

The Gospel of John

7:1-10

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.
As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

This week we get started in chapter 7.

✠ **John 7:1-5** *After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." For even His brothers did not believe in Him.*

Jesus was already in Galilee; it's just that He was walking around or going from town to town in Galilee. Jesus did this for seven months; we know that it was seven months because at the beginning of chapter 6, John tells us that the Passover of the Jews was near.

✠ **John 6:3-4** *And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.*

Then in the beginning of chapter 7 in verse two, John tells us that it was the time of the Feast of Tabernacles. This means that for seven months, Jesus and the disciples had traveled around Galilee ministering to the people there. Seven months of ministry that John tells us nothing about. If you are interested in these seven months of ministry, you can read all about them in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Which cover this seven-month period.

Jesus also chose to stay out of Judea because the Jews wanted to kill Him. So was Jesus afraid of being killed or that God would not protect Him?
No, if you will remember when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, one thing He quoted was.

✠ **Matt 4:7** *Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"*

Jesus knew that God would always protect Him until His time came to die, then and only then would God allow this to happen.
But Jesus did not want to tempt God by going somewhere where He shouldn't be. Only when God told Jesus to go, did He go.

We sometimes tempt God by going places we shouldn't be. Maybe it's as harmful as a movie or even a show on TV that we know we shouldn't be watching. But we do it anyway thinking that God will forgive us, or it's ok because it's a funny show or the graphics in the movie are too awesome to miss.

By doing so we compromise our Christian walk and allow profanity, murder, theft, nudity, fornication, rape, degrading of others, and our witness to be compromised. We are also absorbing all of this into our lives. Then we start to struggle with things and wonder why we do. Sometimes the answer is that you are going places you shouldn't be going to. Allowing your mind to absorb sin and justification of this sin.

It could also be as harmless as the music we listen to. If you listen to secular radio then you are allowing the same things into your mind, it's more subtle because you are not watching it, just listening to others sing about these sins and how great they are and how great they can make you feel if you just do them too.

When we do these things as Christians we are going places we shouldn't be and we are tempting God.

✧ ***Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.***

So what is the feast of Tabernacle?

The feast of Tabernacles took place right after the last harvest of the year, which was the Olive and Grape harvest. It was a celebration of God's Goodness and provision.

But it was also a time that they remembered the wilderness sojourn that brought them out of Egypt into the Promised Land. To do this, they would all live outside for a week and in these little huts that they would build out of branches and palm fronds, which they put up all over the place. Part of the fun of Tabernacles was finding a unique place to put up your hut. There were two requirements for these huts, the walls had to be thin, and the roof had to be porous enough to see the stars at night. In other words, they had to feel like they were camping in the wilderness somewhere.

The heart of the celebration happened every morning when the people would assemble in the courts of Herod's temple, they would come with a piece of fruit in one hand, and the branches of three trees in the other. The priests would then lead them out to the Pool of Siloam where he would take a Golden Pitcher and dip in the pool. As he did, the people chanted the words of Isaiah, "*With Joy, you shall draw water from the pools of salvation*"

✧ ***Isaiah 12:3 Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.***

And then, back they would go back to the Temple, entering through the Water Gate, and the priest would circle the alter, pouring out the water as he did. That is the way that every day started during the feast of Tabernacles.

Here is how every day ended, as soon as the sun went down they would go back to the Temple, only this time to the court of the women, and there they had these four great lamps that would be lit every night. It was said that the light from these lamps would fill the entire city. After they were lit, the men would take up torches and dance and sing as the Temple musicians played. It was not uncommon for them to dance and sing all night.

✧ ***His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world."***

So Jesus' brothers wanted Jesus to go to this feast.

What, you didn't know that Jesus has brothers? Did you know that Jesus had sisters also? Remember when we studied the book of James, we found out that the James who wrote the book was actually Jesus' half brother. In fact, all of Jesus' brothers and sisters were only half brothers and sisters. How so, same mother, different fathers.

Joseph was not the father of Jesus, as we know that Mary never had sex before Jesus was born and that Jesus was born by the Holy Spirit.

✧ ***Luke 1:34-35 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.***

And we know that Mary and Joseph did get married and did consummate the marriage after Jesus was born.

✧ ***Matt 1:24-25 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.***

People think that Mary was a virgin all her life; therefore Jesus could not have had any brothers or sisters. Well, as we just read in verse 3, Jesus did have brothers and in the following verses we read the names of Jesus' brothers and the mention that He did have sisters also.

✧ ***Matt 13:55-56 "Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?"***

One note: The Judas mentioned here is not the same Judas that betrayed Jesus.

Did you also notice that one of the first things Jesus' brothers say to Him?

✧ ***Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing.***

Now if I remember right, we just read in verse one that Jesus did not want to go to Judea because the Jews sought to kill him.

It just goes to show you how the devil will sometimes use those close to you to get you to fall, even those you love and trust.

Now they are not doing it on purpose mind you, but still it can happen.

Notice how sly he is by even using those close to him saying “*Your disciples*”.

