

Jn223 - Living Water Part 1 - John 7:1-24

TODAY - Jesus is going to “**Set the Stage**” for an absolute
‘**Crescendo Moment**’ at the **Feast of Tabernacles**

It **comes** when Jesus **offers Israel** - & **US**
The “**LIVING WATER**” of **Salvation**

& he does it in **SUCH** a **Powerful** & **Dramatic** way –
the **Holy Spirit** takes our **text** today – to **BUILD UP** to it

So - Here is today’s **M.I.P.** - that **encapsulates**
the **POINT** of our Vs’s

Most Important Point (MIP):

Before Jesus can pour out Living Water into our lives, He must
expose the dry wells of unbelief, poor judgment, and empty
tradition — showing us that He alone is the true source of God’s
salvation.

THAT is what **Jesus** is doing today

He is **confronting** the **Unbelief**, **Poor Judgment**, & **Empty Tradition**
of the **People** - & especially the **Religious Leaders**

& Jesus **EXPOSING** the **Dry wells** people **TURN TO** today

is **crucial** for us to **understand** the life-giving **POWER**
of the **Living Water** He Freely **Offers**

Let’s Pray

From this point on – The Gospel of John is focused on the work of Jesus in Jerusalem & Judea - leading up to the cross

Because the Purpose of JOHN is to show Jesus - as the SAVIOR

& so John sums up the remainder of Jesus' time in the Galilee in vs.1

John 7:1 (NLT)

1 After this, Jesus traveled around Galilee. He wanted to stay out of Judea, where the Jewish leaders were plotting his death.

During the time of V.1

Jesus was staying out of Jerusalem & Judea

because He knew the Jewish leaders
were already Plotting His Death

In the other Gospels –

there is a LOT that still happens in the Galilee

But John is moving us forward with his single focus –

To present Jesus as “The Christ – The Messiah -
The One come from God in the flesh”

& so John moves straight to V.2

John 7:2 (NLT)

2 But soon it was time for the Jewish Festival of Shelters, (Feast of Tabernacles)

The **Feast of Tabernacles**

was **THE PINNACLE FEAST** to attend

Every **adult male** - within **traveling** distance

was **required** to attend the **Feast of Tabernacles**

It was the most **joyous**, & the most **attended** feast

it was called the **season of gladness**

people **built shelters** (tabernacles) all over Jerusalem -

& stayed in them

to remember how **God brought** their ancestors

thru the 40 years in the **wilderness**

It was a **great time of celebration** of **God's Provision**

& **Jesus** has the Greatest **Object Lesson** planned

for the **Grand Finale** of this **FEAST**

& today – we're **watching** Jesus **“set the stage”** -

& **PREPARE** the people - for this great moment

& it **starts** w/ His own **half-brothers** – still in **Galilee**

These are **other sons** of **Mary**, the mother of Jesus

John 7:3–4 (NLT)

3 and Jesus' brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea, where your followers can see your miracles!”

4 You can't become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!"

This is "**Sarcasim**" –

Jesus' **brothers** are "**Taunting Him**"

They wanted Jesus to "**Prove Himself**" publicly

& we see their **True Heart Condition** (at this point) in V.5

John 7:5 (NLT)

5 For even his brothers didn't believe in him.

at this point – His **brothers** were **UNBELIEVERS**

But they didn't **stay** unbelievers

After the **Resurrection** – **James** (the brother of Jesus) wrote the book of **James** - & became the **leader** of the Jerusalem **church**

& Jesus' brother - **Jude** - wrote the book of **Jude**

But here – they are **unbelievers** -

so **Jesus** tries to point them to – **The Heavenly Timetable**

John 7:6 (NLT)

6 Jesus replied, "Now is not the right time for me to go, but you can go anytime.

Jesus lived by a Heavenly Time-Table -

The timing of every step was set in Heaven

& so Jesus is certainly not going to the Feast
just because his brothers are “Chiding Him” to go

But Jesus DOES give them – MORE to think about
while they are on their way

John 7:7–9 (NLT)

