

John 7

John 7.1-9

V1 – Why was Jesus staying in Galilee? It was not yet his time to die (no fear, though)

-Why were the Jews seeking to kill Him? From *John 6* - blasphemy, claiming to be from heaven (deity)

V2 – Feast of Booths (took place in Sept.-October) (*Lev. 23:34-36, 39-43, Deut. 16:13-15*)

-John has just skipped forward about 6 months

-His purpose is to narrow down the information just to incidents that strengthen the faith

V3 – Explain "brothers": His half-brothers - *Matthew 13:55*, James, Joseph, Simon, Judas, plus two sisters

-What does this say about the "Perpetual virginity" of Mary? Destroys it (v 5)

-Were his brothers believers? No, not at this time – See *Acts 1.14*

-What is their attitude in these verses? Scorn

V4 – What motive did they believe Jesus had? Publicity

-This also shows that sometimes our harshest criticism will come from our closest relatives

V5 – Did his brothers ever become believers? Yes (see *Acts 1:14*)

V6 – Jesus patiently explained to them why he had not gone to Jerusalem

-Reason? His time "*had not yet come*"

-Explain? *V 6b* – They could go to the feast

V7 – Why did the world hate Jesus? He showed them that their deeds were evil

-Relevant today? Absolutely

V8 – What did Jesus recommend? That they go to the feast

V9 – He chose not to go to Jerusalem with His brothers

John 7.10-13

V10 – What did Jesus do after his brothers had left? He went to Jerusalem secretly

V11 – The Jews expected him to be present, but they couldn't find Him (no photographs)

V12 – There was much disagreement on Jesus

-Why would some think he was a good man? Healing the sick, good moral

teaching

-Why would some think he was leading the multitude astray? Claiming to be God

-Logically, there can be no middle ground - either he was the Son of God or a deceiver or mentally ill

V 13 – People were whispering about Him - they feared the Jews

John 7.14-24

V 14 – **When did "his time" come?** About the middle of the feast

-Interesting that Jesus began to "teach," not preach

V 15 – **What amazed the Jews?** Jesus had not been to their "theology seminaries" -

Jesus was not a rabbi but a carpenter

-Who else in the New Testament were accused of being "unclean"? *Acts 4:13*, Peter and John

V 16 – **What was the source of Jesus' education?** Divine

V 17 – One of the best verses in the Bible

-What test can we put the words of Jesus to? We can try to live the Christian way of life

-If we will try the Christian life, it will become apparent to us that this is God's way

-Our problems will begin to ease

-Happier lives, more blessings

-Difficult Bible subjects will become understandable

-But we must try to do God's will first

-Necessary: an honest heart searching for the truth

V 18 – **When most people speak, what are they seeking?** Their own glory

-For whose glory was Jesus speaking? God the Father

V 19 – Maybe there were shouts from the audience between *v 18-19*

-Of what did Jesus accuse them? Not carrying out the law and trying to kill Him

V 20 – **What is their reaction to his charges?** Disbelief

-Who? The multitudes of pilgrims that came to the feasts did not know of the plans of the rulers to kill Jesus

V 21 – **Any ideas which miracle he is referring to?** Probably healing of man at pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath

-Why did they marvel? It was done on the Sabbath

V 22 – **What exception did the Jewish leaders make about working on the Sabbath?**

Circumcision

V 23 – He was saying that circumcision did not constitute to work, and neither did healing a man constitute work

V 24 – **How should we judge?** Not by how things look, but by principles of righteousness
-We are to judge in some cases, but it is always to be righteous judgment

John 7.25-39

V 25 – Some had heard of plans to kill Jesus

V 26 – **What were the people thinking?** Since the rulers had not arrested Jesus, maybe they thought he was the Messiah after all

V 27 – Jesus did not meet their expectation of what the Messiah would be like
-**What was so unexpected?** No sudden, glorious, earthshaking appearance by Jesus
-They thought they knew where He came from

V 28 – Jesus: They knew from a worldly point of view where He came from, but they did not know that He was really from heaven

V 29 – Jesus knew God the Father

V 30 – **What were they trying to do?** Seize him
-**Why were they prevented?** The providence of God

V 31 – **What was the thinking of some?** Jesus had done enough to prove his deity

V 32 – The Jewish leaders were afraid that the crowds were being swayed, so officers were sent to arrest Jesus

V 33 – **How much longer would Jesus be among them?** A little while longer

V 34 – **Why could they not follow Him?** Their evil hearts would not allow them to be saved

V 35 – **Their idea?** He is going to see Jews in other countries?

V 36 – Confusion
-**When did Jews start living outside Judea?** Babylonian Captivity
-Remember Esther (who chose not to return to Judea)

V 37 – Still the feast of the Booths (Tabernacles)
-A feast for the harvest – September and October
-**Why did Jesus appeal to the sensation of "thirst"?** A dry land; water was

appreciated

-Twice Moses had to furnish water for people in the wilderness

V 38 – What did Jesus mean when he said people should "drink" of this water?

Believe in Him

-**What does "rivers" indicate?** Abundance (very few real rivers in Palestine)

V 39 – John explains this message

-**Who was to receive the Spirit?** Those who believed

-**Had the Spirit been given yet?** No

-**When was he given?** Day of Pentecost

-See *Philippians 2:5-11* - Jesus was glorified after His death, when he ascended back to heaven

-The "living waters" means the blessings we give to others because of our faith

John 7:40-53

V 40 – Read Deuteronomy 18:17-19

-Moses prophesied about a "prophet" - many Jews thought this prophet was different from the Messiah

-**Upon what did some base belief Jesus was this prophet?** The preceding words

V 41 – Another view? That he was the Christ

-**What objection did some have to His being the Christ?** From Galilee

-**Scripture prophesying about Jesus being from Bethlehem?** Read *Micah 5:2*

V 42 – What do they do to support their case? Referred to the Old Testament, a highly developed picture of the Messiah

-How ironic they knew the Scriptures but didn't know the facts about Jesus

V 43 – A division came up over Jesus, but no one thought to ask Jesus where He was born

-Similar today with the Lord's church: "You folks don't believe in music," but they never wait around to discuss it

V 44 – No way to remain neutral, either the Messiah or else someone who ought to be arrested

V 45 – The temple police had been sent to arrest Jesus – unable to arrest him

V 46 – Why were they unable to arrest him? Nobody ever spoke like Jesus before

-**What was different about the speech of Jesus?** With authority as if he was from... heaven

-He spoke to their emotional and spiritual needs

-Compare New Testament with Upanishads, Koran, Book of Mormon, etc.

V 47 – Did it occur to the leaders that these temple police had judged Jesus correctly? No

V 48 – How did Jewish leaders reason? "Bandwagon" – snob appeal = "Those who know" are unimpressed

V 49 – Appeal to education = only those who don't know the Law have been taken in
-Same with evolution: "Just trust the 'scientists!'"

V 50 – Where have we seen Nicodemus before? *John 3*, "You must be born again."
-Nicodemus spoke up – no great lawyer, but at least he made some kind of defense

V 51 – What objection did Nicodemus make? Don't judge a man without getting evidence

V 52 – Their reply? "You're not one of 'them' too, are you?" Nicodemus was cautious - not fully committed
-Where else do we run into Nicodemus? He helped Joseph of Arimathea remove Jesus from the cross
-In just about any group of people, there will be a good person there someplace with a conscience, etc.

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