to turn upon Him. The world does not hate its own. But it hates those who reveal the evil hidden under its veneer of respectability. Jesus is the supreme witness thereto. Therefore the world, including the religious leadership at Jerusalem, hated Him. Jesus told his brothers to go on ahead to the feast at Jerusalem. Though there no doubt were prophetic overtones to the statement, "*for my time is not yet full come,*" it probably came across to his brothers as 'I am not ready yet.' Jesus stayed in Galilee for several more days.

## **II. Jesus Departs From Galilee**

*John 7:10 But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.*

*John 7:11 Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he?*

We see that Jesus would not go with His brethren where they would make a spectacle of Him, but rather he comes in a quiet and dignified manner. Much goes on in churches today that fails to follow the command "Do things decently and in order." Jesus never made a mockery of religion, and we need more men guiding churches today that would have the "mind of Christ." Ways of the world may bring in the numbers of people, but is God honored and glorified. Unless Christ is being glorified, we are not doing our job properly.

*Eph 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

We see the common people longed to see Jesus. His presence was desired. The people had seen the miracles He performed, and they wanted to be near the Lord. I know my desire is to be where Jesus is. When our hearts are close to the Lord, when our will is following the Will of God for our lives, we will recognize like Abraham, that we are just pilgrims passing through this land down here below. Our true home is in Heaven with the Father if we know Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We see in verse 12 that not all the people desired for Jesus to be there.

After his brethren had departed, Jesus then also left for Jerusalem. The reference to "*in secret*" is not so much to His overall journey, but as to His brother's knowledge thereof. Meanwhile, the Jewish leadership in Jerusalem were looking for Him. (The mention of the *Jews* here refers to the rabbinical leadership.) Though Jesus had not been there in some time, they nevertheless kept an eye out for Him during the major feasts. If He showed up, they were ready to confront Him.

John Gill in his commentary said this about verse 10

#### **John 7:10**

**But when his brethren were gone up,**.... To the feast, as all the Oriental versions read, from the next clause:

**then went he also up unto the feast;** the Ethiopic version reads, "he went up that day"; which is very likely, and no ways contrary to what is said, in [Joh 7:14](#); for though he did not go up to the temple to teach, till the middle of the feast, he might be up at the feast sooner: and according to the law, it was necessary that he should be there on the first and second days, and make his appearance in the court; though there was a provision made for such that failed, the canon runs thus (m);

"he that does not make his festival sacrifice, on the first good day of the feast, may make it throughout the whole feast, and on the last good day of the feast; and if the feast passes, and he has not made the festival sacrifice, he is not obliged to a compensation; and of this it is said, [Ecc 1:15](#), "That which is crooked cannot be made straight"; &c."

But however, whatever day he went on, he went up

**not openly, but as it were in secret:** as he was made under the law, and came to fulfil all righteousness, it was necessary that he should observe every precept, and fulfil the whole law:

and therefore he went up to this feast; yet in the most private manner, that he might escape those who would lie in wait for him, and sought to kill him: and this he did, not through fear of death, but because his hour was not yet come; this was not the feast he was to suffer at, but the passover following; which when near at hand, he went up to it, and entered Jerusalem in the most public manner.

*John 7:12 And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.*

*John 7:13 Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.*

During such a feast, Jerusalem overflowed with visiting Jewish pilgrims, not only from Galilee, but Judaism the world around. Many of these, particularly from Galilee, were aware of Jesus. The crowd therefore noised about Him. Some thought well of Him. Others thought of Him as a deceiver. There was no open discussion of Him because the fear the common people had of the Jewish leadership. The leadership could, for example, have troublemakers barred from their local synagogue or bring other discipline to bear.

How sad that so many doubted that Jesus was the Messiah. Some of the people wanted Jesus to be with them, others thought he was of Satan and should not be among the religious groups. We know the religious leaders hated Jesus, and wanted Him destroyed. The people were so scared of the religious leaders, that they did not speak of Jesus openly. It may come to the point where we will be condemned for being Christians. How horrible was the death of that young gay man in Wyoming a few years ago. (I believe that is where it happened.) But rather than rallying around getting justice for His death, we have seen the media put blame on religious groups for preaching against homosexuality.

