

We continue today a year in the Gospel of John.

Last week, Pastor Matt finished chapter 6. I encourage you to go back and listen if you missed it last week.

At the end of the chapter we heard Jesus' difficult teaching to his disciples about the sufficiency of his life, death and resurrection for all that we need. Many of the disciples then turn and walk away from Jesus. But the twelve disciples stick around.

**John 6:66-69** After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup> and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

This heart of desperation in Peter, is the heart of desperation we all should come to the cross of Christ daily. "Lord, I've got no one else! Its only you Jesus! Where else can go for identity? For peace? For satisfaction? For purpose? For mercy? For grace? For life? Its only in you Jesus!"

And this is the very reason John writes this Gospel! **Chapter 20:31** <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

With this in mind, and this framework we come to todays text.

### **John 7:1-24**

3 Observations:

#### **Vs. 1-2**

##### **1) God Calls His People to Remember His Faithfulness**

Feast of Booths established by God in [LEVITICUS 23:33–43](#).

“You shall dwell in booths for seven days . . . that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God” (vv. 42–43).

At the end of the harvest, towards the end of September/early October, the people would build temporary booths to live in while they feasted and celebrated the Lords provision then as well as remembering His faithfulness to bring them out of Egypt! If

they were in the city they would build these booths in their courtyards or even on top of their flats!

And so in the text, John tells us that this celebration of remembering Gods faithfulness was beginning! At the time of Johns recording this, Jews would travel from all over to gather and celebrate Gods provision for the harvest, hope in the future grace of next years harvest, the saving work He did to bring them out of Egypt and the saving work He had promised to do by one day sending the Messiah!

**Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.**

God was faithful to send Jesus. Jesus was faithful to trust his heavenly Father and obey him to the point of death on the cross that those who believe in the name of Jesus have life eternal!

**2 Timothy 2:8-10 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.**

What about you? How often do you pause life to consider the goodness and faithfulness of God? Are there things or rhythms that you do regularly to help you recall the faithfulness of God?! Namely sending Jesus to die on the cross?

Back to the text: This Feast of Booths created a unique tension for Jesus because Jews would flock to Judea for this celebration of Gods provision and faithfulness. Yet he knew, that in Judea, the Jewish leaders had the power to have him killed or arrested. According to D.A. Carson, in Galilee, Herod Antipas of Rome ruled, but Jerusalem that was in Judea was under the jurisdiction of the Jewish religious leaders. So Jesus knew that in Galilee he was under little threat by the Jews leaders, but in Judea, specifically Jerusalem, He would be at much more risk.

However, Jesus was refusing to go to Judea not just because the Jews were seeking to kill him there, but also for much more important reasons. His father hadn't told him to go...

**Vs. 3-9**

## 2) Trust in Gods Timing

Verse 3: These are most likely the actual brothers of Jesus. They didn't quite get who Jesus was.

What we see from the text and a common consensus with commentators is what seems to be an understanding that Jesus was something special. They even encouraged him to go to Judea, where many Jews were, and prove to them you can do what you say you can do.

But the truth is, they might have known something was special about Jesus, but they didn't believe Jesus was the Messiah. "Not even his brothers believed"  
So when they tell Jesus to "Show yourself to the world" in verse 4, The world is likely a reference to the Jewish world. The majority of the Jewish world would be in Jerusalem...  
In some way it seems like a genuine, faulty logic from his brothers.

He wasn't swayed by their logic however. Why? Because Jesus was most concerned with trusting in His Heavenly Father. Not the logic of men. He knew that God was trustworthy and the timing of the Father is perfect. Jesus had not received word from the Lord to go to Judea. So he responds faithfully to his brothers, "My time has not yet come." And then waits for his time.

In vs. 7 he explains that it is his teaching of truth that causes the world to hate him and since the brothers don't yet believe in Jesus, their thinking is still in the main stream thought of the religious.