7 The world can't hate you, but it does hate me because I accuse it of doing evil.

8 You go on. I'm not going (or, not yet going) to this festival, because my time has not yet come.”

9 After saying these things, Jesus remained in Galilee.

Jesus is Preparing for a Powerful, Dramatic, & Awesome
OBJECT LESSON- to Demonstrate WHO He IS

& His OWN BROTHERS - are the first ones in this Text
to Prove they DON'T YET Understand

WHO Jesus IS – or WHAT He came to DO

& they are the First Ones here - to Receive “TRUTH” from Jesus –
to try to Prepare them – for what is coming

& then in John 7:10 we read (NLT)

10 But after his brothers left for the festival, Jesus also went, though secretly, staying out of public view.

His brothers wanted to Travel with him -

Because of his growing FAME – NOT because they believed

But God is at work - **NOT** on **man's Timetable**
& **NOT** based on **Man's Understanding**

& (again) Jesus' **OWN BROTHERS** – Are the first ones here -
Jesus **TRIES** to Prepare – for what we'll **SEE** Next Msg

& now - **Jesus** moves toward **Jerusalem** – **Quietly, Discreetly**
& on **Heaven's Timetable**

& it took **NO TIME** – for the **tension**, & the **drama**
to start **building** at the **great feast**

& we see it next - in the **leaders** – **AND** among the **people**

John 7:11 (NLT)

11 The Jewish leaders tried to find him at the festival and kept asking if anyone had seen him.

The “**verb tense**” here is **continuous** –

“*The Jewish leaders **CONTINUALLY** tried to find him”
“& **CONTINUALLY asked** the people if they had SEEN Jesus”*

The **Religious Leaders** (who were **supposed** to represent God)
were **searching** hard for the “**Son of God**”

BUT – “**NOT to KNOW him Better – but to KILL him Sooner**”
“**NOT to WORSHIP Him – But to SILENCE Him**”

They were Far More **CONCERNED**
about **Protecting** their “**Religious Traditions**”
than they **were** in knowing the **TRUTH** of **God**
in the **person** of **Jesus Christ**

But - The **leaders’ determination** to silence Jesus

only served to make Him
the **center** of **conversation** throughout the feast

& so – **AS** the Religious Leaders
are **BENT** on **SILENCING** Jesus

The people were **STUCK** on
GRUMBLING & **ARGUING** - About Jesus

Look at - John 7:12-13 (NLT)

12 There was a lot of grumbling about him among the crowds. Some argued, “He’s a good man,” but others said, “He’s nothing but a fraud who deceives the people.”

13 But no one had the courage to speak favorably about him in public, for they were afraid of getting in trouble with the Jewish leaders.

Heaven is making sure - **Jesus** is the **center of attention**
at this **Greatest of Feasts**

But Notice – the people are Mostly Grumbling and Arguing
about WHO Jesus IS

They were trying to JUDGE Jesus
based on APPEARANCES & RUMORS

& they were making very POOR JUDGEMENTS

The DRY WELL of the People was – POOR JUDGMENT –
Based on APPEARENCES

They Knew OF Jesus – SOME even knew him growing up

BUT - By his APPEARANCES
He didn't seem "MESSIAH ENOUGH" for them

So they argued & debated among themselves about him
& they "Poorly Judged" him

& so – Jesus is going to address BOTH the People
AND the Religious LEADERS

& He's going to TRY to Point Out to them
their POOR JUDGMENT
& their MISPLACED CONFIDENCE

& He's going to Try to PREPARE them all –
To Receive the Greatest Gift God has for us in this life

The GIFT – of the Living Water of Salvation

Altho Jesus had slipped into this
highly charged situation - very quietly

He never intended to remain quiet –

& now suddenly - in the middle of this 7 DAY FESTIVAL -
Jesus walks right up to the temple - & begins teaching

John 7:14 (NLT)

14 Then, midway through the festival, Jesus went up to the Temple and began to teach.

Can you imagine how fast word traveled through the city

“The prophet from Galilee - who we’re not even supposed to talk about -

He just walked right up to the temple & started teaching”

The Religious Leaders would’ve done anything
to keep Jesus from teaching at this feast

But there He was - teaching like He was in total control –
Because He was in Total Control

& so Jesus walks right up to the temple -
& immediately baffles all those listening

John 7:15 (NLT)

15 The people (The Jews) were surprised (marvelled) when they heard him. “How does he know so much when he hasn’t been trained?” they asked.