The blame for evil is Satan. God is good, and wants the best for all of His children. Satan is a great deceiver, and he has blinded many eyes in this world today. On Larry King live several years back, I listened to a debate about whether homosexuality was a choice or an uncontrolled physical response. They had two columnists debating the President of the Southern Baptist Convention and Jerry Falwell, former president of Liberty University and pastor of a large Baptist Church who has went on to be with the Lord.

I thought the two pastors were compassionate and did their best to present the truth about what the Bible says about sin. But those columnists wanted to only dwell on their negative viewpoints on homosexuality, and the fact that God is a God of love. Of course God is a God of love, but God hates sin.

As Brother Falwell pointed out that night, any sex outside of marriage is a sin, whether it be fornication, adultery, or homosexuality. And if we have been transformed and saved by the blood of Jesus, our desires will be to do those things that God has instructed in the Bible. Can a homosexual be saved? Of course they can, but the critical parts of salvation include being drawn by the Holy Spirit, repenting of our sins, and turning in

faith to Jesus for salvation. While many do not want to acknowledge homosexuality as a sin, it is a sin. As the new “Hate Laws” rules go into place, it may become more difficult than ever for Christians to speak up and stand for the truth. This television show was all about the young man who was killed because of being a homosexual

Anyone who does wrong should be punished, and if those two who were arrested are guilty of that young man’s death, I hope they receive the maximum sentence for their actions. But we need to recognize how Satan can take something horrible like this and use it to blind more people to the truth. God is truth and we need to stand on the true teachings of the Word of God, not man’s viewpoints.

### III. Jesus Teaches in the Temple

*John 7:14 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.*

*John 7:15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?*

*John 7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.*

*John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*

About midway through the eight-day feast, Jesus arrived in Jerusalem and “went up into the temple, and taught.” The Jewish authorities were amazed that He could debate the theological issues of the day on a level with the doctors of the law present. The phrase, “*How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?*” reveals standard educational bias. The word translated as letters (gramma *gramma*—from whence our English word *grammar* derives) has the sense of ‘formal literature’—in this case, the Law. The word translated as learned (manyanw *manthano*) basically is a reference to formal education. Jesus had never attended either of the two major rabbinical theological seminaries of Jerusalem (Hillel and Shammai). They were perplexed how He could hold His own and even prevail in the lofty theological debates and lectures carried on at the Temple.

In verse 16, Jesus’ reply was that His *doctrine* (i.e., teaching) did not originate with Him. Rather, it came from Him that sent Him. In other words, Jesus answered that what He taught came from on high. He then took the opportunity to teach a profound spiritual lesson. The phrase, “*If any man will do his will,*” literally has the sense, ‘If any man is *willing* to do His will.’

Again, the word translated as doctrine (didach *didache*) has the basic sense of ‘teaching.’ In this case, it is of basic Bible doctrine. The word translated as know (ginwskw *ginosko*) here has the sense of ‘understanding.’ What Jesus therefore taught essentially was, ‘If any man is willing to do His will, he shall have understanding of Bible teaching, whether it is about the Father or about Jesus’ The emphasis is upon a *willingness* to do or obey God’s will. When men have a heart *willing* to do

God's will, spiritual blinders are removed, enabling them to understand the truth.

*Psalm 11:10 "A good understanding have all they that do his commandments."*

The key is a heart and spirit willing to do God's will.

Jesus goes up to the temple and teaches. And what did he teach? We do not have a record of the teachings, but I believe with all my heart that Jesus presented the Gospel at every opportunity. The Gospel is not difficult nor confusing, but praise the Lord it is simple and anyone who will listen, believe with Faith that Jesus died for their sins, they can be saved. Back in verse 14, the Jews question how Jesus could teach with such knowledge and power. He had no training by the Scribes. No Ph.D. from any seminary. But as Jesus said, his knowledge came from the Father Himself. My doctrine is not my own, but from the Father who sent Jesus. Remember what Nicodemus said Jesus in Chapter 3.

