

Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles

John 7:1-53

- I. JESUS URGED TO ATTEND THE FEAST (John 7:1-13)
 - A. The Occasion – the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7:1-2)
 1. The danger in Judea (John 7:1)
 - a. Jesus walked in Galilee.
 - b. Jesus did not walk in Jewry.
 - (1) This refers to the strongest area of Judaism at the time: Jerusalem and the surrounding area of Judea.
 - (2) The Jews there sought to kill Jesus.
 2. The three required feasts (Deuteronomy 16:16)
 - a. Passover or Unleavened Bread
 - b. Pentecost or Feast of Weeks
 - c. Tabernacles or Feast of Ingathering (Exodus 23:16)
 3. Feast of Tabernacles celebrated:
 - a. The end of the agricultural year (Exodus 23:16; Exodus 34:22)
 - b. The completion of the yearly harvest (Deuteronomy 16:13-15; Leviticus 23:39)
 - c. Release from Egyptian bondage (Leviticus 23:40-43)
 4. Typified the Jewish Kingdom Age
 - a. The end of time for those waiting Jews
 - b. Harvesting or salvation of the Jewish people (Romans 11:26-29)
 - c. Deliverance from control by the kingdoms of the world
 - d. The time of rest when the Lord will make His tabernacle with men (Leviticus 23:40; Leviticus 26:11-12; Revelation 21:3)
 - B. The Urging of Christ's Brethren (John 7:3-5)
 1. Their identity (John 7:3)
 - a. Not cousins – a teaching of Jerome in the fourth century to support the superiority of virginity by teaching the perpetual virginity of Mary

- b. Not Joseph's children from an earlier marriage (Matthew 13:55-56)
 - c. The younger brothers of Jesus born to Joseph and Mary (Matthew 1:25)
2. Their motive (John 7:3-4)
- a. Show your works (John 7:3).
 - b. Show yourself (John 7:4).
 - (1) Do nothing in secret (but see Proverbs 18:1; Matthew 6:1-6; Matthew 23:5).
 - (2) Seek to be known (Luke 16:15; John 5:44; John 7:18; John 12:43; 2Corinthians 10:12-13).
 - (3) Show thyself to the world.
3. Their unbelief (John 7:5; see Acts 1:14; Galatians 1:19)
- C. Christ's Refusal to Go with Them (John 7:6-9)
1. His reason (John 7:6-8)
- a. The timing of God (John 7:6)
 - (1) Christ's time has not yet come (John 7:6, 8, 30; cp. John 16:32; John 17:1).
 - (2) The world's time is now (Galatians 1:4).
 - b. The hatred toward Jesus (John 7:7)
 - (1) The world cannot hate its own (John 15:19).
 - (2) The world hated Jesus (John 17:14-16; Luke 6:26).
 - (a) Because He was not of the world
 - (b) Because He testified of the world's evil (John 3:19-20)
 - c. The plot to kill Jesus (John 7:1; John 5:16, 18)
2. His reaction (John 7:8-9)
- a. To send his brethren on (John 7:8)
 - b. To wait in Galilee (John 7:9)
- D. Christ's Attendance at the Feast (John 7:10-13)
- 1. The secrecy of Jesus (John 7:10)
 - 2. The seeking of Jesus (John 7:11)
 - 3. The separation of Jesus (John 7:12; Acts 17:32-34)
 - a. Those who thought Him a good man
 - b. Those who thought Him a deceiver
 - 4. The silence concerning Jesus (John 7:13; John 12:42-43)

