



A House Divided (John 7:1-36)

"Do you think that I came here to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." - Jesus

Let's discover what Jesus meant and why it matters.

Luke 12:51-52 (CSB) ⁵¹ Do you think that I came here to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather **division**. ⁵² From now on, five in **one household will be divided**: three against two, and two against three.

BIG TRUTH: Christians have Love for ALL, but LIVE for ONE.



Jesus was spending more time in **Galilee** than in **Judea**, because **the Jews** (i.e. religious leaders) **were trying to kill him**. They didn't appreciate Jesus cleansed the temple (Jn 2:16) nor Jesus healing a lame man on the Sabbath (Jn 5:1). The Jewish leaders were upset with more than that.

John 5:18 (CSB) This is why the Jews began trying all the more **to kill him**: Not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but **he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal to God**.

Jesus told these enemies that the Scriptures, were speaking about HIM - Jesus! (Jn 5:38-40, 45-47).

It was now time for the **Festival of Shelters** (aka *Tabernacles/Booths*), the last of the 3 pilgrimage festivals that included *Passover*, *Pentecost*, and *Shelters*.¹ The *Festival of Shelters* celebrated the autumn harvest when farmers built temporary shelters to protect the crop.

This was also a reminder of God guiding and providing for their ancestors during the wilderness exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land, as they lived in mobile shelters that surrounded *the tabernacle*, the mobile temple and symbol of God's Presence. Josephus (1st century Jewish historian) says this was the most popular of the 3 feasts,² a 7-day camp out that prompted spontaneous singing, dancing, and bonding between the Jewish people.

John 7:3-5 (CSB) ³ So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea so your disciples can see your works that you are doing. ⁴ For no one does anything in secret while he's seeking public recognition. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." ⁵ (For **not even his brothers believed in him**.)

Since **not even his brothers believed in him**, this is sibling sarcasm on display. Thousands would be in Jerusalem of **Judea** for this celebration. If Jesus' goal was **seeking public recognition**, then this was the time and place to **show** himself to **the world**, as many Jewish pilgrims were traveling to Jerusalem from all over the Roman Empire.

John 7:6-9 (CSB) ⁶ Jesus told them, "My time has not yet arrived, but your time is always at hand. ⁷ **The world cannot hate you, but it does hate me because I testify about it—that its works are evil**. ⁸ Go up to the festival yourselves. I'm not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come." ⁹ After he had said these things, he stayed in Galilee.

The FANS are jumping off the band wagon as persecution against Jesus and His disciples grows. It will end with Jesus being arrested, beaten, and crucified, but *NOT YET*. Jesus is constrained to the Father's timeline, which is why Jesus says, **"My time has not yet arrived."**

YOUR NOTES

¹ Gary M. Burge, *John, The NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000), 220.

² D. A. Carson, *The Gospel according to John, The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans, 1991), 305.

Why does **the world** (i.e. rebellious people) **hate** Jesus? The world hates to be confronted by the reality of its **evil**, sinful **works**, which is exactly what Jesus is doing. John had earlier written these words:

John 3:19-21 (CSB) ¹⁹ This is the judgment: **The light has come into the world**, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For **everyone who does evil hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed.** ²¹ But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God."

Jesus, the light of the world (Jn 3:19), exposes what goes on in the darkness and those living in darkness hate to be confronted with their sin.

The world, however, **cannot hate** Jesus' brothers as they are members of the rebellious world that won't believe Him.

🕒 Even kind, loving, & generous Christians who speak the truth and live in moral purity - are an OFFENSE to a culture that keeps lowering the bar. Jesus reminds His disciples of this.

John 15:18-19 (CSB) ¹⁸ "If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ **If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own.** However, because **you are not of the world**, but I have chosen you out of it, **the world hates you.**

NOTE: If no one in the world is offended by how you live and what you say...it might be because you are of the world. And so, rather than set off with His brothers in a public pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Jesus chooses to stay behind **in Galilee**, at least for a little while.