*John 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.*

Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews, and even he knew that Jesus was no ordinary man. To have been taught by the Lord would be the ultimate of all teaching. We have many great preachers and teachers in our time. Billy Graham has perhaps been the greatest in presenting the Gospel with simplicity and effectiveness for years in my lifetime. Another who communicates a lesson effectively is Chuck Swindoll, former President of Dallas Theological Seminary? I mean he can take a topic and really expound it, and make you understand it and apply it to today's life. But as great as these men may be, they could not hold a light to Jesus. After Jesus had died and risen to be with the Father, those who He left behind were just then using those things that Jesus taught them.

*Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and **they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.***

*Acts 4:14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.*

Jesus told them that if any man would do the will of the Father, they would know that His doctrine was true. Jesus had the knowledge of God, and He will give that to us as we study the Bible and seek God's Will for our lives.

*John 7:18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.*

*John 7:19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?*

*John 7:20 The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill*



*thee?*

Jesus tells them that anyone who seeks after their own glory was not worthy, but the one who was speaking to them was not seeking glory for himself. He wanted God to be glorified, and there truly was no unrighteousness in Him. Jesus was the perfect, sinless, begotten Son of God.

Jesus tells them that the law was given to them by Moses, but it was insufficient to restrain sin. Man is a weak vessel, and needed more than the law to come unto God. Matthew Henry in his study on John said "Moses gave you the law, but you do not keep it, nor are kept by it from the greatest wickedness; there is therefore need of a clearer light and better law to be brought in; why then do you aim to kill me for introducing it?"

The people then question who is it that sought to kill Him? They accuse and say no one is seeking to kill him, but He had a devil. This was not uncommon. Many accused Jesus of performing His miracles by using the power of Beelzebub, the prince of devils.

*Mat 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.*

*Mat 12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:*

*Mat 12:26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?*

*Mat 12:27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.*

*Mat 12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*

Jesus presented a truth. When one blows his own horn, so to speak, he is basically seeking his own glory. However, when a messenger seeks glory for the one who sent him, he is a trustworthy messenger. Jesus' motive was always to glorify His Father. It validated His message and lent credence to Him in so doing. The discussion here harkens back to the events in John 5 when Jesus was last in Jerusalem.

He had then healed the impotent man at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath day. He was sharply assailed by the Jews. They had in mind to kill Him. Jesus had not forgotten. Neither had they. Jesus proceeded to point out the inconsistency of the rabbinical Jewish leaders. He reminded them that Moses gave them the Law, yet they routinely broke it. He then asked them why they wanted therefore to kill Him (for breaking the Sabbath)? The common people, including pilgrim tourists visiting Jerusalem for the feast, for the most part were unaware of Jesus' last encounter with the Jewish leadership. They basically accused Him of being crazy. "*Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?*" It was a common idiom similar to the modern

accusation, 'You're crazy.'

*F. B. Meyer said this about these verses:*

Jesus now went up to the feast, not because he was prompted by the worldly policy suggested by His brethren, but because He was led by His Father's will. We must be on our guard against unspiritual advisers, and must wait till the hour and the minute-hands of the clock have reached the precise moment of the Father's appointment.

Here is an easy method of ascertaining whether our Lord's words about God,

Himself, and the future are merely the words of a human teacher, or are really God's. Be willing to do as He says! Stand prepared to fulfill whatever is revealed to your mind and witnessed to by the inner voice! Live with your face toward the dawn, for though it tarry long it will certainly break. See Joh 3:21. Faith in the gospel does not come by logic, but as the result of obeying the highest truth that you know. Follow on and your path will lead you out to where Jesus stands, the revealed Son of God and the Savior of men. The old quarrel as to the miracle wrought at Bethesda on the Sabbath was still alive, Joh 7:22-23. His critics did not hold that the Mosaic law was violated if a child's submission to the Jewish initiatory rite was performed on the Sabbath. How foolish, then, to blame Jesus for an act of mercy and healing!

