

**John 17**  
**“Come and Drink”**  
**John 7:14-53 (NIV)**

Hey Newsong!

What book of the Bible are we in? That's right we're in John's Gospel...Why did John write this book?

**Series Verse**

***31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.-Jn 20:31 (NIV)***

John wants us all to believe that Jesus is the Son of God...what we're finding as we move through John's Gospel is that there are a majority of people who refuse to believe that...

In fact, the more that Jesus says He's the Messiah...He's Son of God...the more we see people hate Him for it...

Last week we saw how there was growing tension and division around Jesus...so much so that the religious leaders wanted to kill Him, and His own family didn't believe in Him...

If you're just joining us, let me give you the background of what's going on here...

Chapter seven takes place during the Feast of Tabernacles...this was one of the mandatory feasts that required believers to travel to Jerusalem and celebrate...

What were they celebrating? They were remembering how faithful God had been to their ancestors...He not only led them out of Egypt...But He also led them around the desert for 40 years...providing for their needs...

During that 40 year period the Jewish people lived in tabernacles, or booths, today we would call them tents...

So during the Feast of Tabernacles all around the city of Jerusalem and inside the city people would live in these tabernacles for the week and tell stories of how God supernaturally provided for and protected their forefathers during that time...

We learned last week that Jesus didn't go up to Jerusalem publicly because...It wasn't His time to go...in other words, Jesus only moved according to God's timeline...

When it was time for Jesus to go...He went up privately and John tells us that the crowd of people had different opinions of Who Jesus is...

Our big takeaway last week was that we have to decide for ourselves Who Jesus is and put our full trust in Him!

Let's dive into the rest of chapter 7!

## **John 7:14-24 (NLT)**

A couple things I want to point out to you...  
Jesus isn't hiding...

He's openly and boldly teaching in the Temple...and the religious leaders are blown away by Jesus' teaching...

***...“How does he know so much when he hasn't been trained?” they asked.-Jn 7:15 (NLT)***

The religious leaders are surprised that Jesus knows so much about the Word of God...when He hasn't gone through an official training...

You see, in Jesus' day if you wanted to learn the Scriptures...you had to become the disciple of a Rabbi...You couldn't just take Bible classes online...You lived with and followed the Rabbi and got a formal teaching...

Then when you would become a teacher yourself...you would quote your Rabbi when you were teaching...That was the first century Judaism Bible School Track...

This is what Jesus was doing with His twelve disciples...

But the religious leaders were surprised because here's Jesus teaching everyone with authority, with clarity, with accuracy...and yet He's not quoting a famous Rabbi...Instead He's quoting God!

Notice that...

The **LIVING** Word teaches from the **WRITTEN** Word

This is pretty amazing to me...

Here's Jesus who knows that His time is growing short...He's about 6 months or so from going to the cross...

He wants everyone to believe in Him...

He doesn't grab their attention by healing someone...

He doesn't grab their attention by feeding everybody...

The first thing that Jesus does is He goes into the Temple and He sits down and starts teaching the Word of God!

The Greek Word for teach is **did-as'-ko** It means to teach a student in such a way that the will of the student becomes conformed to the teaching...The student now lives their life according to that teaching

Jesus isn't teaching His opinion...

He's not filtering His teaching through the lens of psychology or sociology...

He's simply teaching the Word as it is written...  
Why?

Because the Written Word is God's Word...

***16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.-2 Ti 3:16–17 (NLT)***

***12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.***  
***-Heb 4:12 (NIV)***

As followers of Jesus, this is the Book we live by...This is the Book that calls the shots...

This is the Book that the Holy Spirit will always help us understand and empower us to live according to! We need it all from Genesis to Maps!

I want to challenge you if you've never read the Bible all the way through...get in on our Bible reading plan...

Now we know that everybody's not happy when the Word of God is being taught...

We are living in a time where people are practicing buffet-style Christianity...They choose which scriptures they want to believe and apply and which ones they don't...

This is the end times...

There are false teachers out there teaching people what they want to hear...not what they need to hear...

Paul puts it like this...

**3 For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will reject the truth and chase after myths.-2 Ti 4:3–4 (NLT)**

Jesus' teaching came from the Scriptures...

Likewise our teaching...our doctrine...

It must come from the Scriptures...

It's God's Word that feeds our soul...

It's God's Word that gives us wisdom...

It's God's Word that gives us direction...

It's God's Word that renews our minds...