Wait on the Lord. His timing is perfect. Jesus knew it then and modeled it for us. Whatever temptations and trials you are walking through right now. Gods timing is perfect. It is not on your timing, because you are not perfect. God will not show up the way you want him too (as the brothers of Jesus reasoned, "Go up to Jerusalem! Show your disciples. Show the world!"), but He will come perfectly. He will work all things for the good of those who love him and have been called according to HIS purpose. Good and bad. Justice and injustice. Will work for the good of His people. We may not understand it while on this earth...

Jesus is coming back one day. Fulfilling all Justice. Making all things right. Wiping every tear from every eye.

In that moment R.C. Sproul says the ministry of Gods mercy will come to an end. All suffering and pain will be over for eternity.

God has always been faithful in the past. He will always be faithful in the future.

Trust Him.

What are we to do today? In the hurt? In the confusion? In the suffering? In the celebration? In the joy? Remember His Faithfulness, Trust in His timing, and obey His will.

**Vs. 10-24**

### **3) Obey His Will**

Jesus goes to Judea and teaches in the temple, not because his mind changed, but what was holding him in Galilee (the Lord) apparently told him now is the time to go to Judea.

In fact, historically there was a large caravan of Jewish people who would travel together from Galilee to Jerusalem. Jesus avoided being in that spectacle, but came up later in private.

Despite the turmoil and difficulty facing Jesus of being in Judea, he perfectly believed the Father and was obedient.

Verse 14 shows us that, when Jesus gets to Judea he waits a couple days then begins teaching in the temple.

AND in verse 16, He does so in the authority given to him by the Lord. A normal priestly practice was to teach in the authority of the one in which you were taught. So for the other religious leaders, they would teach in the authority of the one they had learned from, and Jesus does this same thing which is what was so amazing to the Jews and infuriating to the religious leaders.

Because Jesus taught and said "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me." Saying what I am teaching, I learned not from another priest, but from God Almighty!

Jesus taught not to gain notoriety, but to glorify the Father. We see this when he calls out their sin in verse 19 and asks why they are seeking to kill him.

And says of the religious leaders, "The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory"

The leaders were seeking to kill him which explains why the people say, You are crazy! Possessed by a demon. Who is trying to kill you? They likely did not know of this plot to kill Jesus.

So Jesus explains why there is a plot, then that what they have been taught is not the heart of God for His people. His miracle of healing the man on the Sabbath from chapter 5 and his subsequent articulation of equality with God that sparked this plot to kill Jesus.

This healing on the Sabbath went against the traditional teachings, not the Biblical teachings. And he points out the hypocrisy of the leaders, by revealing other works they have permitted on the Sabbath in order to not break the law of Moses.

Jesus is reminding them and us that the law was to point us to the loving heavenly father, not confine us by the burden of carrying its weight.

The Jewish leaders had hardened their hearts to miss the point of the Sabbath and the point of the law. These were not given to restrict the loving arms of the Father, but to reveal them. This is why, the leaders began to work out a way to have Jesus arrested and killed!

Even knowing their intentions, Jesus was still faithful to go to Judea, and when prompted teach in the temple that others would know he was the Messiah!

It is his obedience to the Father, that led him to the cross to die the death that we owe, that those who by grace through faith, put their trust in the name of Jesus might have eternal life.

Our obedience to the Lord brings about peace, joy, and freedom. As the Jewish leaders missed it in this moment, we are partial to miss it as well. Jesus ends by saying **"Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."**

Many of you may be here today, and from the outside looking in, have everyone fooled. Like the Jewish leaders, you look like you have it all together, but the Lord knows the heart. Jesus is perfect in his judgement, and also perfect in his mercy!

Or you may be here today in search of something thats missing. Whats missing is life in Christ.

Life in Christ is not earned by obedience, but by believing in Jesus you will have life in His name. This belief is where the desire and ability to trust and obey is born. Faith in Jesus.

Our faith is confirmed as we remember often the faithfulness of the Lord to save us, trusting that His timing is perfect as it has always been, and obeying His perfect will for today!