

**Pastor Jim Jackson, 10/5/25**  
***Days With Jesus, Day 19—My Enemy, My Family***  
**John 7:1-13**

**Jesus AVOIDED being killed**

Jesus did not have a ‘martyr’s complex.’ He avoided death until led by God to die at the appropriate time, in the appropriate way. To give one’s life in martyrdom *when it is unavoidable* is indeed respectable and commendable, but to die needlessly by being careless or reckless while lacking common sense is foolish (Matt. 10:23). *Stupidity is not spiritual*. The life and death of every living thing is in the hand of God, and we are to attempt to stay alive through every means possible outside of sinning by denying Jesus to save our own lives. Trusting Jesus to die in a God-glorifying and pleasing manner is discipleship at its deepest level (Matt. 10:34-39; Luke 21:16-19). *Live for God and leave your death to God!*

**Jesus’ FAMILY didn’t believe in him**

Jesus had four brothers and at least two sisters (Matt. 1:25; 13:55, 56). Sadly, Mary and her other children often tried to use their familial relationship to manipulate Jesus to do what they wanted him to do (Matt. 12:46-50; Mark 3:20, 21). *Sometimes those closest to us physically are furthest away from us spiritually!* Knowing he faced persecution down in Jerusalem, Jesus’ own half-brothers (they all had Mary as mother, but Jesus had God as his father, not Joseph) wanted him to go there in a public way that might bring violence and possibly death. Sadly, Jesus’ own family was discouraging to him, not believing he was the Messiah during his ministry. *If God is for us, no one can be against us* (Ps. 118:6; Rom. 8:31)!

**Jesus knew who his TRUE family was**

Jesus would eventually secretly go to the feast—not in the public way his brothers wanted him to—because he believed in God’s timing. When he took on flesh, Jesus laid aside his *omniscience* (Divine ‘all-knowledge’) while remaining God (Phil. 2:5-13). In his humanity, Jesus didn’t have every step of his life laid out. He trusted scripture and the Holy Spirit for the timing of his life, giving us an example to follow (Rom. 12:2; Col. 1:9; 1 Pet. 2:21, 5:6). *God gave His word and His Spirit to keep us from getting lost!* Though his physical family or others weren’t supportive, Jesus knew he could lean on God, who knows our difficulty, and other believers for encouragement (Heb. 13:5). *True family is true to family!*