It's God's Word that is our spiritual sword...

This is why we offer a Bible reading plan...

This is why we have multiple Bible studies throughout the week...

This is why we're taking a whole year on Sunday mornings and preaching verse by verse through the Gospel of John...

If you want a word from God...pick up the Word of God!

Every time we open the Bible we should be asking the Holy Spirit to help us understand and apply the Word of God!

The Word of God reveals Jesus to us!

Okay so the religious leaders are amazed and surprised by Jesus' teaching with no "formal training" and Jesus is like...

Hey my teaching is from God...prove Me wrong...and they don't like that...because they can't...His teaching is spot on!

But things really begin to heat up when Jesus begins to speak out against their hypocrisy

***19 Moses gave you the law, but none of you obeys it! In fact, you are trying to kill me.”***

Now remember, one of the reasons that they want to kill Jesus is because Jesus healed that man on the sabbath day, and according to their religious rules...that was a violation of God's Word...

Jesus is saying you claim to follow God...but you really don't obey what He says...You want to kill Me...and I'm an innocent Man

**Jesus wants us to not just KNOW the Word but to LIVE the Word**

The religious leaders had head knowledge but no heart knowledge...They memorized God's Word but they didn't live by it...they didn't obey it...they didn't allow it to transform their behavior...

**20 The crowd replied, “You’re demon possessed! Who’s trying to kill you?”**

Now Jesus explains Himself further...

**21 Jesus replied, “I did one miracle on the Sabbath, and you were amazed. 22 But you work on the Sabbath, too, when you obey Moses’ law of circumcision. (Actually, this tradition of circumcision began with the patriarchs, long before the law of Moses.)**

**23 For if the correct time for circumcising your son falls on the Sabbath, you go ahead and do it so as not to break the law of Moses. So why should you be angry with me for healing a man on the Sabbath? 24 Look beneath the surface so you can judge correctly.”-Jn 7:19–24 (NLT)**

Jesus is calling them out because they are judging Him for working on the Sabbath when they sometimes work on the Sabbath...

Have you ever met a person who confesses Jesus with their lips but actually denies Him by their hypocritical lifestyle?

We have to be very careful not to just know God's Word but to allow it to transform the way we think and live...

We do this in many areas...

We have head knowledge when it comes to let's say forgiveness...

God's Word says to forgive...but we're like...not going to do that...We don't let what we know get into our heart...

Head knowledge tells me something is true...

Heart knowledge tells me I've applied that truth to my life...

Did you know that there's about 18" between our head and our heart?

This is where the Holy Spirit helps us...

He takes God's Word (the Truth) and He helps us get it from our head (knowing) and get it to our heart (believing, trusting, living out that spiritual truth)

When we don't take that 18" hike from our head to our heart...we become hypocritical...

Is there an area in your life where you know the truth but you won't apply it?

Maybe you're in a relationship that you know is toxic and not God's best for you...but you won't cut the chord...

Maybe you know that you should honor God with your time, talents and treasure...but you keep making excuses as to why you can't serve or tithe...

We grow when we say yes to God! Is there a place in your heart where you're still saying no? So Jesus is calling all of this out in the religious leaders and that tension...gets thicker

***John 7:25-36 (NLT)***

**FAMILIARITY** with Jesus isn't **FAITH** in Jesus  
Look at the way the crowd reacts...

***25 Some of the people who lived in Jerusalem started to ask each other, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill?"***

***26 But here he is, speaking in public, and they say nothing to him. Could our leaders possibly believe that he is the Messiah? 27 But how could he be? For we know where this man comes from. When the Messiah comes, he will simply appear; no one will know where he comes from."***-Jn 7:25–27.

***(NLT)***

Most of the crowd thought they knew Who Jesus was (remember...we saw this last week)

They're like we know this guy...This is Joseph and Mary's son...James and Judes older brother...

He's from Nazareth...They thought they knew Jesus...

And because they know where Jesus came from...they concluded that He can't be the Messiah because God's Word said that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem (**Micah 5:2**)

Because they had a misconception of Who Jesus is...

they couldn't put their faith in Him...

People do this all of the time...

Maybe they've read the Bible...

Maybe they go to church...

They can quote the right scriptures...

They assume that they know Jesus but they really just know about Jesus...

Knowing about Jesus...that's informational  
Truly knowing Jesus...that's relational...