*John 7:21 Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel.*

*John 7:22 Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man.*

*John 7:23 If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?*

*John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.*

*John 7:25 Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill?*

*John 7:26 But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?*

Jesus replied that He had done one work, and they all were amazed. (The "one work" probably was His healing of the impotent man the last time He was in Jerusalem.) Then Jesus proceeded to show their inconsistency and hypocrisy. Moses had passed on the practice of circumcision in the Law, though it actually originated with Abraham. Therefore, they circumcised on the Sabbath day. They had reprimanded Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. Now He turned the tables on them and reminded them how they broke the Sabbath by circumcising thereon. They broke the Law to keep the Law.

Jesus asked them why they were offended when He had in fact made a man completely whole on the Sabbath day. The greater unsaid question remained, why would they seek to kill Him for doing better than they on the Sabbath? Their inconsistency and hypocrisy had been revealed.

In verse 24, Jesus' injunction, "*Judge not according to the appearance, but judge*

*righteous judgement*”, said essentially this. Look beyond outward appearance and make genuinely righteous decisions. One of the problems of rabbinical Judaism in Jesus’ day was their inordinate emphasis on outward appearance while ignoring the less obvious but underlying spiritual needs. They cared little how the poor man had been healed the last time Jesus was in Jerusalem. All they cared about was the outward appearance of violating a rabbinical mandate. We are called to righteous discernment.

The debate over whether this was the one the rabbinical leadership wanted to kill reemerged. The common people were perplexed how Jesus boldly confronted the Jewish authorities and they did not reply. Some surmised, perhaps sarcastically, that maybe they knew this was the Messiah.

Jesus tries to reason with these people. He talks of how they see him do one work and then marvel, then turn around and accuse Him for doing good on the Sabbath. He uses the example of following the law to circumcise on the Sabbath day, but yet find fault when Jesus healed on the Sabbath. We need to not judge by appearance, but judge righteous judgment. I’m afraid that there will never be true righteous judgment in this world until the true Righteous Judge comes back to take the Throne one David. In verse 25, we see some recognize Jesus for who He was, the one that the religious leaders sought to kill. And they ask a good question... “Do these rulers know that this is the very Christ?” The answer was no. They overlooked the suffering servant that was come that was prophesied all through the Old Testament.

#### **IV. Jesus Teaches in The Temple**

*John 7:25 Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill?*

*John 7:26 But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?*

*John 7:27 Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is.*

We see much murmuring going on about Jesus. We saw that most would not speak out openly for fear of the religious leaders of the day. Here they question if Jesus is not the very one that they sought to kill, while we saw some saw in the earlier verses that “he had a devil” making him think someone was out to kill Him. Be sure, there were many who wanted Jesus dead, but His time was not yet come.

We see in verse 26 that they question whether the rulers really knew that Jesus was “the very Christ.” But then they turn around and say that Jesus could not be the Christ since they knew his background and where he came from. What they did not realize is that Jesus was not Joseph and Mary’s son, but Jesus was the very begotten Son of God. Mary was his human mother, but Joseph was not his father. Jesus was the one and only virgin born man on this earth.

In the prior verse, the Jews had perhaps sarcastically posed the question if the authorities really knew if this was the Christ. Here they then with disdain added, "Howbeit we know this man whence he is." These evidently were pilgrim tourists in Jerusalem from Galilee. They in effect said, 'We know all about this fellow.' Then they piously added, "but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is." Their comment was based upon ignorance of Scripture for there are several Old Testament passages clearly defining not only the birthplace of the Messiah (Micah 5:2) but also from where he would ultimately hale .

*Isa 9:1 Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.*

*Isa 9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*

*Isa 9:3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.*

*Isa 9:4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.*

*Isa 9:5 For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.*

*Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

*John 7:28 Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.*

*John 7:29 But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.*

These comments so moved Jesus that he cried out to them that they only thought they knew Him. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, but the Son that came down from heaven. Jesus says that his is not come of myself, but of He who sent me. Some there might have had some knowledge of God, but no one there knew God like Jesus. Being a part of the God head, Jesus was God manifested in the flesh.

