



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: LESSON 8

"COME AND SEE"

We ended our lesson last week with Peter, acting as a spokesman for the 12 disciples, affirming his faith in Jesus Christ, the One who has the words of eternal life (6:68-69). This next chapter marks the beginning of open and hostile opposition to Jesus. There is about a 6-7 month gap between chapters 6 and 7. It had been about a year or so since Jesus had been to Jerusalem. John doesn't record much of Jesus' Galilean ministry during this time but you can read about it in the other three Gospels.

Watch Jesus' steps carefully. He is on such a calculated, Heavenly timetable. Every move is significant and perfectly planned. In our lesson this week, Jesus openly reveals Himself in the Temple. As expected, this doesn't go over very well with the Jewish leaders. We also meet up again with Nicodemus (John 3), who came to Jesus by night. He seems to have gotten a little bolder. Go, Nick!

First Day

We can break this chapter up into three sections: before the feast (1-10), during the feast (11-36), and the last day of the feast (37-52).

1. Read John 7:1-52. For each section, observe and list the facts. Also, note who opposed Jesus and who supported Him. Lastly, list one application you find in each section.

Section 1: (Verses 1-10) List the facts.

Who opposed Jesus? Who supported Him?

Application:

Section 2: (Verses 11-36) List the facts.

Who opposed Jesus? Who supported Him?

Application:

Section 3: (Verses 37-52) List the facts.

Who opposed Jesus? Who supported Him?

Application:

Moderate dislike of Jesus now turned into bitter hatred. From this point on, Jesus was to be hunted down. They were out to get Him. Although the religious leaders thought they were in control, little did they know that Jesus was in complete control of everything, including the time of His death. They couldn't kill Him until the appointed time. Even then, when they thought they were putting Him to death, He was laying down His life for us, willingly (John 10:17-18).

Memory Verse of the Week: "If anyone thirsts, let Him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of Living Water." John 7:37b-38

Second Day

Study your memory verse. Are you thirsty?

The Feast of Tabernacles was so important to the Jews that they often called it "The Feast." This festival was known for water-drawing and lamp-lighting rites. Interesting, isn't it, that Jesus is known as the Living Water and the Light of the World. Hmmm...

1. Read John 7:1-10. Remember that it had been about a 6-month gap between the last chapter. Why didn't Jesus want to go to Jerusalem?

The Feast of Booths, or Tabernacles, was an exciting celebration. It was one of the three festivals that every Jewish male within 20 miles of Jerusalem was required to attend. We know that this festival took place in October. It was a time of thanksgiving for God's blessing in the harvest, but it was also a time to remember the blessings they received during the wilderness wanderings (Leviticus 23:33-44), when God manifested Himself in the Tabernacle. William Barclay, in his book The Gospel of John, gives us some insight into the feast: "Each day of the festival the people came with their palms and their willows to the Temple; with them they formed a kind of screen or roof and marched around the altar. At the same time a priest took a golden pitcher ... and went down to the pool of Siloam and filled it with water. It was carried back through the Water Gate while the people

recited Isaiah 12:3: "With joy you draw water from the wells of salvation." The water was carried up to the Temple altar and poured out as an offering to God ... The whole dramatic ceremony was a vivid thanksgiving for God's good gift of water and an act of prayer for rain, and a memory of the water which sprang from the rock when they traveled through the wilderness."

2. Describe Jesus' brother's comments to Jesus. Do you think they were being honest or sarcastic? How do we know?

3. How is this fulfillment of prophecy, found in Psalm 69:8?

4. What were Jesus' brothers' names? Read Matthew 13:55.

It seems like His brothers were poking fun at Him, telling Him to use this opportunity to get a following. Jerusalem was much busier than Galilee, especially during the time of this Feast. "Go let everyone see what you can do," is basically what they were saying. It is interesting that Jesus' family grew up with Him, watching Him live life. I wonder if this broke Jesus' heart, even though He knew this was going to happen.

5. Do you have any family members who ridicule you for being a Christian? Has a family member or close friend turned against you because you are a follower of Christ? How does the fact that Jesus' own family didn't accept Him bring you comfort?

