



## First Baptist Church Selmer

A JOURNEY THROUGH JOHN • "EVEN JESUS HAD A FAMILY" • JOHN 7:1-9 • 2/13/2022

### MAIN POINT

Jesus encountered many doubters throughout His life with some of them coming from those that were closest to Him, His own family!

### INTRODUCTION

Throughout our lives, we have all experienced rejection and even some doubters. It is quite natural to experience those things in life but what about when it comes from those that are closest to you?

**Have you had a time that those, even those closest to you, doubted you?**

**What does it feel like to be doubted by others? Is it easier to accept if the doubters are distant or closer to you?**

Even from a young age, we oftentimes teach our children to not focus on the opinions of others. "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me." We teach them instead to dream, follow their hearts, or better yet, pray for God to reveal His plans for your life. The noise around us sometimes, if allowed, can drown out the inner voice or the leading of the Spirit in our hearts. But how do we overcome it? We do so by refocusing our attention on the ultimate goal. The ultimate goal for my life, and yours, is to bring glory and honor to God's Name. Whatever career, whatever direction, whatever path brings us back to what matters most, glory and honor to God's Name.

But words do hurt, don't they? There are things you hear over and over again that someone, likely someone close to you, said to you or about you years ago. We have even lived our lives to prove them wrong. These inner vows drive us. We don't want to be the person that they said we were going to be. We will see today in our lesson that Jesus faced this same thing. Not just from the Pharisees, or those that would never believe, but from his own family.

# UNDERSTANDING

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 7:1-5

**What do you think it would have been like for Jesus to have been your brother?**

**Do you believe that some of the doubt Jesus experienced from His family was from some type of jealousy? Misunderstanding? Faithlessness?**

**Where did Jesus' brothers encourage Him to go? For what reasons?**

Jesus had returned to His family in Galilee to escape for a moment from the Jews who were seeking to kill Him. We could even say that Jesus needed a minute to check out and re-focus on the task at hand. Very likely the word of Jesus' miracles had reached His own family and when He returned home He was met with mixed emotions. Some may have been excited that He had returned home to visit while others found it to be easier with Jesus gone.

**Do you think Jesus' siblings enjoyed the attention Jesus brought to the family or resented it?**

**Out of all people, why do you think some of the biggest doubters came from Jesus' own family?**

In all fairness, we don't truly know how much Jesus' siblings knew about Jesus. We know that Mary and Joseph knew who He was but we are not sure about the rest of the family. Case in point, imagine telling your children or your parents telling you that your oldest brother was God in human form. Um... wait for it... Yeah... so... How would you start that conversation?

Truthfully, they could have been told about Jesus but chose not to believe it or the conversation may have never come up at the dinner table. It is important we keep in mind that although Jesus was divine, His family was not. The same emotions, sinfulness, jealousy, doubt, faithlessness, disbelief, that we experience, were experienced by them as well.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 7:6-9

**What did Jesus mean when he stated, " My time has not yet come..."?**

**What were the Jews wanting to do to Jesus?**

**Jesus, of course, spoke about something that His brothers didn't quite understand about his upcoming death. Do you think Jesus' statement or reasoning on not going**

## **back to Judea helped to clarify things or only confuse them even more?**

The Feast of the Booths was an annual festival celebrated by all Jews in the months of September to October. It was a celebration and thanksgiving for the harvest and a time to remember God's faithfulness to Israel during their wilderness wanderings. Jesus' brothers wanted Jesus to go to the Feast but to do so for show. They wanted Jesus to perform miracles and healings for people to see. Although this was part of the ministry of Jesus, it was not His sole purpose. They would soon find out that Jesus' plans completely aligned with the Father's will and would not be altered by the timelines of men.