He had the mind of God. John Calvin commented that it as if Jesus was saying "You have your eyes fixed on the earth, and you think that you see all of me, and therefore you despise me as an unknown son of the earth. But God will testify that I come from heaven. While I may be rejected by you, God will testify that I am in reality His, because God is true."

Jesus stood in the Temple complex and cried out, "Ye both know me, and whence I am." But then He added, "and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not." Jesus made clear that His coming was not of His own purpose. Rather, He who sent Him was true—God the Father. Sadly, the Jews did not know Him. Because they did not know the Father, they did not have life eternal.

*Joh 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

*John 7:30 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.*

Last week, we gave a number of scriptures about how that many times they sought to take Jesus, but he walked right through their midst because his time was not yet come. God had a perfect time for Jesus to be born on earth, a perfect time for Him to have His ministry, and a perfect time for Him to die as our substitute for sin on Calvary. And there are some more perfect days in the perfect timetable coming up, and one that is sure to come to pass soon is when Jesus comes to take us out of this old world prior to the 7 years of tribulation.

Jesus was truly in danger of men all through his ministry, but we do not see Him walking around in fear. You and I are not to have that spirit of fear either. I heard about a man in the cemetery of Westminster Abbey in England that had written on his tombstone, "He feared man so little because he feared God so much." Think about that. If we fear God properly, we will not fear man.

*Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

*Mat 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

*Heb 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

The enraged Temple authorities thereupon sought to have Him arrested. Yet because His appointed time was not yet at hand, nothing was done for no man could. Jesus' life and ministry were clearly defined by God the Father. He had not as yet finished His course nor His ministry, because "His hour was not yet come."

*John 7:31 And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?*

Even amidst all of this turmoil and doubt, praise the Lord, some believed on him. When you and I go out and witness, not all will believe. But there will always be a few and perhaps even fewer as the days grow shorter until Christ's coming. But the people knew that another would be hard pressed to do more miracles than Jesus had done.

One more paragraph from the commentary on John by John Calvin. "It might appear that Christ was preaching to the deaf and utterly obstinate, and yet the evangelist says that some fruit followed. So while some people may grumble, others smile, and others

slander; and though many differences may arise, the preaching of the Gospel will not be without effect. So we must sow the seed and wait patiently, until eventually the fruit appears.

The words “put their faith in Him” are used here in an imprecise way, for they relied more on the miracles than on teaching and were not convinced that Jesus was the Christ. But as they were ready to listen to him and allowed themselves to be taught by him, such a preparation for faith is called faith. So when the Holy Spirit gives to a small spark of the right attitude such an honorable title, it should encourage us not to doubt that faith, however small, will be accepted by God.”

I want to add that even faith itself is a gift of God. The Holy Spirit draws us, and we do have to acknowledge and accept Christ, but faith and repentance are gifts of God also. Man has nothing to boast of before God, since salvation is wholly of the Lord.

Nevertheless, many of the people (the multitudes assembled in and around the Temple) believed on him. They discussed among themselves that when the Christ came, would He do more than this man had done?

*John 7:32 The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him.*

*John 7:33 Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me.*

As the temple authorities picked up on how people were flocking to Jesus, they sent *officers*, the Temple police, to arrest Him. The Pharisees heard the murmuring of the people, and they decide to send officers to take Jesus. It is amazing how when truth goes forth, Satan is quick to try and quench it or water it down where is not really truth at all. What Jesus spoke was total truth. He tells them that He will be with them for a little while, and then return to the one who sent Him. Always remember that Satan is not ignorant of the scriptures. I believe some of Satan’s biggest demons are ministers of light in this old world today.