Knowing about Jesus...that's intellectual  
Truly knowing Jesus...that's transformational

You may be here today or watching online and you know about Jesus...but you really haven't put your faith in Him yet...

Today's the day to decide!  
It's time to take that 18" walk from your head to your heart...The only way to know God is to know Jesus...

Let's keep reading...

**On the last day, the climax of the festival...John 7:37 (NLT)**

Now let me explain this because this is so cool...The Feast of Tabernacles lasted seven days...Every morning the people would go up to the temple courts and they would be singing songs as they're walking...

They would be carrying with them different kinds of branches...palm, willow & myrtle symbolizing the different areas their ancestors stayed in over that 40 year journey...

They would also carry a citrusy type of fruit with them...symbolizing the fruitful land that God had given them...

Thousands of people would get to the temple court where the priest would be waiting for them holding a golden pitcher...

They would all walk down from the temple courts to the pool of Siloam...where the priest would dip it in the water...

They would then head back up to the temple courts, singing psalms...When they got there the priest would pour the water on the stones of the altar...

The water was symbolic of the time that God provided water for His people out of a rock in the desert

As he's pouring the water, all the people would sing a passage from the Prophet Isaiah...

***3 With joy you will drink deeply from the fountain of salvation!-Is 12:3 (NLT)***

They did this every morning for seven days...But on the last day of the Feast they did something different...

After they all went and got the water, the priest would march around the altar seven times...  
What does that remind you of?

Jericho...Jericho was the first city that the Israelites had to battle in the promised land...

So here's the priest marching around the altar and on the sixth lap the priest holding the golden pitcher was met by another priest who was holding a pitcher of wine....which symbolizes joy...God has given us joy

Then the priest with the water would walk up the steps of the altar...and with every step the people would shout louder and louder...

And when the priest reached the top of the steps he would stop and lift the water up very slowly...all the people would become quiet...

This is what's happening in this verse...

***John 7:37-52 (NLT)***

As we close today, my last observation is this...

Jesus invites all who are **THIRSTY** to come

It's an open invitation...

It doesn't matter what color you are...

It doesn't matter how much money you have...

It doesn't matter how successful you are...

Or how many followers you have on social media...

The only thing that you need to be is thirsty...Thirsty people drink water...Have you ever noticed that things like soda or coffee/tea, they don't really quench your thirst...

They just make you thirstier

The same is true in a spiritual sense...Jesus is speaking of a spiritual thirst here...we talked about this a couple of weeks ago...that God-shaped hole in our hearts that we try to fill with all kinds of things...but they never satisfy

It's because we can't fill a spiritual need with anything other than Jesus!

In the same way that only water can quench our thirst...only when we understand that we have a spiritual need can we be refreshed...

Notice that all we have to do is come to Him and drink...

### **Ezekiel thirsty but wouldn't drink from the fountain**

So many people are just like Ezekiel...

They realize that they're thirsty...

They come to church...get into God's presence

But they never take a drink...They never receive Jesus....

You know...this may be you today...

You know you're thirsty...you came into this place...Jesus is saying take that next step and drink from Me...It's time to receive...

If you've never received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, or if you're backslidden...In a moment, I'm going to give you an opportunity to come and drink from Jesus...

He's got salvation for you...

He's got forgiveness for you...

He's got restoration for you...

But notice with me what else Jesus said...

***“...Anyone who is thirsty may come to me!  
38 Anyone who believes in me may come  
and drink! For the Scriptures declare,  
‘Rivers of living water will flow from his  
heart.’ ”-Jn 7:37–38 (NLT)***

This is a promise for all of us who have come and put our trust in Jesus...Living water will not only flow into us...it will flow out of us!

Salvation is just the beginning!

We're not just blessed with salvation...we're blessed so that we can be a blessing to others!

God never intended that we store up this pool of living water...you know why? Because water that doesn't flow stagnates...

When living, flowing water is poured into us...it should flow out of us too! Maybe you're here today and you love Jesus but you feel dry...

Maybe you love Jesus but you need a Holy Spirit breakthrough...Come to the fountain...maybe you're trying to love and serve God but you're tired...you need a fresh filling...Come and receive a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit

Maybe you're here today and you've never experienced the baptism in the Holy Spirit...all you have to do is come and drink!

Today's the day to come to Jesus and let Him fill you back up!

## **What's the Holy Spirit Saying To You?**

### **Altar Time**

- Pray for salvation
- Pray for baptism in the Holy Spirit/re-filling
- Pray for strongholds to break