The NLT uses the broader term, ***“the people”***

But it is LITERALLY ***“The Jews”***

which John Primarily uses to refer to the Jewish Leaders

& so – In the Broadest Sense – it is the people -

& ESPECIALLY the Jewish Leaders - asking themselves

“How does he know so much when he hasn’t been trained?”

(he hasn’t even been to Rabbi School)

“Who does this guy think he is,

the Son of God or what?”

& So – While the leaders - & the people

are SNEERING at Jesus

But Jesus cuts through their Arrogance

& declares that His teaching is not HIS OWN –

it comes directly from THE FATHER who sent Him

John 7:16 (NLT)

16 So Jesus told them, “My message is not my own; it comes from God who sent me.

Again – Jesus Boldly Declares –

that he has come down from God

& that his words are NOT His own

But they are the very words of GOD

& again, Jesus is giving everyone there (& HERE)
the chance to - “WANT to BELIEVE”

& in V.17 – Jesus Tells us HOW we can KNOW
whether his Words - are from God – or NOT

John 7:17 (NLT)

17 Anyone who wants to do the will of God will know whether my teaching is from God or is merely my own.

Anyone who Truly WANTS to KNOW the Will of God

Anyone who Truly WANTS to KNOW God

WILL KNOW *whether my teaching is from God*

LAST WEEK we said

“If you are Willing to BELIEVE, then you will SEE”

& Jesus is saying something SIMILAR here

If you will approach the Words of Jesus –

Genuinely Desiring to KNOW the Will of God

Then you will KNOW –

whether the Words of Jesus are From God – Or Not

This shows that the Real Problem
is NOT Intellectual - But SPIRITUAL

Receiving the things of God depends on
a **willingness & desire - to KNOW GOD'S WILL - & DO IT**

Jesus Christ **redeems the lost** –
He **transforms the dead** to the **living** –
He turns the wretched **sinner** into a **saint**

But you **must first** - by faith –
Truly DESIRE to KNOW - & DO the Will of God

You must First – **Be WILLING to BELIEVE**

& **then** you will **Know** & **Experience** -
that the **words** Jesus speaks - are the words **of life**

BUT - These people are **NOT THERE YET**

So **Jesus continues** to try to **SHOW** them

They must **TURN** from the **DRY WELLS** of **UNBELIEF**,
& **POOR JUDGEMENT**, & **TRADITION**

BEFORE They can **Receive** the **Living Water**
of **Eternal Life** - that he came to **FREELY OFFER THEM**

& so - in **v.18** Jesus **CONTRASTS** – His **Teaching**
with the **teaching** of the Religious Leaders

John 7:18 (NLT) → →

John 7:18 (NLT)

18 Those who speak for themselves want glory only for themselves, but a person who seeks to honor the one who sent him speaks truth, not lies.

It was **no secret** – the **Religious Leaders** **SOUGHT**
Self-Glory - & **Man's Approval**

But **Jesus** speaks **ONLY** - to **honor** the **one** who sent him

& (**btw**) that is a huge **TEST** of **Spiritual Authenticity**
“Whose HONOR, or GLORY, are you seeking?”