✚ *His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world."*

As we read the rest of verses 3-4, we see that Jesus is tempted to show himself to the world so that they would believe. How tempting this may have been for Jesus, since many did not believe in Him. This even sounds like good advice, but Jesus knew what He was to do, and how He was to do it. What Jesus’ brothers were saying was not in God’s plan for Jesus.

But we will read later in verse 10 that Jesus does go to the feast as God directed Him to.

✚ *John 7:10 But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.*

And also notice that He didn’t go to show himself as his brothers had said, but rather in secret.

But going back to Jesus’ conversation with His brothers, Jesus replies to what they have to say.

✚ *John 7:6-10 Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.*

But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.

Verse 6 reads in the NLT as:

✚ *John 7:6 (NLT) Jesus replied, "Now is not the right time for me to go. But you can go anytime, and it will make no difference.*

Jesus sought the Lord in all things He did. But his brothers didn’t care, they just new it was time to go so they wanted to go.

God has given us freedom to make choices in our lives. But a lot of time we make the wrong choices because we don’t ask God.

At the church I go to, there are three services on Sunday morning. I usually go to one particular service all the time. But I wonder what would happen if I asked God before each Sunday which service He wanted me to go to. Would I start going at different times

on Sunday, and if so would it be because God would have me minister to someone that I wouldn't have been able to minister to if I went at a different time?
This is something I need to start doing.

But what about you, are you a creature of habit and do because it's the normal thing to do. Or do you seek direction from the Lord in all you do? Jesus' brothers knew that it was time for them to go to the feast and they were ready to go with no prayer before they went (Creatures of habit).

We know we are to go to church on Sunday, but do we become creatures of habit and just go because we always do, or do we seek the Lord before we go, asking Him to direct us to those we can minister to, and do we ask the Lord to minister to us also?

Jesus knew it was time to go to the feast of Tabernacles, but He wanted to spend time with God before He did, and seek God's direction for Him when He got there.

✠ *The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.*

The world loves its own; these are the words of Jesus.

† *John 15:19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

If you are accepted by the world you may want to examine your life.

The world does not like the words of Jesus because they cut into their hearts and convicts them of sin. The world wants to know that they are all right and that in the end everything will be all right if they do a good enough job here on this earth. Some even believe that if they aren't good enough that they will have a second or third or fourth chance to come back and try again as someone, or something else.

As a Christian we should not accept the things this world has to offer. This doesn't mean we go crazy and start having rallies or sit-ins or picketing. We don't go to every person and say, "*You are a sinner and you are going to hell, so repent or burn.*"
There is no love in these words or these actions.

No, we will be rejected because of our lifestyle and because we choose not to accept or do the things this world has to offer.

They will call us names trying to put us to shame, but the truth is they are only showing their own ignorance of God's word, which all are authorities on, even though most have never even read through the whole bible or even one book of the bible.

They go by word of mouth. That is how their teachings are. Never any evidence to back up what they say, they only know they heard someone else say it so it must be true.

Even the Jews hated Jesus and wanted to kill Him because Jesus exposed their sins to themselves, and they were afraid that others would see them too.

The world hates us because as we proclaim the gospel of Jesus, which is that He died for our sins, they don't want others to know that they are sinners and that they need something other than themselves to get to heaven.

So was Jesus angry with His brothers when He said these things?

No, I don't think so. Remember when Peter claimed that he would never deny Jesus and what Jesus said.

† **Matt 16:23** *But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

Jesus was sort of saying the same thing here to His brothers.

Read it again and see.

"My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come."

It's not time for Me to go, but you can go ahead without ME. You know everyone seems to like you guys, but they all seem to hate Me because I tell the truth and expose the evil that they do and they don't want to hear it.

You guys go ahead and take off without Me; I'll come when I'm ready.

This is all very paraphrased by me, but you get the idea of what's going on here. Jesus loved His brothers, and sometimes when we read the bible, if we don't realize this and that God loves those in the bible and us, words could sound kind of harsh or uncaring or unloving if we don't.

Remember when Jesus was at the wedding feast and His mother asked Him to help out because they ran out of wine. Remember what Jesus said to her.

† **John 2:4** *Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."*

But as we learned this was not a derogatory remark made by Jesus or lack of respect or love for His mother by using the term "Woman". That's how we use that term today, but for Jesus it was words of compassion to His mother.

So just be careful and don't try to read or misunderstand what God is teaching us in His word, and always remember that God loves you more than a father loves his child. Even a father has to correct his child, not out of anger, but out of love for him or her and their protection.

✠ *But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.*

I believe that Jesus spent time in prayer after His brothers left and God instructed Jesus to go. Why would God have Jesus go now? To testify of the Father. God's timing is always perfect, after all, He created time.

There are things I struggle with and problems I go through. I also know that God is with me and all will come together in His time. Not one second more or one second less. You will see this from Genesis to Revelation. Always remember that, no matter what you may be going through.

Next week we will continue in chapter seven and read of Jesus returning to Judea and once again He is confronted about His teachings and the things He does.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may you take comfort knowing that He will work it out at just the right moment.