John 7:10-13 (CSB) ¹⁰ After his brothers had gone up to the festival, then he also went up, not openly but secretly. ¹¹ **The Jews were looking for him at the festival** and saying, "Where is he?" ¹² And there was a lot of murmuring about him among the crowds. Some were saying, "He's a good man." Others were saying, "No, on the contrary, he's deceiving the people." ¹³ Still, **nobody was talking publicly about him for fear of the Jews.**

Did Jesus just lie? No, but He didn't give them all the details either. Jesus paused for a period of time before he made His move. Why not just tell them he was coming later? And why did Christ camouflage himself and go **secretly**? The **Jews**, meaning the religious leaders, **were looking for him** because they wanted to kill him (Jn 7:1). Jesus was the talk of the town **among the crowds** in Jerusalem. But it was so obvious that the Jewish leaders were against Jesus that **nobody was talking publicly about him [Jesus] for fear** of what their leaders might do to them.

John 7:14-15 (CSB) ¹⁴ When the festival was already half over, **Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach.** ¹⁵ Then the Jews were amazed and said, "How is this man so learned, since he hasn't been trained?"

Nobody has seen Jesus during the festival. Evidently, Jesus had been in the vicinity, **not openly but secretly** (v10). And then *suddenly*, he emerges, and right in the middle of **the temple**, where his enemies would easily spot him. The people who heard him **teach** were blown away! Jesus hasn't been trained by a well known rabbi. nor is he backed by someone who has recognized and authorized his teaching office.

John 7:16-19 (CSB) ¹⁶ Jesus answered them, "My teaching isn't mine but is from the one who sent me. ¹⁷ If anyone wants to do his will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. ¹⁸ The one who speaks on his own seeks his own glory; but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is true, and there is no unrighteousness in him. ¹⁹ Didn't Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. **Why are you trying to kill me?"** ²⁰ "You have a demon!" the crowd responded. "Who is trying to kill you?"

Those words are likely targeted at the Jewish leaders who are standing among the crowd. Some in the crowd had been murmuring that Jesus was deceiving people (v.12). Others were likely from out of town and weren't real sure what was going on. But others from **the crowd** responded harshly saying, "**You have a demon!**"

YOUR NOTES

John 7:21-24 (CSB) ²¹ "I performed one work, and you are all amazed," Jesus answered. ²² "This is why Moses has given you circumcision—not that it comes 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 won't be broken, are **you angry at me because I made a man entirely well on the Sabbath?** ²⁴ Stop judging according to outward appearances; rather judge according to righteous judgment."

This **one work** Jesus refers to is *the healing of the lame man on the Sabbath* (John 5:1-9), and many still think Jesus has broken the Sabbath law by healing a man on that day.

Jesus reasons that they practice **circumcision...on the Sabbath**. This is quite the dilemma.

- The OT law commands the people to circumcise their male child on the 8th day after birth, **so that the law of Moses won't be broken**.

🕒 But *what if* that day falls on *the Sabbath*, a day when people are to rest and do no work? Answer: Circumcising your male child on the Sabbath does NOT break **the law of Moses**, because it is the greater law.

If they can perform this act on the Sabbath, how can they be **angry** with Jesus **because he made a man entirely well on the Sabbath?** Jesus is reasoning, "*Do you see how silly you are being? Stop judging with silly hypocritical standards! Use **righteous judgement!***" The sound reasoning of Jesus can't be refuted.

John 7:25-27 (CSB) ²⁵ Some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? ²⁶ Yet, look, he's speaking publicly and they're saying nothing to him. Can it be true that the authorities know he is the Messiah? ²⁷ But we know where this man is from. When the Messiah comes, nobody will know where he is from."

Jesus is confounding his enemies. They have NO COMEBACK to respond what Jesus just said. But there WAS something that was really troubling these folks about Jesus - they knew **where he is from**. Rabbinical traditions had taught that the Messiah, although a human, shows up and **nobody will know where he is from**. They weren't ignorant of Micah 5:2 (the prophesied birth of the messiah in Bethlehem), but most believed the messiah would be supernaturally hidden by God or virtually unknown to others until he introduced himself in the temple (see 1 Enoch 48:6; 4 Ezra 7:28; 13:51-52; 2 Baruch 29:3, Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho* 8).³ The following is likely one passage that was misinterpreted.

