

John Chapter 7 “Jesus: The Man of Controversy”

I. His Brothers Didn’t Believe (Verses 1-9)

1. The feast of Tabernacles (1-2)

- a) The third of the three great feasts celebrating the faithfulness of God as He led Israel through the wilderness.

2. You can’t be famous by hiding (3-5)

- a) His brothers thought only of worldly fame. If Jesus works miracles and claims to be the messiah then why doesn’t he go to Jerusalem and be in the middle of attention?
 - (i) TV show "Cops" follows police in live action. Any person shown full-face must sign a release form. Producer John Langley says, "I'm absolutely astonished by how many people caught with one hand in the cookie jar will use the other hand to sign a release permitting us to show their faces." He thinks it is due to the instant fame of being on TV. One man savagely fought off 10 police and dogs, was pinned to the ground, then said to the TV crew, "Oh, hi guys. Did you get me on TV?"

3. Why people hate Jesus (6-9)

- a) The world hates Jesus, and everyone who wants to be like Him, because He testifies of the evil that is in the world
 - ◆ This cannot be avoided by Christians. We should be sensitive, but never compromising.
 - ✦ *Matthew 5:14-16* "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."
 - ✦ *2 Corinthians 2:15-16* "For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?"

II. The People Complained about Him (Verses 10-31)

1. He was the latest gossip (10-13)

- a) People were talking about this man, but who was He really?

2. He taught at the feast (14-24)

- a) That his teaching was from God
- b) That He wanted to glorify the Father
 - ◆ Can’t we learn from Jesus? He wanted not to glorify Himself but the Father who sent Him. A person who is humble and doesn’t want people to praise him is usually trustworthy.
- c) That people wanted to kill him
 - ◆ Because He healed on the Sabbath
 - ◆ We should judge a righteous judgment, not one based on our own presuppositions and outward appearances.
 - (i) Many years ago an Episcopalian bishop was sailing to Europe on one of the great ocean liners. When he got on board, he was told he would have to share his room with another passenger. He checked out the room, then went up to the information desk and asked if he could put his gold watch and wallet in the ship's safe. The Bishop explained that he didn't do this ordinarily, but he had been to his cabin and didn't like the looks of his roommate. The clerk took the valuables and said, "No problem, I'll be glad to take care of them for you. Your roommate has already been here and left his stuff for the same reason."

3. Some Believed (25-31)

- a) Most made excuses why He couldn't be the Christ
 - ◆ They had a misunderstanding of the scriptures. By their partial knowledge they thought that the Messiah would just appear suddenly.
- b) But others believed
 - ◆ This is the way that it always works: some believe and some don't, but there can be no neutral ground.
 - ✎ *Acts 17:32-34* "And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." 33 So Paul departed from among them. 34 However, some men joined him and believed..."

III. The Religious Leaders Wanted to Capture Him (Verses 32-53)

1. He was going to Heaven (32-36)

2. He would give the Holy Spirit (37-39)

- a) This was on the day of the feast that they remembered the water that was poured out in the wilderness from the rock.
 - ✎ *1 Corinthians 10:4* "and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ."
- b) The Holy Spirit is not available as torrents of living water—flowing into us and flowing out of us to others.
 - ◆ Are you thirsty?

3. They couldn't take Him (40-53)

- a) Though some of them wanted to.
- b) The religious leaders are annoyed that He had not been arrested yet.
 - ◆ They thought that the crowd may believe Him because they were ignorant of the Bible. The truth was that they were ignorant!
 - ✎ *1 Corinthians 1:18-25* "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."
- c) Nicodemus stood up for Jesus
- d) A prophet actually had come from Galilee: Jonah, who is a type of Christ.