

John 7 – 10 May 2026

“Empowerment Of The Word”

Introduction

*Chap 6 begin Jesus’ 3rd year of public ministry

*From Chap 7-10a Jesus is at the Feast of Tabernacles

*The question of Jesus’ identity is becoming the hot question to answer

*We don’t have to guess at whether Jesus is the long-prophesied Messiah

*We can look it up in the Old Testament

*Jesus knows the Old Testament which is the Word of God inside & out b/c ***HE IS THE WORD***

Today, we’ll look at 5 things that we can do when we know the Word

#1 – We can endure mockery (Vs 1-13)

Read 7:1-2

1. The healing at the Pool of Bethesda in Jesus' 2nd year Passover changed things
 - a. Since then, Jerusalem wanted to kill Him
2. Most of Jesus' 2nd year & 1st half of 3rd year is spent in Galilee – where He is at this point
 - a. Tabernacles was in the Fall of His 3rd year

Read 7:3-5

1. His brothers are taunting Jesus to 'get this show on the road'
 - a. They think it'll end w/ Jesus being humbled
 - b. But it'll end w/ their humility & conversion

Read 7:6-9

1. There's a time to be glorified and there's a time to be separated in hated
 - a. For the believer; the hatred & separation comes now & the reward comes in eternity
 - b. For the unbeliever; the reward comes now & the hatred & separation comes for eternity

2. This world is as bad as it will get for believers
 - a. For the unbeliever; this world is as good as it will get (ie Matt 6:2, 5, 16)
3. Jesus always makes binary choices for people
 - a. You'll either love the world or love God

Read 7:10-13

1. Jesus didn't lie to his brothers about not going
 - a. He simply told them it wasn't His time to go in *publicly* to be glorified
 - b. That's coming at the Triumphal Entry
2. People are talking about Jesus – that's good
 - a. All publicity is good publicity
 - b. Greg Huston – town hates them
 - c. Travis – Counter pride event hates them
 - d. We want people talking about Jesus – let's stir them up

#2 – We can speak boldly with authority (Vs 14-24)

Read 7:14-15

1. They marveled, not that He planned Rome's overthrow, but that He know the Bible

- a. It's said in many places Jesus taught like someone w/ authority (ie Luke 2, 4; Matt 7, 13)
- b. In Act 4:13 the apostles spoke bold words that showed they had been with Jesus
- c. Acts 6:10 says they couldn't oppose the wisdom and the Spirit of Stephen

Read 7:16-19

1. Vss 16-18 Jesus says you can judge a teaching by whether it aligns w/ the already revealed Word
2. Then vs 19 Jesus tells them that they're *not* in alignment with the already revealed Word
 - a. And this is why they seek to kill Him
3. This will always be the conflict
 - a. If 2 people align w/ the Word: agreement
 - b. If they don't align w/ the Word: disagreement

Read 7:20-21

1. Jesus is referring to the one very public miracle He did recorded in John 5 at Bethesda's pool
2. The crowd as a whole may not have known the leaders were trying to kill Him, but many knew it

Read 7:22-23

1. Circumcision was the sign of God's covenant with their father Abraham
 - a. But it was also damaging to the flesh
2. Jesus' rationale is; if it's ok to *damage* a person to keep the covenantal sign on the Sabbath, surely, it's good to *repair* a person on the Sabbath

Read 7:24

1. Judge on the merits of a thing, not what it looks like – “justice is blind”
2. We judge based on the truth in the Word, based on love & evidence – none of this can be seen

#3 – We can stir debate about Jesus' identity (Vs 25-36)

Read 7:25-27

1. Crowds speculate the rulers must be accepting Jesus as Messiah b/c they're doing nothing
2. Yet the crowds can't accept Jesus as Messiah b/c they know He's from Galilee

- a. They think being Galilean violates prophecy
- b. There are *explicit* prophecies Messiah will be of David in Bethlehem (This they knew)
- c. There are *also implicit* prophecies that Messiah will be of Galilee (Read Isa 9:1-2)

Read 7:28-29

1. The first line here is probably sarcasm
2. They think they know all about Jesus
 - a. Makes them think they can control Him
 - b. Makes them think they can have authority
 - c. Makes them dismiss His thoughts
 - d. This is *still* a major problem, people that *think* they know Jesus – but don't have a clue
3. If we know Him, we'll accept His Father's Word

Read 7:30-32

1. His Words are converting hearts & minds, not simply stirring emotions
2. Often, they wanted to assert their will in taking Jesus, but He wouldn't let them – it's wrong time

- a. Like John 10:39 & Luke 4:29-30
- b. His mission can't be thwarted just as the mission of the church can't be thwarted
- c. We've been commissioned to teach others of Jesus so the H.S. can convert hearts & minds

Read 7:33-36

1. He's telling them of His death & ascension
2. He's speaking indirectly to make them dig in
 - a. They *can* learn what He's saying
 - b. Read Luke 8:10 – God rewards the askers

#4 – We can offer something greater than tradition (Vs 37-39)

Intro to 7:37-39

1. The Jews developed a ritual they called *nisuch ha-mayim*
 - a. Priest gets water from Pool of Siloam
 - b. Procession carried it back to Temple w/ music
 - c. This water was poured out w/ offerings

- d. On the last day things intensified
- e. To them it's a cry for salvation & provision

Read 7:37-39

1. Tabernacles was to be their annual rejoicing over the provision they received in Promised Land
 - a. It pointed to Messiah giving new life and new bodies forever
2. How can the Spirit flow from a man's innermost being?
 - a. When he's given new life & a new heart by the Spirit of God (Read Eze 36:26)
 - b. This will happen to many Jews soon
3. The Spirit couldn't yet indwell believers b/c Jesus wasn't yet resurrected
 - a. We have the Holy Spirit in a way that the OT saints never did
 - b. The Spirit could come upon them – but we're indwelt by Him

#5 – We can reason with people from them (Vs 40-53)

Read 7:40-43

1. Their limited application of the Bible was the problem (Read Matt 22:29)
 - a. Answer isn't 1 or other, but all of the above
2. Good on them for trying – keep going

Read 7:44-49

1. The priests & Pharisees actually say the people that are believing in Jesus are cursed
 - a. But it's the exact opposite
2. What irony
 - a. The Pharisees spent time in the Law, but didn't believe it
 - b. Most people didn't know the Law, but believed
 - c. “Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up”

Read 7:50-53

1. This is the 2nd of 3 interaction of Nico w/ Jesus
 - a. John 3 – He's inquiring of Jesus

- b. John 7 – He’s defending Jesus
 - c. John 19 – He’s worshipping Jesus
2. Notice, he’s defending Jesus in according with what he knows of the Law, not against the Law

Conclusion

Jesus Christ is the living embodiment of the Word

If we follow His example and know the Word, we can expect the following results

1. **We’ll endure mockery**
2. **We’ll speak boldly with authority**
3. **We’ll stir debate about Jesus’s identity**
4. **We’ll be offering something greater than tradition**
5. **We’ll reason with people from the Word in order to turn them to eternal life in Christ**