6. Do you know anyone that has been brought up in the "church," participated in all the religious ritual, yet still is rejecting Jesus? What can you do for them?

7. Why didn't Jesus want to go to the Feast yet? What does He mean?
8. After the brothers left, Jesus went by Himself. Was He lying to them?

The phrase "My time is not yet at hand" refers to "a suitable time, the right time, the favorable opportunity." It can also mean "season." It was not yet the right time to reveal Himself.

Jesus was not lying to His brothers. He was planning on going, just at an appointed time. I don't think He wanted the attention drawn to Him before the right time. Verse 14 tells us that He waited until the middle of the feast to go to the Temple.

9. Do you believe that God has a plan for your life too? Do you believe that God has perfect timing? If so, how should we live our life? (Should we be frustrated and anxious?)
10. Spend some time praying for those close to you who are still rejecting Jesus. Lift them before the throne of God.

Third Day

Work on your memory verse. Share your verse with someone in your family today.

1. Read John 7:11-31. The Jewish leaders were looking for Jesus. What did the people that were in town for the festival think of Him?

Jesus does a very bold thing in verse 14. By teaching in the Temple, He was making Himself an open target. But Jesus didn't fear man. Now was the time to act.

2. Why were the Jews so surprised when Jesus taught?

3. How did Jesus answer them?

The Jews didn't think Jesus had the proper credentials, and He certainly wasn't qualified to be teaching. But how on earth could He know so much? They were astounded at His knowledge of the Scriptures. He had never studied under a rabbi, but could teach like one. It was a tradition for rabbis to cite authorities for all their important statements. Jesus tells them that His doctrine, or His teaching, came from the Father. The authority is God Himself.

Verse 17 is a little confusing. Warren Wiersbe explains it like this: "John 7:17 literally reads, 'If any man is willing to do God's will, he shall know.' This explains why the Jewish leaders did not understand Jesus' teachings: they had stubborn wills and would not submit to Him (John 5:40). Is our Lord suggesting here a pragmatic test for divine truth? Is He saying, "Try it! If it works, it must be true!", thus suggesting that if it does not work it must be false? No, our Lord's statement goes much deeper. He was not suggesting a 'shallow taste test' but rather the deep personal commitment of the person to the truth." In verse 20, Jesus points out that by plotting to kill Him, they are actually breaking the Law themselves.

4. Jesus opens His address to the Jews by referring to their plot to kill Him (vs 19). The people referred to in verse 19-20 were most likely the ones who had come to Jerusalem to worship. They may not have known what the religious leaders were up to. **How do the people respond?**

We know that Jesus is referring to His healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath (John 5). The Jewish leaders were accusing Jesus of being a lawbreaker, so Jesus turns the tables on them, accusing them of being lawbreakers themselves. The people thought He was nuts because they didn't know of any plot to kill Him. They thought He was being paranoid. Jesus continues to speak to the Jewish leaders, basically saying, "I healed a man on the Sabbath, and you all freaked out! But in obedience to the Law of Moses, you guys perform circumcisions on the Sabbath. Why is it wrong for Me to heal but okay for you to mutilate?" (Circumcision is the act of cutting away and removal of a baby boy's foreskin, symbolizing the putting away of evil.) According to Leon Morris, in his book The Gospel According to John, "The Jews considered the command to circumcise on the eighth day (Leviticus 12:3) to be so binding that it even took precedence over the Sabbath. Jesus was not saying that the Sabbath shouldn't be kept, but that even the Jews recognized that some acts not only may be done but must be done on the Sabbath because of what the Sabbath meant."

5. What warning does Jesus give them in verse 24?

In today's society, our values are upside down. People judge by appearance all the time, instead of looking at things from God's point of view.

6. List some ways that the world's judgments are backwards. (Moral, political, social, etc.)

7. Do you take great pains to look at everything from God's perspective? (Are you careful not to take much stock in the world's point of view?)

8. According to Proverbs 31:30, what does God see as important in a Christian woman? Do you care more about the outside of your temple or the inside?
9. Read John 7:25-31. I'm sure there is a lot of tension building because of the confusion and all the differences in opinions. How do the people of Jerusalem respond?

