

JOHN: THE WORD: GRACE AND TRUTH #11

John 7:1-53

AFTER THIS, Jesus went from place to place in Galilee, for He would not travel in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. **John 7:1 AMPC**

- What an interesting response to the miracles of Jesus:
 - He had a large following because “they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick...” (**John 6:2**)
 - Jesus feeds the 5,000. (**John 6:5-14**)
 - Jesus walks on the water. (**John 6:15-20**)
 - Jesus gets into the boat with the disciples, and it instantly reaches their destination. (**John 6:21**)

AFTER THIS, Jesus went from place to place in Galilee, for He would not travel in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. **John 7:1 AMPC**

- Jesus gives evidence of His divine authority, power, and purpose, and the ‘human conclusion’ is that the Jews want to kill Him.
- Amazing...

****God fully expects the church of Jesus Christ to prove itself a miraculous group in the very midst of a hostile world. Christians of necessity must be in contact with the world but in being and spirit ought to be separated from the world – and as such, we should be the most amazing people in the world.****

A.W. Tozer

2Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. 3Therefore His brothers said to Him, “Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. 4For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be *known* publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” 5For not even His brothers were believing in Him. 6So Jesus *said to them, “My time is not yet here, but your time is always opportune. 7The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil. 8Go up to the feast yourselves; I do not go up to this feast because My time has not yet fully come.” 9Having said these things to them, He stayed in Galilee. 10But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publicly, but as if, in secret. 11So the Jews were seeking Him at the feast and were saying, “Where is He?” 12There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, “He is a good man”; others were saying, “No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray.” 13Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews. **John 7:2-13 NASB**

- It is time for the Feast of Tabernacles or the Feast of Booths.

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- An eight day feast in Jerusalem – people lived in booths/tabernacles celebrating that God protected and provided for them when they lived in tents after escaping captivity in Egypt. It was in October and was a feast of ingathering that honored God for the rains that made their crops grow and produced a fine harvest. One translation calls this the ‘tent pitching feast’. This is a major event on the Jewish calendar.
 - Jesus’ brothers come to Him and urge Him to go to the Feast and ‘do the stuff’ ...they like the miracles, but they did not truly believe in Him.
 - He tells them that they can go to the Feast but it “was not His time.”

And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him. **John 8:29 NASB**

- Jesus does not go to Jerusalem until the event is half over.
- He goes to the Temple and began to teach and the people were amazed at His teaching.
 - He was not trained or educated. He was not an IHOP U graduate!

15 The Jews were astonished. They said, How is it that this Man has learning [is so versed in the sacred Scriptures and in theology] when He has never studied? 16 Jesus answered them by saying, My teaching is not My own, but His Who sent Me. 17 If any man desires to do His will (God's pleasure), he will know (have the needed illumination to recognize, and can tell for himself) whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking from Myself *and* of My own accord *and* on My own authority. 18 He who speaks on his own authority seeks to win honor for himself. [He whose teaching originates with himself seeks his own glory.] But He Who seeks the glory *and* is eager for the honor of Him Who sent Him, He is true; and there is no unrighteousness *or* falsehood *or* deception in Him. **John 7:15-18 AMPC**

- Jesus tells them that if anyone has the heart desire to do the will of God then God will grace them with the capacity to know if what they are hearing is from God.

19 “Did not Moses give you the Law, and yet none of you carries out the Law? Why do you seek to kill Me?” 20The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who seeks to kill You?” 21Jesus answered them, “I did one deed, and you all marvel. 22For this reason Moses has given you circumcision (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on *the* Sabbath you circumcise a man. 23If a man receives circumcision on *the* Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on *the* Sabbath? 24Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

25So some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, “Is this not the man whom they are seeking to kill? 26Look, He is speaking publicly, and they are saying nothing to Him. The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they? 27However, we know where this man is from; but whenever the Christ may come, no one knows where He is from.” 28Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, “You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. 29I know Him,

