

Chapter 7 is a long chapter that can be divided into 3 parts

- Before the feast, During the feast, and After the feast
- There were 3 feasts that were pilgrimage feasts
  - Passover, pentecost, and the feast of Tabernacles
  - The Feast of the Tabernacles is so important to understand the context of chapter 7
- Chapter 7 can also be divided into 3 different groups of people
  1. Disbelief: a group of people who don't believe in who He is.
  2. Not sure: people who are not sure
  3. Division: Some people become divided because of Jesus

**John 7:1** After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him.

- Jesus has been in Galilee, that's where we left off in chapter six
- The religious leaders have already been plotting how they would put Jesus to death
- Now, between chapters 6 and 7, there is a gap of about 6 months. We can read what happened in those 6 months in the other gospels. (Healing the daughter of a woman in Tiro and Sidon, the feeding of the 4000, he asked his disciples Who do you say that I am, he tells his disciples that He will go to Jerusalem and die on the cross, and the mount of transfiguration)
- We know that it is 6 months because in chapter six is passover(April), and now it is the Feast of Tabernacles(September), which is six months apart

**2** Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. **3** His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. **4** For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show Yourself to the world." **5** For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

### **The feast of tabernacles**

- A week of celebration from sabbath to sabbath started on the 15th of the Hebrew calendar month of Tishri
- For one whole week, make a Tent and camp in it, with branches for the roof to be able to see the stars
- This would have been fun, (Josephus said it was the most Joyful of all the feasts), the kids would have thought so, camping out for a whole week
- But they would gaze at the same stars that Israel gazed at in the wilderness while God took care of them
- It was estimated that 2 million people would come to Jerusalem for these 3 feasts
- There was a series of rituals by the priest and proclamations by the people during the Feast of Tabernacles
- This was the purpose of the celebration: to remember that they were pilgrims in the desert, and God provided for them

His brothers

- Jesus had half brothers and sisters, children of Mary and Joseph **Matthew 13:55** Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? **56** And His sisters, are they not all with us
- Their names: Joses, James, Simon, Judas, and their sisters, at least two
- They tell Jesus to go to Judea and do what you do here, there in Judea

- They didn't believe He was the Messiah (can you imagine being Jesus' sibling)
  - There were many reasons why they didn't believe: familiarity was probably one of them. But they all had a different idea of who the Messiah would be, a political leader to overthrow Rome's rule and restore the kingdom of Israel

### Disbelief

- His brothers would eventually believe.
- James became the leader of the church after Jesus' death. And wrote the book of James, and Judas wrote the book of Jude.
- His siblings probably believed and became his disciples after the resurrection. James doesn't call Jesus his brother. He calls Jesus Lord

6 Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. 8 You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." 9 When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.

- Jesus says my time is not yet come
- His time would be in the next 6 months later at passover
- Jesus says something very interesting about why He would be crucified, "the world hates me," and gives us the reason, "because I testify of it that its works are evil."
- He stayed in Galilee but went anyway after in secret

### Debate

10 But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. 11 Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?" 12 And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people." 13 However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

They didn't know what to make of Jesus

- Can you imagine seeing Jesus walking by you, what your heart would feel? Hearing Him teach and preach and do miracles would have been glorious
  - I have heard some great preaching, seen miracles, heard some great teaching that has captivated me, and felt the Glory of God
  - Many people believed in Jesus
- But again, they thought the Messiah would also take over and reestablish the kingdom of Israel. That's why they called Him the Son of David

### The Heavenly Scholar

14 Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. 15 And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?"

16 Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. 17 If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. 18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.

- Again, hearing Jesus teach would have had your heart pounding at every word
- But they marveled because He was not trained in any of their schools (Pharisees)
- He says my doctrine is from the one who sent me (the Father)

19 Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?”

20 The people answered and said, “You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?”

21 Jesus answered and said to them, “I did one work, and you all marvel. 22 Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is 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 should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? 24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

- Jesus says You hold up the law so much, but you want to break the 6th commandment, wanting to kill me
- Jesus refers to the man in the pool of Bethesda, whom Jesus told to pick up His bed and go, it happened to be a sabbath day
- Jesus says you do the same on the sabbath with circumcision
- Your judgment is not righteous

### Division

25 Now some of them from Jerusalem said, “Is this not He whom they seek to kill? 26 But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ? 27 However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from.”

- There is a division among the people concerning Jesus
- Is He the messiah they asked themselves
- They said No one will know who the messiah will come from
  - A misinterpretation of Isaiah 53:8 “Who will declare His generation?” Malachi 3:1 “The Lord whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple.”
  - Based on the misinterpretation of these 2 texts, they believed the Messiah would come out of nowhere and deliver the Jews from oppression and take over the world
  - The bible has many scriptures in the Old Testament that predicted where He would be born, what He would do, and even say

28 Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, “You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. 29 But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me.”

30 Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

- The religious leaders tried many times to take Jesus, but they were not able to until His time had come
- The sovereignty of the Lord is perfect

### The division continues

31 And many of the people believed in Him, and said, “When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?”

32 The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him.

33 Then Jesus said to them, “I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him who sent Me. 34 You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come.” 35 Then the Jews said among themselves, “Where does He intend to go that we shall not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? 36 What is this thing that He said, ‘You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come’?”

All this is happening in the Feast of Tabernacles  
Jesus is teaching

There are thousands of people around the temple in tents, booths, and little shacks celebrating God's faithfulness in the wilderness

**Conclusion**

Many are still divided on who Jesus is, Many say He is good, some say He is bad, others say he was a prophet, a teacher, many even say that he never existed, etc.

**BASED ON THE GOSPELS**

He is the only begotten Son of God, became flesh, lived a perfect, sinless life, died on the cross for our sins, resurrected on the third day, ascended unto heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and is coming back for His church

If we come to Him, He will receive us, He can forgive our sins, and give us new life, everlasting life

(Cliffhanger)

Jesus is about to make a powerful declaration to all the people at a very important time  
Maybe the most powerful one out of all that He said