That is a Really Direct SHOT at the Religious Leaders

& **Jesus** doesn't **Stop** There – **Instead He LEANS IN**

& His **words** are like a **two-edged sword**

John 7:19 (NLT)

19 Moses gave you the law, but none of you obeys it! In fact, you are trying to kill me.”

That is a **one-two punch**

Every Jew in the **Temple** that day –
held Moses in the **highest** possible **regard**

These leaders **regarded themselves**
as the **“keepers & interpreters”** of the law

Yet Jesus says – “none of you keeps the law”

& worse yet – these “Keepers of the Law” were –
at that very moment –

planning to kill the one who came to FULFILL the law

Jesus KNEW IT – The Religious Leaders KNEW IT
BUT – the Crowd DID NOT KNOW IT

& so – in John 7:20 we read (NLT)

20 The crowd replied, “You’re demon possessed! Who’s trying to kill you?”

Notice – it says “The Crowd”

The Crowd didn’t know
the Religious Leaders were Plotting to Kill Jesus

So this just gives the crowd “More Fuel”
for their POOR JUDGMENT – Based on APPEARANCES

But – Jesus doesn’t address the crowd’s insult –
Because he is speaking to the Religious Leaders right now

& He’s going back - to the event
that started - their PLOT to kill him

John 7:21 (NLT) → →

John 7:21 (NLT)

21 Jesus replied, “I did one miracle on the Sabbath, and you were amazed.

Jesus is **referring back** to the **last time** He was there - **1 yr ago**

& on that **Sabbath** He **healed** the **paralytic** at Bethesda

& It was **then** that the **leader’s hatred** toward Him began to **burn** –

NOT because He **healed** a man -

But **because** of his **disregard**

for their **TRADITIONS** regarding the Sabbath

& Jesus had **performed** this miracle

deliberately - with obvious **intent**

& He had claimed **Divine Authority** to do so

& the Religious Leaders had **never let** that event **go** -

so **Jesus brings it** right up, & **shows** it to them

& now – **Jesus** is going to **EXPLAIN** the **point** he was making

with that **Amazing Healing** on the Sabbath

John 7:21 (again) & 22 (NLT)

21 Jesus replied, “I did one miracle on the Sabbath, and you were amazed.

22 But you work on the Sabbath, too, when you obey Moses’ law

of circumcision. (Actually, this tradition of circumcision began with the patriarchs, long before the law of Moses.)

Under the **Law of Moses** - even tho **WORK**
was not allowed on the Sabbath - **CIRCUMCISION** was

because **every** Jewish boy **must** be circumcised on the 8th day

So if that **8th day** fell on the **Sabbath**

The Law of **Circumcision**
took precedence over the law of the **Sabbath**

WHY ???

Because **circumcision** was a **type** – it was a **picture**

of the **removing** of the sinful flesh
& **making a person right** (or whole) **before God**

& so - **because** it had to do with
making a person **right before God**

it took **precedent** over the **Law Of The Sabbath**

& Jesus is **USING THIS**
to Try to **Reveal** to the Religious Leaders

That He is **not compromising** the Law -
but instead he is **fulfilling it** to the ultimate degree

By coming to make people “Right with God” - Once & For All

So He says to them in v.23

John 7:23 (NLT)

23 For if the correct time for circumcising your son (which is a picture of making him “right” before God) ***falls on the Sabbath, you go ahead and do it so as not to break the law of Moses. So why should you be angry with me for healing a man*** (making him “right” before God) ***on the Sabbath?***

Jesus is showing the Religious Leaders –

their Religious Rules & Traditions

are an EMPTY WELL they are trying to Drink From

& he’s preparing them to hear –

HE is the WELL of the Living Water of Eternal Life

& then Jesus Delivers One Final BOMB

to try to Shake the people up enough

to understand what he is about to do with the Living Water

John 7:24 (NLT)

24 Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly.”

Jesus is Confronting our “Surface Level” Judgments

He’s Calling us to to LOOK DEEPER - to SEE God’s truth

So - In this text – Jesus has Directly CHALLENGED

His BROTHERS - Unbelief

The CROWD'S - Poor Judgment

& The RELIGIOUS LEADERS - Rules & Traditions

He is CHALLENGING

the DRY WELLS that we are trying to Drink From

& He is giving us every opportunity

to be able to RECEIVE the Free Gift of Living Water

he is preparing to offer us

Let's Not Miss it - See you next Msg

Let's Pray