



The Gospel of John: *Know Jesus and Live*

Part 21
John 7:1-24

The Setting

❖ John 7:1-2



What does it mean by “after this?”

- In John 5, Jesus healed a lame man on the Sabbath. After this he taught people that he was equal with God and taught that his work and words were indeed God’s works and words.
- In John 6, Jesus fed five thousand plus people with five Twinkie sized barley cakes and a couple small fish. After this he taught the people that he was bread of life. The true food that nourishes and grants eternal life. It was at this point that many people quit following him.



What is the feast of booths?

❖ **Leviticus 23:34-43**

❖ **Deuteronomy 16:13-16**

The Message

1. Being a fan of Jesus’s miracles does not a true believer make



This was true of his own brothers

❖ John 7:3-5

- A few things to see here...

(1) Jesus had real brothers. While some believe and teach that Mary was a perpetual virgin, scripture is quite clear that Jesus had biological siblings. In fact, we know their names...

❖ Matthew 13:55—*Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us*

(2) Jesus’s brothers believed that he could do amazing things. They saw this as an opportunity for Jesus to regain the crowds he lost in John 6. They reasoned that since the whole nation was gathered for the feast of booths and everyone was in a celebrative mood, all Jesus needed to do was pull off a couple of impressive miracles and he’ll have a huge crowd again in no time.

(3) Jesus’s brothers didn’t believe in him.

❖ John 7:6-9

- A few things to see here...

(1) It is not yet time for Jesus’s grand entrance. In John 12 we will see him riding into Jerusalem on a donkey amid shouts of Hosanna, but that time had not yet come.

(2) When the time comes for Jesus’s grand entrance, they will hate him and kill him. He may have entered Jerusalem on a donkey amid shouts of Hosanna, but he left Jerusalem carrying a cross amid shouts of crucify him. His unbelieving brothers never had to worry about that. The world liked them just fine because they were of the world. They could stroll on into town anytime without fear.



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❖ **John 7:10, 14**

- Jesus's brother made some very poor assumptions about him. They assumed that he wanted to be well known; yet we see that he intended to slip into town without any fuss. They assumed that he intended to perform flashy signs and wonders, yet we see that his purpose at this point in time was to teach.
- What we need to take away from this is that we can be incredibly familiar with Jesus, be considered part of Jesus's family, and still not know him at all.

🕒 **This was true of the Jewish people**

❖ **John 7:11-13**

- It is important to read this passage through the filter of the words "After this" found in verse 1. It is only when we do this that we understand why the Jewish people were saying that Jesus was...
 - (1) A Good Man. Those that said, "He is a good man," said so because of what he had previously done. In chapter 5, we saw him heal a man who had been an invalid for 38 years with a spoken word. In chapter 6, we saw him feed over five thousand people with five Twinkie sized barley cakes and two little fish. In light of this, the conclusion of some was that Jesus was a powerful and compassionate human being worthy of being described as "A good man."
 - (2) Leading people astray. These people were at the very same events as the other people but they had a very different take on things. They saw the healing of the invalid, but rather than rejoicing in the work, they were offended that he did it on the Sabbath. They saw the feeding of the five thousand, but rather than rejoice in that, they were offended that he told them to eat his flesh and drink his blood. They concluded that Jesus was a false prophet attempting to lead the people astray.
- What we need to take away from this is that we can see indisputable evidence that Jesus is God almighty and still not believe in him. We can see him part the sea, walk on water, feed five thousand, or miraculously heal and still come to think of him as far less than what he truly is. We can behold his mighty power with our own eyes and still think of him as merely "a good man" or even as one who "leads people astray."

2. Being a fan of Jesus's teaching does not a true believer make

❖ **John 7:14-15**

- Some may read this and think that these people had real faith in Jesus. However, we must notice that it doesn't say that they were "cut to the heart" as the crowds were in Acts 2. Their hearts did not burn within them as we saw in the lives of the disciples on the road to Damascus in Luke 24. There were, according to Jesus in verse 24, judging by appearances. They were merely impressed with Jesus's intellectual prowess. They were in awe that he was so articulate for someone who had not long studied in the rabbinical schools. There was no true faith among them.