They preach “part truth” and “part error.” It is crucial for us to not only read the Word, but to study it where we can truly “rightly divide the word in truth.” When the Devil came to tempt Jesus, he quoted scripture all three times to try and trick Jesus. But Jesus knew all scripture, and partial bits of the Word did not mislead Him. How about you and I? What versions of the Bible do you study? Are you sure that those words are the very words that God had men to pen?

I believe with all my heart that we have the true Word of God today that God has preserved for man until the end of time. And it is not just in the original transcripts, but written in ink on the pages of the King James Version of the Bible. This version was not translated from corrupt texts of liberals who set out to destroy God’s Word. We

can trust the words that are penned and not have to question each verse as to whether it is accurate or not.

*John 7:34 Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.*

*John 7:35 Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles?*

*John 7:36 What manner of saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come?*

None of us will ever be able to ascend into heaven unless Jesus provides the way, and that is what He was speaking of in verse 34. The Jews are so earthly and carnal that all they could think about was where Jesus might go to hide from them. They thought that perhaps he would go outside of the country to where other Jews were dispersed. This made them fear that Jesus might teach the Gentiles since they perceived the Gentiles as a lower class that was unfit for the things of God.

God help us to never think that we are superior to others. There are really only one class of people on this earth. Sinners. Some are lost, others have been saved. But all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God.

*Rom 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

*Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

*Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

*Rom 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

Jesus therefore presented a mystery to the crowds. He alluded to how He would be with them only a little while. In fact, it was about six months until His final Passover when He would be crucified. His hour would come. He further added that they would seek Him, but not find Him. Where He would go, they could not come.

The assembled Jews muttered about where could He go that they could find Him? (Of course, Jesus was alluding to how He would return to His Father.) They pondered if He planned to go to the diaspora and teach both the dispersed Jews and perhaps the gentiles. (Of course, that is not what Jesus had in mind. However, the irony is that exactly is what the apostles later did.) His audience therefore was perplexed.

## **V. Jesus Reveals Himself as the way to the Eternal Water.**

*John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.*

*John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*

*John 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

The feast at hand was Succot, or the Feast of Tabernacles, which had developed into an eight day festival. The final day, though not necessarily *the* Sabbath, nevertheless was a sabbath, that is a high holy day. It was the custom during Succot for a golden pitcher of water to be drawn from the pool of Siloam and taken in a procession of priests to the as they sang from Isaiah 12:3: "With joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."

The water then was each day offered as a type of a drink offering. It is not clear if this was done on the eighth day which had been added onto the seven days prescribed in Leviticus. If not, what Jesus therefore cried out was even more fitting. "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."

When you are really thirsty, nothing satisfies your thirst like pure water. And when it comes to the spiritual thirst, there is only one drink that satisfies forever, and that is our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, I know I will need another physical drink of water to satisfy this old body. But what Jesus did for me spiritually in 1963 is still satisfying me here today all of these years later. Of course I have to read my Bible to stay in close fellowship, but the spiritual water has never and will never run out. As it says in verse 38, those that believe on Jesus will have rivers of water flowing out of his belly. We won't stop to read these verses, but compare these verses on the living water in John 4:14-16, John 6:36, Rev 22:17, and Isaiah 55:1.

Indeed, Jesus is the water of life. For physical life, two absolute essentials are required: air and water. Without either, physical life cannot exist. Spiritual life emanates from the Spirit of God which is routinely likened unto breathe, wind, or air. Jesus provides the spiritual water necessary for eternal life. As Jesus is about to define, He also would provide them the spiritual breathe of life in the Holy Spirit.

This seemingly mysterious verse has an interesting resolution. Jesus indicated what He said was a fulfillment of Old Testament Scripture, which indeed it was. There does not seem to be any specific passage quoted here. Rather, Jesus refers to a composite of Old Testament passages referring to how God will provide the water of life to His people ranging from the water from the rock in Exodus 17:6 to prophetic utterances thereto in Isaiah 55:1, 58:11, Zechariah 13:1, 14:8, and Ezekiel 47:1.

