

Christians on Campus
John Bible Study
Summer 2021
John (5)

John 7:1-10, 37-53

¹And after these things Jesus walked in Galilee, for He would not walk in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. ²Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was near. ³His brothers therefore said to Him, Depart from here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may behold Your works which You are doing; ⁴for no one does anything in secret and himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, manifest Yourself to the world. ⁵For not even His brothers believed into Him. ⁶Jesus therefore said to them, My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. ⁷The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me, because I testify concerning it, that its works are evil. ⁸You go up to the feast; I am not going up to this feast, because My time has not yet been fulfilled. ⁹And having said these things to them, He remained in Galilee. ¹⁰But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not openly, but as it were in secret.

³⁷Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. ³⁹But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

⁴⁰Some of the crowd therefore, when they heard these words, said, This is truly the Prophet. ⁴¹Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Does then the Christ come out of Galilee? ⁴²Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes out of the seed of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David was? ⁴³So there arose a division among the crowd because of Him. ⁴⁴And some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him. ⁴⁵The attendants therefore came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and these said to them, Why did you not bring Him? ⁴⁶The attendants answered, Never has a man spoken as this man has. ⁴⁷The Pharisees then answered them, Have you also been deceived? ⁴⁸Has any one of the rulers or Pharisees believed into Him? ⁴⁹But this crowd which does not know the law is accursed. ⁵⁰Nicodemus said to them (he who came to Him before, being one of them), ⁵¹Does our law condemn a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing? ⁵²They answered and said to him, Are you also from Galilee? Search and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee. ⁵³And everyone went to his own house.

Discussion Questions

1. John 6 shows us life meeting the need of the hungry, whereas in chapter 7, we see life meeting the need of the thirsty. What is the difference between someone who is hungry and someone who is thirsty?
2. John 7 takes place around the time of the _____ (v. 2). (Please read the supplementary reading for more details.) In verse 37, on the last day of the feast, Jesus tells the thirsty people to come to Him and drink. Why would He sound this call if they had been eating and drinking for the last seven days?
3. What is Jesus calling people to drink (see John 4:10; John 7:39; 1 Cor. 12:13)? How do we drink of this water (see verses like Isa. 12:3-4; Eph. 5:18-21; 1 Pet. 2:2)? What are the "rivers [plural] of living water"? What does it mean for the water to flow out of us?

Supplementary Reading

In the scene of the case in ch. 6 there was the Feast of the Passover. In the scene of this case in ch. 7 there is the Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast of the Passover is the first of the Jewish annual feasts, and the Feast of Tabernacles is the last [and lasts for seven days] (Lev. 23:5, 34). The Feast of the Passover, being the first feast of the year, implies the beginning of man's life (cf. Exo. 12:2-3, 6), which involves man's seeking for

satisfaction and results in man's hunger. The Feast of Tabernacles, being the last feast of the year, implies the completion and success of man's life (cf. Exo. 23:16), which will end and will result in man's thirst. In the scene of the Feast of the Passover, the Lord presented Himself as the bread of life, which satisfies man's hunger. In the scene of the Feast of Tabernacles, the Lord promised that He would flow forth the living water, which quenches man's thirst.

After the full harvest of their crops, the Jewish people observed the Feast of Tabernacles to worship God and enjoy what they had reaped (Deut. 16:13-15). Hence, this feast signifies the completion, achievement, and success in man's career, man's study, and other matters of human life, including religion, with the joy and enjoyment thereof. At the end of such a feast, which had such a background, Christ cried out the promise of the rivers of living water, which will satisfy man's expectation for eternity (vv. 37-39). (John 7:2, footnote 1, *Holy Bible Recovery Version*)