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- There are many today who are just like the people in the crowd. They love *some* of the things that Jesus says. They are impressed with Jesus's ability to communicate his message. However, they still don't bow their knee to Jesus as Lord.

3. Being a fan of religion does not a true believer make.

❖ *John 7:19-24*

- A few things to see here...
 - (1) Though Jesus is addressing the entire crowd, his words are especially targeting the Jewish religious leaders. How do we know this? Because at this time, the Jewish people weren't the ones seeking to kill him, that's why they responded with "you have a demon. Who is seeking to kill you?" Jesus is speaking to those who are trying to kill him and the people trying to kill him at this time are the super religious Jewish leaders. We saw this already...
 - ❖ John 5:18—*This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*
 - (2) Jesus points out the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders. How does he do this? He points out that, "If the law of Moses required that the sign of a person's wellness (circumcision) be given on the Sabbath day, how could the Jewish leaders object when Jesus healed a man completely on the Sabbath day (like he did in John 5)?¹" Thus, they had no right to be angry with Jesus for healing a man on the Sabbath.
 - (3) They were all guilty of faulty, shallow judgment. His brothers couldn't look past his flashy deeds, the crowd could look past his intelligent sounding arguments, and the religious leaders couldn't look past their religious, self-righteous legalism to see Jesus for who he really is. So he invites all of them to look a bit deeper and discover who he really is. He invites all of them to become true believers.
 - Being super religious/legalistic doesn't make us true believers. In fact, it can make us extremely hostile to Jesus. How? Because Jesus openly mocks the foolishness of those who depend on religiosity or works of the law for their righteousness and we become embarrassed and infuriated.

4. What makes a true believer?

❖ *John 7:16*

- A true believer is someone who believes that Jesus's words are the very words of God to be heard, cherished, and obeyed. How is it that we become such a person?

❖ *John 7:17*

- In order to believe in Jesus, your will has to be in tune with God's will. If you want to know for sure that Jesus's words are the very words of God, your will has to be in tune with God's will. The question now is,

¹ R.C. Sproul, John: *The St. Andrews Expository Commentary Series*



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how does this happen? Isn't the will of man totally depraved and unable to align itself with God's will? The answer of course is yes. Scripture states very clearly that...

❖ Romans 3:10-11—*"None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*

❖ Romans 8:7-8—*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

❖ John 6:44—*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.*

- So how then is does our will get in tune with God's will so that we truly know that Jesus's words are indeed God's words? The answer is one that this gospel has already spoken about. You must be regenerate or born again...

❖ John 3:3—*Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

- It is only when someone is experiences the new birth that they will understand who Jesus is. They will see and believe that Jesus the very Son of God, who speaks the very words of God. Furthermore...

❖ **John 7:18**

- When someone is born again, they will begin to see that Jesus's whole purpose for coming to this world was to glorify the Father...

❖ John 17:1—*"Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,"*

- When someone is born again they begin to understand that there is NO falsehood in Jesus.

Closing

- The question that we must each ask ourselves is of course, how have we judged Jesus? Are we merely impressed by his miracles? Are we merely awed with his eloquence and intellect? Are we merely seeking to religiously imitate him? Are we trying to earn our righteousness by emulating Jesus? If any of these are true of you, hear Jesus saying to you look a bit deeper...

❖ John 7:24—*Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.*

- Pray that you would be born again. Pray that the Holy Spirit would take out your heart of stone and give to you a heart of flesh. It is only then that you become a true believer. It is only then that you will...

❖ John 20:31—*...believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

- For those of us who have been born again and have come to see Jesus as he really is. Let us remind ourselves that it was not our own cunning that brought us to where we are. Let us remind ourselves that we have passed from death to life by the sovereign grace of God alone.