Malachi 3:1-2 (CSB) ¹ "See, I am going to send my messenger, and he will clear the way before me. Then **the Lord you seek will suddenly come to his temple**, the Messenger of the covenant you delight in—see, he is coming," says [Yahweh] the LORD of Armies.² But who can endure the day of his coming? And **who will be able to stand when he appears?** For he will be like a refiner's fire and like launderer's bleach.

And now, He's HERE...in the **temple!** No one can **stand** before Him! He has come to refine His people and make them righteous.

John 7:28-31 (CSB) ²⁸ As he was teaching in the temple, Jesus cried out, "You know me and you know where I am from. Yet I have not come on my own, but the one who sent me is true. You don't know him; ²⁹ I know him because I am from him, and he sent me." ³⁰ Then **they tried to seize him**. Yet no one laid a hand on him because **his hour had not yet come**. ³¹ However, **many from the crowd believed in him** and said, "When the Messiah comes, he won't perform more signs than this man has done, will he?"

It's obvious that Jesus is making the claim **that the One who sent him is God**. Those who saw this as blasphemous **tried to seize him**, but it wasn't in the Father's timeline because the **hour had not yet come** to lift Jesus up on the cross. Still, **many from the crowd believed in him** after hearing what Jesus said & seeing what He did.

YOUR NOTES

³ Grant R. Osborne, *John: Verse by Verse*, ed. Jeffrey Reimer et al., Osborne New Testament Commentaries (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018), 192.

John 7:32-36 (CSB) ³² The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things about him, and so the chief priests and the Pharisees sent servants to arrest him. ³³ Then Jesus said, "I am only with you for a short time. Then I'm going to the one who sent me. ³⁴ You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come." ³⁵ Then the Jews said to one another, "Where does he intend to go so we won't find him? He doesn't intend to go to the Jewish people dispersed among the Greeks and teach the Greeks, does he? ³⁶ What is this remark he made: 'You will look for me, and you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come?'"

Jesus is claiming to go to God the Father, "**The one who sent me.**" Since they don't believe Jesus came from God, they wonder if this is just code language for fleeing to **other Jewish people dispersed among the Greeks** in other lands. The next time Jesus returns to Jerusalem it will be for his crucifixion. Then Jesus will ascend to the Father as the true King of kings and Lord of lords. Sadly, those who were looking right at Him didn't see who He was. And where He was going, Jesus said, "**you cannot come**" - EVER!!!

Following Jesus might cost you a family member or a friend. Or...you could choose them and it cost you Jesus.

BIG TRUTH: Christians have Love for ALL, but LIVE for ONE.

* **Want to talk further?** Please contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon! Or call our **deacons & wives:** Tom & Martha Waddail, Steve & Debbie Bass, Freddy & Joyce Howard, Jere & Darlene Burnette, Alan & Christy Androski, Willy & Melissa Gamalero.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What challenged or encouraged you from today's teaching? (Look back over your notes and share!)
2. **Read John 7:7 and John 3:19-20.** Despite the servant that Jesus was, "the world" hated him. Why?
3. **Read John 15:18-19.** Why should we not be surprised if people hate followers of Jesus? Note: Some Christians are mean & hypocritical and then claim it's because of their faith. What would you say to that person?
4. **Read John 7:21-24.** What do you think about how Jesus is reasoning?
5. **Read Malachi 3:1-2 and John 7:14-15.** Did Jesus fulfill this prophecy and if so, how?
6. Talk about today's BIG TRUTH. Share about a time when someone had to make a choice between family member, friend, or Jesus. In Nabeel's case (the man in the video), do you think he's glad he chose to love his family but LIVE for Jesus? Explain your answer.
7. Pray for one another this week. Consider texting or calling same sex believers to pray & share together this week.