John 7: 1-39

John 7: 1-2

After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. **2** Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.

- It was not a lack of courage that made Jesus stay in Galilee, but an awareness of the ***Father's perfect timing*** – it was not time yet for Him to be arrested.
- **Feast of Tabernacles**: This was a joyful, weeklong celebration in September or October when families camped out in temporary shelters to remember God's faithfulness to Israel in the wilderness on the way from Egypt to Canaan under Moses.

John 7: 3-5

His brothers therefore said to Him, “Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

- Jesus knew who He was. He was not seeking human approval. He knew where he came from and where he was going.
- Jesus kept a low profile not wanting to draw attention to Himself until the right time -not because he lacked courage or confidence. He was secure.
- Jesus knew when to hide, when to speak and when not to. Especially in this day and age that everyone has an opinion about everything. People seek to be heard and seen. There is a set time for everything in God’s calendar and as followers of Jesus we must seek to discern and know when it’s right to speak or not to.
- **‘*Show Yourself to the* world**’ his brothers said but Jesus hasn’t come “show Himself” because he knows who He was.

John 7: 6-9

Then Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. **7** The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. **8** You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come.” **9** When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.

- Because Jesus was completely submitted to the will of the Father, the timing of God the Father was important.
- As Jesus obeyed His Father, He lived out the truth that God’s *timing* is an important expression of His *will*. Something may be in God’s will but not yet in His timing.
- The world have no problem with the people of the world. But have problem with those who believe in Jesus and follow Him. The world sees us as the ‘strange’ or ‘odd’ ones.
- Jesus told us if the world hate Him, the world will hate us. And if they listened to Him, they will listen to us. So, let’s not be discouraged when the world hates us and persecute us.
- Matthew 5: 10-12- Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven **11** Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **12** Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- The timing is important for God to have all the glory.

John 7: 10-13

But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. **11** Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, “Where is He?” **12** And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, “He is good”; others said, “No, on the contrary, He deceives the people.” **13** However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

- At the right time, Jesus went to the feast not with his brothers or according to the timing of his brothers but of His father.
- Not as they expected ‘openly’ but in secret.
- Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD. **9** “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.
- Everyone has their opinion about Christ. Some said He is good; some said he is a deceiver. People know and have heard things about Jesus; either right or wrong.
- Then as well as now, Jesus divides people. Those who heard Him and knew Him couldn’t remain neutral. They decided one way or another regarding who Jesus was, either **good** or a deceiver.
- The worst thing you can say to a person is to say ‘I don’t trust you.’

John 7: 14-15

Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. **15** And the Jews marveled, saying, “How does this Man know letters, having never studied?”.

- In John 2: 13-17 Jesus went into the temple in Jerusalem for Passover and went to cleanse the temple.
- Jesus cleansed the temple before he taught in the temple. The same way Jesus cleanses us as believers before he can teach us or do anything meaningful in and through our life.
- “How does this Man know letters, having never studied?”. According to their standard, He doesn’t have the qualification or education to be able to teach as he did.
- He had no degree, He had no teacher, He hasn’t been to any bible college or seminary but
- He is anointed.
- Acts 10:38-39 - how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.
- Luke 4:18-19 - “The Spirit of the LORD *is* upon Me, Because He has anointed Me. To preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted. To proclaim liberty to *the* captives And recovery of sight to *the* blind, *To* set at liberty those who are oppressed; **19** To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”
- The Jewish leaders knew that Jesus had not studied or been a disciple under a prominent rabbi. Jesus did not follow the normal and expected course of education for a teacher.
- Who can teach the one who knows all things?

John 7: 16-19

Jesus answered them and said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. **17** If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or *whether* I speak on My own *authority.* **18** He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. **19** Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?”

- Jesus ended up teaching. Anyone filled with God’s cannot be quiet.
- However, not our own doctrine or for vain glory, but the doctrine of Christ for His glory.
- We are not to convert people to ourself or ideas but convert people to Christ. We are not to speak of ourself but of Him. It is all about Him.
- There is a great spiritual principle behind the words, **If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine**. Spiritual understanding is not produced solely by learning facts or procedures, but rather it depends on obedience to known truth.
- Verse 18: We are to seek His glory not ours.
- Jesus didn’t point to His credentials, but to His **doctrine**. It was as if He said, “I don’t have a seminary degree, but judge Me by **My doctrine**.” If the Jewish leaders listened carefully to the **doctrine** of Jesus, they would know that it was all rooted in the Old Testament Scriptures, and that it was **from God**.