The reading, at first glance,—“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of



his belly shall flow rivers of living water”—is a reference to the one so believing. In this case the antecedent of *his* seemingly is the one believing. A strong case can however be built that the antecedent for *his* is the *me* in the verse. If that be the case, then Jesus is the source of the living water which is consistent with the greater context.

The word translated as belly (*koilia koilia*) literally means ‘belly.’ However, the broader essence is that such living water would flow from His body.

John, from the perspective of hindsight, writing many years after Pentecost, added, “But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive.” The reference clearly is made that Jesus would shortly pour out of the Holy Spirit upon the infant church. The Holy Ghost certainly existed heretofore. However, His expanded ministry to the church was here prophesied. This, of course, took place less than a year later at Pentecost after Jesus’ resurrection, glorification, and ascension.

In verse 39, we see how that the Holy Ghost was not yet given to man to come and dwell within them like He does today. God’s Holy Spirit dwelt among man in the Old Testament, but not in man. Today, our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

*1 Cor 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

*1 Cor 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

*John 7:40 Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.*

*John 7:41 Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?*

*John 7:42 Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?*

*John 7:43 So there was a division among the people because of him.*

We see the people arguing over whether Jesus was the true Messiah or not. Some said they knew he was The Prophet. Others argued that he could not come out of Galilee since the scripture clearly taught that He was to come as a seed of David. This is good that they made decisions based upon scripture. But where was Jesus actually born? In Bethlehem like it was prophesied. And they were not far off the mark about coming from the seed of David. It says in Isaiah 11:1 that the Messiah was to be a rod out of the stem of Jesse.

*Isa 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:*

*Isa 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*

*Isa 11:3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:*

One of the things we all must be careful of is to jump to conclusions without gathering facts. If they had but asked, they could have found out that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. But quick minds do not always bring about accurate conclusions. The bible says that many are 'willingly ignorant' of the things of God.

*2 Pet 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

Many today don't want to know the truth. If you tell them what the Bible says, they sometimes reply "I don't care what the Bible says. This is what I believe." I don't know about you, but I sure care what God's Word says about things. The Bible teaches that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Until we fear the Lord properly, we are not wise truly, but only wise in our own minds. Satan has us right where he wants us. Relying on ourselves which is never a stable position. But when we base our decisions on "thus saith the Lord", we have a solid rock, an unmovable foundation that will never fail us.

The debate amongst the assembled throngs at Jerusalem for the feast continued. The Jews of that day did not take the position that the Prophet foretold in Deuteronomy 18:15,18 was the Messiah, though that is the correct position. They assumed this Prophet was someone like Elijah as a forerunner. Some, nevertheless, claimed He was the Prophet of Deuteronomy 18. Others claimed He was the Christ. But then it was asked if Christ would come from Galilee from whence they thought Jesus to be.

The general ignorance both of Jesus' origin and of the Scripture is evident. There is clear scriptural evidence that the Messiah would hale from Galilee in Isaiah 9. They, of course, pointed out that in Micah 5:2 it was prophesied that the Christ would be born in Bethlehem, of the seed of David. The crowds at Jerusalem were in fact ignorant that is exactly how and where Jesus had been born.

There was a division among the people because of him. Because of ignorance of both Scripture and historical fact, "there was division among the people because of him." So often to this day there is needless divisions and sects from lack of proper understanding of the Scripture or of historical fact. Entire movements and denominations have been built upon such uneven foundations. Then, stubbornness and pride keep them from later ever admitting their error.

*John 7:44 And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.*

*John 7:45 Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?*

*John 7:46 The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.*

I have always loved these verses. It says that they wanted to take him, but no man laid hands on him. And all these religious leaders want to know why the soldiers did not bring him to them. And their reply was "Never man spake like this man." And why was this? Because Jesus was no ordinary man. He was God Himself. All the knowledge of all the ages was at His disposal. They marveled at the wisdom of Solomon, but Jesus was far superior to David's son Solomon. Remember what Peter said about Jesus when Christ asked them whom do the people say I am.

