

The Gospel of John Pt. 12

John 7:1-53

Big Idea

- Jesus presents the concepts of Him being the fulfillment of the Law and the Spiritual Circumcision then John records the people's response

Exposition – John 7:1-53

Again, John uses, “After these things...” at the opening of chapter 7. Approximately 7 months pass between chapter 6 and 7. Interestingly, a large period of Jesus' ministry passes between chapter 5 and 7. We saw the passage of 6-12 months between chapters 5 & 6, depending on whether it was the Feast of Tabernacles or Passover that was celebrated in chapter 5. Now another large passage of time between the Passover in 6:4 and Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) in 7:2. John says nothing about the seven months in between chapters 6 & 7. So, Jesus spent two days teaching the 20,000 people in chapter 6, but now spends 7 months teaching only the 12 disciples. This becomes prevalent as the crucifixion draws near.



1. The Prelude to the Feast of Tabernacles (V7:1-13)

- (V1-2) – The Feast of Tabernacles was an annual celebration of God's faithful provision during the harvest. The Feast took place during the September/October time period. The Celebration included water-drawing and lamp-lighting rituals. This is why Jesus uses the sayings, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink” and “I am the Light of the world”.
- (V3-5) – Jesus' brothers, James, Joses, Simon, and Judas (Matt 13:55), did not believe on Jesus as Savior until after His resurrection. Their motives here are unclear. Either they wanted to witness His miracles personally or they were waiting to see if Jesus' would be a political Savior.
- (V6-13) – Jesus' brothers went to the Feast alone then Jesus went secretly. He was the subject of contention in Jerusalem. There was debate about Jesus, but everyone spoke of Him quietly because they feared how the Jewish leaders would respond if they were heard.

2. Jesus Defends His Claims About Himself (V7:14-24)

- Jesus gives five reasons why His claims about Himself are true
 1. His supernatural knowledge comes from the Father (v15-16)
 2. His teaching & knowledge could be confirmed by testing (v17)
 3. His actions indicated His selflessness (v18)
 4. His impact on the world was astonishing (v19-20)
 5. His deeds show His identity as the Son of God (v21-24)



3. Jesus Teaches About His Divine Origin and Citizenship (V7:25-36)

- Some believed, but the Jewish leaders grew more irritated with Jesus. Here Jesus reveals three major problems related to belief.
 1. Confusion (V25-29) – There seemed to be a disparity between what the Jewish leaders were saying about Jesus and their actual response to His teaching. The people on the street sense the confusion. If Jesus really was a fraud why didn't the Jewish leaders arrest Him swiftly?
 2. Conviction (V30-32) – The reaction to Jesus on the street was mixed. Opinions varied. Many were opposed, but some sincerely believed. There is no doubt that Jesus' works were powerful and everyone knew it. There was a stream of doubt in the minds of those that opposed Jesus.

3. Chronology (V33-36) – Paraphrased, Jesus says, “I am here with you now, but not for long. Belief will become harder once I have departed. Believe now while it is easy.”

4. The People React (V37-53)

- In the final section of the chapter there are two basic topics: (1) Jesus offers a final invitation to come to Him in salvation, (2) The differing reactions of the people.

1. (V37-39) – Jesus uses one of the symbols of the Feast of Tabernacles, water as a way to show His listeners that He is the highest fulfillment of God’s provision for man. Here, the “rivers of living water” is the gift of the Holy Spirit according to John in the very next verse (v39). For a few centuries leading up to



Jesus’ day, the Feast of Tabernacles would begin when the high priest would carry a golden container filled with water from the Pool of Siloam back to the temple as part of a great procession. Upon his arrival, three trumpet blasts would sound then the people would recite Isaiah 12:3, “Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation.”, then sing the Hallel Psalms (113-118) together.

2. (V40-53) – When Jesus gave this final invitation, the five different response of the people are recorded in the following verses.
1. The convinced (v40-41a) – Once again the people see Jesus as “the Prophet” as promised in Deuteronomy 18:15 and alluded too in several places in the gospels.
 2. The contrary (v41b-42) – Not only are these people contrary, they are also ignorant. Jesus was not from Galilee, but rather from Bethlehem, the City of David.
 3. The hostile (v43-44) – There were a number who were hostile toward Jesus. However, none of them laid a hand on Him. This reveals both, their lack of initiative to take a move on Jesus, as well as God’s providence in that Jesus’ time had not yet come to be handed over to wicked men (Luke 24:7; Acts 2:23)
 4. The confused (v45-46) – The officers were perplexed. On the one hand, they wanted to rage against Jesus, on the other hand, they could not deny His powerful claims.
 5. The religious authorities (v47-52) – It seems that all of the religious leadership were completely deceived, with the exception of Nicodemus. He insists that even their very own Law did not condemn a man unless he had an opportunity to present his case first. It is on this ground that Jesus would ultimately be crucified.