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because I am from Him, and He sent Me.” 30So they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. 31But many of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, “When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than those which this man has, will He?” **John 7:19-31 NASB**

- Jesus shifts the focus from His teaching being sent from God to His character being fully righteous (v18) and the character of his audience being less than righteous (v19 – none of them obeyed the Law of Moses.)
- They accuse Him of having a demon!
- He chides them for breaking the Sabbath by having circumcisions performed, which only affects a small portion of the body.
- He healed the whole body of a person on the Sabbath which is obviously redemptive.
- He tells them to use wisdom and righteous judgement.
- There was much discussion about where Jesus came from because they knew His hometown and the Messiah would not be from there.
- Jesus claims that God sent Him; He came from God.
- Some people were angry and wanted to arrest Him, but no one touched Him...
- And many people believed in Him saying, “When the Christ comes, would He do more miracles than this man?”

32The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him. 33Therefore Jesus said, “For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me. 34You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come.” 35The Jews then said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? He is not intending to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, is He? 36What is this statement that He said, ‘You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come?’” **John 7:32-36 NASB**

- The people were filled with questions and the Pharisees were filled with anger and sent officers to arrest Jesus.

37 Now on the final and most important day of the Feast, Jesus stood, and He cried in a loud voice, If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink!

38 He who believes in Me [who cleaves to *and* trusts in *and* relies on Me] as the Scripture has said, From his innermost being shall flow [continuously] springs *and* rivers of living water.

39 But He was speaking here of the Spirit, Whom those who believed (trusted, had faith) in Him were afterward to receive. For the [Holy] Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (raised to honor).

40 Listening to those words, some of the multitude said, This is certainly *and* beyond doubt the Prophet! [Deut. 18:15, 18; John 1:21; 6:14; Acts 3:22.]

41 Others said, This is the Christ (the Messiah, Anointed One)! But some said, What? Does the Christ come out of Galilee?

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42 Does not the Scripture tell us that the Christ will come from the offspring of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David lived? [Ps. 89:3, 4; Mic. 5:2.]

43 So there arose a division *and* dissension among the people concerning Him.

44 Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one [ventured and] laid hands on Him. **John 7:37-44 AMPC**

- Jesus cries out in a loud voice..."If you are thirsty, come to Me and drink."
- He who believes in Me, as the Scriptures have said, from your inner most continuous being springs of living water will flow.
- He is speaking of what will happen when the Holy Spirit is poured out.
- Many believed that Jesus was the Messiah, but others had theological issues...the people were divided and in dissension over Him. Some wanted to have him arrested.

45 Meanwhile the attendants (guards) had gone back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, Why have you not brought Him here with you?

46 The attendants replied, Never has a man talked as this Man talks! [No mere man has ever spoken as He speaks!]

47 The Pharisees said to them, are you also deluded *and* led astray? [Are you also swept off your feet?]

48 Has any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in Him?

49 As for this multitude (rabble) that does not know the Law, they are contemptible *and* doomed *and* accursed!

50 Then Nicodemus, who came to Jesus before at night and was one of them, asked,

51 Does our Law convict a man without giving him a hearing and finding out what he has done?

52 They answered him, Are you too from Galilee? Search [the Scriptures yourself], and you will see that no prophet comes (will rise to prominence) from Galilee.

53 And they went [back], each to his own house. **John 7:45-53 AMPC**

- The guards went back to report to the Pharisees...the Pharisees were not pleased!
- The guards said..."but never has a man talked the way this man speaks."
- The guards were criticized for being deluded and 'swept off their feet.'
- They said to the guards..."You don't see any of us believing in Him, do you??"
- The Pharisees, the teachers of the Jewish people, call the people "Rabble who don't know the Law, contemptible, doomed, and accursed!"
- What wonderful leaders!
- Nicodemus steps up to the plate. (**v50**)
- The Pharisees didn't do their homework...they only identify Jesus with Galilee, and not with His birthplace....
- **V53**...they went back, each to his own house with their religious argument but without the Bread of Life and the Living Water Jesus brought.