II. JESUS IN THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM (John 7:14-53)

A. His Teaching in the Temple (John 7:14-36)

1. Reaction to Christ's teaching (John 7:14-15)
 - a. His wisdom (Matthew 13:54); when they expected Him to be ignorant, not having been trained by them (Luke 2:46-47; Acts 4:13; 1Corinthians 1:27)
 - b. His doctrine (Matthew 7:28-29; Matthew 22:33; Mark 1:22)
 - c. His power (Luke 4:32; Mark 4:39-41; John 7:46)
2. Source of Christ's teaching (John 7:16)
 - a. The Son speaks of the Father (John 8:28; John 12:49-50; John 14:10).
 - b. The Spirit speaks of the Son (John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:13-15).
3. Confirmation of Christ's teaching (John 7:17-18)
 - a. Through obedience (John 7:17; John 8:31-32; Psalm 25:12, 14)
 - (1) If you do the will of the Father
 - (2) You will know the doctrine of Christ.
 - (3) Principle: obedience leads to understanding
 - b. Through humility (John 7:18; Philippians 2:3-5; Acts 17:10-11)
 - (1) Those who seek their own glory speak of themselves.
 - (2) Those who seek God's glory speak of God.
 - (a) Their speech is true and honest.
 - (b) Their life is righteous.
4. Justification in Christ's teaching (John 7:19-24)
 - a. Disobedience to the law (John 7:19-21; James 2:10)
 - (1) Their rejection of the law (John 7:19)
 - (a) Given by Moses (Nehemiah 10:29; John 1:17)
 - (b) Kept by none (Romans 3:19-20; Galatians 3:10)
 - (c) Their intention to murder Christ (John 7:25; John 5:16, 18; John 10:31; John 11:53)
 - (2) Their denial of guilt (John 7:20)
 - (a) Redirection of guilt – by accusing Christ of having a devil (John 8:48; John 10:20; Matthew 12:24)
 - (b) Pretended surprise – by asking who
 - (3) Their cause for concern (John 7:21)
 - (a) The work of Christ in Jerusalem (John 5:9-11)
 - (b) The astonishment of the people – they marvel
 - b. Correct usage of the law (John 7:22-23)

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- (1) Moses established the law of circumcision to be performed on the eighth day after the birth of a son (John 7:22; Leviticus 12:3).
 - (2) Sometimes this eighth day falls on the Sabbath; yet it is still performed on that day (John 7:22).
 - (3) This is not considered a breaking of the Sabbath, but obedience to the law of Moses (John 7:23).
 - (4) How is it that the healing of a man on the Sabbath is not given the same prerogative? (John 7:23)
 - (5) What cause do the Jews have at a man being healed? (John 7:23)
 - c. Practice of righteous judgment (John 7:24; 1Samuel 6:17; Isaiah 11:3-4)
5. Note: Four lessons of Christ's teaching
- a. They that do His will shall know His doctrine (John 7:16-17).
 - b. They who seek His glory shall speak the truth (John 7:18).
 - c. They that judge righteously look not on appearance (John 7:24).
 - d. They that know God shall recognize His servant (John 7:28-29).
6. Christ's teaching concerning Himself (John 7:25-36)
- a. His origin (John 7:25-32; John 6:32-33, 38, 41-42)
 - (1) The confusion of the people of Jerusalem (John 7:25-27)
 - (a) Is this the wanted man? (John 7:25)
 - (b) Do the rulers know something they have not told us? (John 7:26)
 - (c) How could this be the Christ? (John 7:27)
 - i. We know whence this man came.
 - ii. We will not know this about the Christ.
 - (2) The confession of the Christ (John 7:28-29)
 - (a) What the people know (John 7:28)
 - i. They know Jesus.
 - ii. They know whence Christ is.
 - iii. Note: Jesus is obviously speaking superficially here; they know He is of Nazareth.
 - (b) What the people do not know (John 7:28)
 - i. That Christ is not come of himself
 - ii. Who it is that sent him
 - (c) What Jesus Christ knows (John 7:29)
 - i. He knows the Father – "But I know him" (John 17:3; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Philippians 3:8-10; 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 John 5:20).
 - ii. He knows that He is of the Father.
 - iii. He knows that He is sent by the Father.

- (3) The reactions of the people (John 7:30-32)
 - (a) Some sought to take Him (John 7:30).
 - i. But no man laid hands on Him
 - ii. Because His hour was not yet come
 - (b) Some believed on Him (John 7:31).
 - i. They saw His miracles.
 - ii. They determined that they were the miracles of the Christ.
 - (c) The Pharisees sent to arrest Him (John 7:32).
- b. His destination (John 7:33-36; John 14:12, 19)
 - (1) The teaching of Jesus (John 7:33-34)
 - (a) I will be with you a little while (John 7:33).
 - (b) I will go to Him that sent me (John 7:33).
 - (c) I will be sought but not found (John 7:34; Matthew 28:11-15).
 - (d) I will go where you cannot come (John 7:34).
 - (2) The doubting of the Jews (John 7:35-36)
 - (a) Concerning His destination (John 7:35)
 - i. Where could He go?
 - ii. Would it be among the dispersed? (James 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1)
 - (b) Concerning His saying (John 7:36)