John 7: 20-24

The people answered and said, “You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?” **21** Jesus answered and said to them, “I did one work, and you all marvel. **22** Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. **23** If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? **24** Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

- Jesus reminded them of what happened at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-15) to the man who had been paralysed for thirty-eight years.
- John 5: 8-10- Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” **9** And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. **10** The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.”
- This is what religiosity does. Legalism and ‘tradition’ keep people in chains. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
- **Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment**: They decided that Jesus appeared to be a sinner, and they appeared to be righteous. They were wrong each time, and they needed to **judge with righteous judgment** instead of only by appearances.

John 7: 25-29

Now some of them from Jerusalem said, “Is this not He whom they seek to kill? **26** But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ? **27** However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from.”

- **Is this not He whom they seek to kill?** The people **from Jerusalem** knew that the religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus. The crowd that came for the feast did not know it, but those from Jerusalem did. Yet they were amazed that the **rulers** would not and could not stop Jesus from teaching.
- **He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him**: Jesus was never afraid or intimidated by the threats against Him. He still spoke **boldly**, and with such boldness that no one could make Him stop.
- **We know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from**: Many (but not all) of the Jews of that time believed the Messiah would appear suddenly, as if out of nowhere.
- Malachi 3:1- “Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, *will suddenly come* to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the LORD of hosts.

28 Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, “You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. **29** But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me.”

- Micah 5:2- “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth *are* from of old, from everlasting.”
- **We know where this Man is from**: We don’t know if the people thought, *this Man comes from Bethlehem* or *this Man comes from Nazareth*. They probably associated Jesus with Nazareth (Jesus of Nazareth).
- **You both know Me, and you know where I am from**: They *thought* they knew where He was from, but they were unaware of His heavenly origin.
- **I am from Him, and He sent Me**: The crowds were perhaps confused about where the Messiah would come from, but Jesus knew exactly where He came from. Jesus was not a confused man, wondering if He was really the Son of God.
- Who is Jesus? Where is He from? This is a question for each of us to settle.

John 7: 30-31

Therefore, they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. **31** And many of the people believed in Him, and said, “When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this *Man* has done?”

- **No one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come**: Until the time was right, no one could lay their hand on Jesus. There would come a time when Jesus would say that His hour had come. Until that **hour**, Jesus was protected.
- As believer and follower of Jesus, we can be sure of His protection. He watches over His own people.
- Matthew 10: 29-31: Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. **30** But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

John 7: 32-36

The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him. **33** Then Jesus said to them, “I shall be with you a little while longer, and *then* I go to Him who sent Me. **34** You will seek Me and not find *Me,* and where I am you cannot come.” **35** Then the Jews said among themselves, “Where does He intend to go that we shall not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? **36** What is this thing that He said, ‘You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come’?”

- Jesus knew where He was going. Going to back to heaven to His father. And He told us that He is going to prepare a place for us.
- John 14:1-3- “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so,* I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.
- Those who reject Him will not be with Him.
- John 3:17-19: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **19** And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 7: 37-39

On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given,* because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Feast of Tabernacles

- The Feast of Tabernacles lasted eight days.
- Feast was to specifically remember their wilderness wanderings.
- During the Feast, they would pour water in memory of the water from the rock at Horeb.
- All through the first seven days water from the Pool of Siloam was carried in a golden pitcher and poured out at the altar to remind everyone of the water God miraculously provided for a thirsty Israel in the wilderness.
- On the eighth day there was *no* pouring of water – only prayers for water – to remind them that they came into the Promised Land.
- Also to indicate that their thirst was not yet satisfied, i.e Messiah was not yet come.
- They would read from Isaiah 12
- Isaiah 12:3-6: Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation. **4** And in that day you will say: "Praise the LORD, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. **5** Sing to the LORD, For He has done excellent things; This *is* known in all the earth. **6** Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great *is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"*
- The rock that followed them was Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4). He is now in their midst.

John 7: 37-39

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The Holy Spirit in you

- Will subdue your lusts and propensities. Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-17).
- Will Impart Liberty. Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17). Not only will you be at liberty, but you will become an agent of liberty setting others free.
- Will reveal the things of Christ to you. He shall receive of mine and show it unto you. He shall testify of me (John 16: 13-15).
- Present the truth of God and the things of God to your mind.
- Will impart light and wisdom – He will guide you into all truth.
- Will sustain you in the hour of affliction. I will not leave you comfortless, I will send the comforter Jesus said.
- Will impart to you the virtues of a holy character. Galatians 5:22-25- **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. **24** And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
- He gives the witness of adoption and salvation. The bible says: The Spirit bears witness with our spirit, that we are children of God

John 7: 37-39

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