**Jesus told his brothers, "the world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil." Why do you think Jesus told his brothers this?**

**Why would the world not hate His brothers in the same way as it hated Jesus?**

**In what way(s) did Jesus reveal that the world was evil?**

Jesus' message was hated by the world because His message was not "of this world." Jesus' brothers were not living in contradiction to the world around them, therefore, didn't proclaim anything different than the status quo. Jesus' life was quite different. He communicated a message of an eternal kingdom that was to come by grace through faith, not an earthly kingdom rooted in shallow religious legalism. Jesus' message was in direct opposition to the world's and the world would seek to kill Him for it.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 4:15

**Do you believe some of the temptations Jesus experienced could have been related to his interaction with His family?**

**How do you think Jesus' interactions brought glory and honor to God's Name?**

**How do you think Jesus' example helps us in our interactions with our families?**

Jesus experienced life in the same ways as we do. As much as we see Jesus' humanity on display we quickly see His deity as well. Jesus could have reacted in many different ways to the doubt and disbelief of his family, but He still chose to interact with them in a way that glorified the Father.

## **APPLICATION**

It is quite refreshing at times to see that Jesus too experienced everything that we do. Jesus encountered issues even in His own family yet the Bible states, "(he was) without sin."

**How thankful are you that we serve a Savior that can sympathize with our weaknesses?**

**How can you find encouragement in knowing Jesus was able to live with the same temptations as we do, but also overcome them?**

**In what ways can you help others relate to Jesus' own struggles with His family yet still do so in a way that produces Christlikeness?**

## PRAYER

God, help us to know how to relate to those closest to us and honor you as we do. Help us to forgive those who have said things or done things to us and for peace knowing that you are in control of all things. Thank you for showing us the way.

## COMMENTARY

| JOHN 7:1-9

7:1. Galilee (under the jurisdiction of Herod Antipas) was safer than Judea (under the Roman prefect) for Jesus since the Jews were trying to kill Him.

7:2. The Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was celebrated in September or October, two months before the Feast of Dedication (see note at 10:22). It was also called the "Feast of Booths," because people temporarily lived in booths to remember God's faithfulness during Israel's wilderness wanderings (Lv 23:42-43; cp. Mt 17:4). See note at 2:13.

7:3-4. Jesus' brothers were naturally born sons of Mary. Their names were James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon (Mt 13:55 and Mk 6:3). Their poor advice stemmed from unbelief (Jn 7:5) and revealed a fundamental misunderstanding of Jesus' messianic identity (Mt 4:5-7).

7:6-10. On My time has not yet arrived, see note at 2:4. In 7:8, Jesus stated, I'm not going up to the festival yet. In verse 10, we learn that He also went up, not openly but secretly (see note at v. 1). It surprises many readers to realize that Jesus used craft and subterfuge to combat opposition and false expectations.

| HEBREWS 4:15

4:15. How can we hold fast to our faith? Has God done anything to make this possible? This verse answers these questions. The writer of Hebrews had already declared the ability of Jesus to help the tempted (2:18). He now states negatively what he had earlier stated positively. Why would he change from a positive statement to a negative statement? He may have tried to deal with some people who felt that Jesus Christ was too remote from human need. He stated three facts about Christ which would help readers know that Christ was no stranger in helping struggling human beings.

First, Jesus is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. Weaknesses is broad enough to include any form of human stumbling, bumbling, or failure. Christ has sympathy for the needy. Second, Christ has been tempted in every way, just as we are. This statement may mean that he faced the full range of temptations we face. It need not mean that he met each specific type of temptation which we face. A sample of the entire range of options for sinning fell on Jesus. Because Jesus never yielded to sin, we know that he faced more intense temptation. Most of us say "yes" to sin before Satan has thrown all his weapons of temptation at us. Jesus said "no" as Satan hurled every arrow in his quiver. He resisted until he broke the power of Satan (Heb. 2:14). Third, Christ was without sin. Jesus was completely a human being (Heb. 2:17), for he became like his brothers in every way. Must a person experience sin in order to be human? No! Jesus had no sin or deceit in his life (1 Pet. 2:22).