Verse 27 tells us that the people believed the background of the Messiah would be unknown. This was a misinterpretation of Malachi 3:1 which states that the Messiah would suddenly appear in the Temple. This verse wasn't saying that His background was unknown. The people were obviously confused as to what to believe about Jesus.

10. Jesus accuses them of not knowing God (vs 28-29). This accusation was aimed at the religious leaders who thought they were spiritual, but were actually godless. He was exposing the truth in their hearts. **How do the people react?**
11. People were completely confused over this man Jesus. Sounds like today, doesn't it? People come up with their own beliefs about Jesus, making Him fit their own definition. If someone asked you who Jesus is, how would you respond? What verses could you use to support your answer?

**See you tomorrow, ladies. Jesus is my "Reason to Rejoice."
Is He yours?**

5. Why was it significant that Jesus did this on the last day? (What point was He making?)

"Verse 38 literally means "there shall gush forth torrents of Living Water." The Holy Spirit couldn't come upon the disciples until Jesus had ascended into Heaven and was glorified. The descent of the Holy Spirit was proof of Christ's ascension and glorification (Acts 2:32-33)." (Chuck Smith)

Knowing that this claim would cause a problem, Jesus still stands up and gives them an invitation. He offers them a drink from the well of life.

6. How did the crowd respond to that? (vs 40-44)

7. Where was Jesus born? Read Matthew 2:1. Why did they identify Him with Galilee?

Obviously some of the people had their facts confused. They hadn't taken the time to search out the truth before making a decision.

8. Do you ever make decisions or form opinions about something or someone before you get all the facts? What usually happens when we do this? Can you think of any Scriptures that warn against this?

9. Before you accepted Christ as your Savior, who did you think He was? How had you formed your theology, or opinion?

Although some wanted to take and kill Jesus, verse 44 tells us that no one laid hands on Him. Jesus could proceed with confidence because He was sure of God's will. He was safe in the hands of God.

10. Can we have the same confidence? Do you believe that you are safe in the hands of God? Safety means to dwell without fear or harm. What do the following verses tell us about that?
- a. Psalm 4:8
 - b. Proverbs 29:25
 - c. Proverbs 18:10
 - d. Proverbs 1:33
11. Which one of the above verses really ministered to you? Can you explain why?

This ends our lesson for today. Tomorrow we will see what happens when the officers come back empty-handed.

Fifth Day

Write your verse from memory.

1. Let's finish up by reading John 7:45-53. How did the Pharisees respond when the officers they asked to take Jesus (vs 32) came back without Him?

When the officers met Jesus, they seemed to be in awe by His presence. They were taken back and astounded by His words. It seems like they forgot what they were supposed to do! Ray Stedman, in his book, God's Loving Word, said this: "Men who are sent out to arrest Jesus find themselves arrested by Jesus! Here is a powerful statement of the kind of Person Jesus is!"

2. Have you ever been "arrested by Jesus"? Have His words ever taken you captive? What do I mean by that?

The Pharisees were upset at the officers (vs 47). They thought they were superior, but they were simply arrogant (vs 48). As for the people they were supposed to be leading, they call them ignorant and put a curse on them (49).

3. Nicodemus comes out of the shadows in verses 50-51. What does he say to them?

They turn on Nicodemus instantly, accusing him of not knowing his Old Testament. Their statement in verse 52 can mean a few things. Maybe they were simply wrong, because Jonah the prophet came from Galilee. Also, God had the right to raise up prophets from wherever He wanted. Some think they were referring to "the prophet" instead of "a prophet." They may have been referring to the prophet predicted by Moses in Deuteronomy 18. Either way, the point is that they were mean, sarcastic, and self-righteous.

4. It was time for Nicodemus to step up to the plate, come out of the shadows, and speak up. Is God calling you to do the same? Is He calling you to separate yourself from the world and take a stand for Him? Is He calling you to identify yourself more publicly with Jesus? Write your thoughts.
5. From this week's lesson, what has the Holy Spirit shown you concerning your role as a:
 - a. Wife
 - b. Mom
 - c. Christian woman
 - d. Friend