*Mat 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*

*Mat 16:14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.*

*Mat 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?*

*Mat 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

*Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

*John 7:47 Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived?*

*John 7:48 Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?*

*John 7:49 But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.*

We see the Pharisees are really hot that the soldiers did not bring Jesus back to them. They question whether they were deceived by Christ like the people. (Which were not being deceived... Satan was deceiving the Religious leaders of the day.) To their sad question, I believe the answer was no, except for one. Nicodemus had come to Jesus at night, and I believe that he knew Jesus was Lord. The others were so wrapped up in the ceremonial law, so ground into it, that they could not see the forest for the tree. The ones that believed on Jesus had the best religious view of any, and some of them certainly did know the law. Some verses that point to Nicodemus being saved are John 19:38 and 39.

*John 19:38 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.*

*John 19:39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.*

Meanwhile, the officers sent by the Temple authorities to arrest Jesus heard Him so speak. And several of them would have moved, but yet they did not. His hour still was not come. Upon returning to their superiors they could only answer, "Never man spake

like this man.” Though they would not admit to it, they had heard the voice of the Son of God. His power overwhelmed them. They dared not lay hands on such authority.

Their petty superiors could only complain about how they were also deceived and how none of the leadership (supposedly) had believed on Him. The Pharisees and rabbinical leadership disdained the common people.

*John 7:50 Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)*

*John 7:51 Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?*

*John 7:52 They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.*

*John 7:53 And every man went unto his own house.*

There was at least one ruler and Pharisee who believed in Him. (and possibly more in Joseph of Arimathaea) That was none other than Nicodemus. This is the same one who had come to Him by night in John 3. Nicodemus protested, “*Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?*” Of course, he was right. Even as legalistic a society as first century Israel was, a man was deemed innocent until he had been otherwise adjudicated guilty in the mouth of two or three witnesses.

We see that Nicodemus is harassed and made fun of for taking up for Jesus. That happens a lot of times in life, but we still need to stand up for the truth. He asks a simple question... “Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?” These did judge Jesus without a trial or opportunity to hear from Him. And ultimately they stirred up the people and had Jesus crucified. What hatred was in their hearts for Jesus. And yet Jesus still loved them. His last request for them was “Forgive them for they know not what they do.”

*Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*

They ridicule Nicodemus with “Art thou also of Galilee?” To be of Galilee was a disgrace to them. But I tell you, no matter where you are from, you need to know this man from Galilee. Not just a head knowledge, but a heart knowledge. Knowing Jesus was a great man is wonderful, but even Satan’s demons know that. That is about a foot away from knowing Jesus as your own personal Savior, and that comes from the heart.

The rest of the Sanhedrin scornfully dismissed Nicodemus by sarcastically asking, “Art thou also of Galilee?” They knew he was not, but they attempted to insult Nicodemus the aristocrat by implying maybe he too was from that back-water illiterate region of Galilee. Though these of all people should have known better, they took up the

prevailing 'party line' and 'talking points' that "out of Galilee ariseth no prophet."

The fact of the matter is Jonah, Hosea, Nahum, and possibly Elijah, Elisha, and Amos were from the general region of Galilee. Moreover, Isaiah 9:1-6 makes it very clear that though the Messiah would not be born in Galilee, His ministry would in part take place there.

Though these religious leaders gave a pretense of appealing to the Scripture. They in fact were either ignorant thereof, or if they knew better were willing to deceive to further their own ulterior motives. Probably a combination of both are in view. Sadly, so much 'religion' follows the same pattern. Denominational leaders give lip service to the Scripture when they are ignorant thereof. Worse still, they know better and yet deceive their following to maintain position of power and prominence.

In verse 53, every man went unto his own house. The implication of every man going to his own house is that they were convicted by the power of what Jesus said. His antagonists therefore faded away for the time being. A similar event takes place soon after, as recorded in John 8:9.

From verse 53 to 8:11 is a scriptural account deleted from Alexandrian manuscripts, which form the basis of the modern critical text. However, the church of Jesus Christ received this portion of Scripture for eighteen centuries. It surely is a part of the preserved Word of God.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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