

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 1ST - 2ND, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

TIME (JOHN 7:1-13) WAS JESUS SCARED? NOPE.

It wasn't a lack of courage that made Jesus stay in Galilee, but **an awareness of the Father's perfect timing**. His "secret" departure (v. 10) wasn't an act of deception. It was an attempt to avoid unwelcome publicity.

- **The Father's timing is an important part of Jesus' life and it should be in ours, too.**

UNBELIEF OF JESUS' BROTHERS

Jesus' brothers told Him to prove Himself the Messiah on a bigger platform, Jerusalem.

- They never seemed supportive of His ministry before His death and resurrection.
- His brothers **thought that His success depended on the world's opinion. Do we value the world's opinions over God's?**

"MY TIME HAS NOT YET ARRIVED..."

The brothers of Jesus were not submitted to God's will in the same way as Jesus was, so any time was fine with them. Jesus lived out the truth that God's timing is an important expression of His will.

- **Something may be in God's will but not yet in His timing.**

DOCTRINE (JOHN 7:14-24) 3 SCENES, 1 ANSWER

Jesus enters the temple courts for the first time and teaches publicly. Questions are asked that cause Jesus to describe His identity and mission more completely.

- Where did Jesus go to school? Where is He from? Where is He going? The answer to all three questions is: Heaven.

SCENE 1: WHERE DID JESUS GO TO SCHOOL?

Though He avoided a grand entrance, when He came to Jerusalem, **He taught boldly**.

- He didn't hold back from proclaiming the truth. Jesus didn't follow the normal and expected course of education for a teacher.
- They couldn't find any false doctrine, so they decided to attack His credentials.

DOCTRINE IS IMPORTANT

Jesus' doctrine came from "the one who sent me." **If the Jewish leaders listened carefully to the doctrine of Jesus, they would know that it was from God.**

- The Jewish leaders were so **busy attacking His credentials that they missed the Messiah** right in front of them.

JESUS WAS DIFFERENT

Jesus contrasted Himself with the one who speaks from himself and who seeks his own glory. Jesus sought the glory of God.

- There are two measures of a true teacher: **Does the teaching come from God** (according to God's Word)? **Does the work give glory to God?**

"YOU HAVE A DEMON!"

"Didn't Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?" They are the guilty ones, not Jesus.

- The people didn't know that the rulers wanted to kill Jesus because He healed a man on the Sabbath (John 5:16). **They thought Jesus was crazy or paranoid.**

HEAVEN (JOHN 7:25-36)

SCENE 2: WHERE IS THIS MAN FROM?

The crowd is examining Jesus on an earthly level and think that since they can trace Jesus' human origins, He is disqualified as Messiah.

- Many people think they know Jesus because they know facts about Him—but **they don't truly know Him, and they don't have a relationship with God.**

SARCASTIC RESPONSE

"You know me and you know where I am from." They thought they knew, but they were unaware of His heavenly origin.

- **If we examine Jesus on earthly terms without the Spirit's help and biblical wisdom, following Jesus will never make sense.**

SCENE 3: WHERE IS THIS MAN GOING?

The chief priests and Pharisees enlist police to arrest Jesus. This is a more serious attempt versus the impulsive one in verse 30.

- This leads Jesus to probably think about His death. He says, "I'm with you for a short time...where I am, you cannot come."

YOU WILL LOOK FOR ME, AND WILL NOT FIND ME

Jewish leadership wonders where Jesus could be going. The only place they will never go is among the Gentiles (the Greeks).

- Once He departs, **they'll search and try to find what they've tragically missed.**
- How many times have we said, "I'll get serious about Jesus when I ____?"

LIVING WATER (JOHN 7:37-52)

STUNNING PRONOUNCEMENT

The crowd has been focused on a water ritual, and Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink." Jesus has what they're looking for!

- **How many of us are focused on finding life and satisfaction with religious rituals versus a relationship with Jesus?**

"STREAMS OF LIVING WATER"

"The one who believes in me, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him."

John is referring to the Spirit. After the "glorification" (death and resurrection) of Jesus, the Spirit will be distributed.

- **The Holy Spirit is a gift that many of us take for granted.**

JESUS BRINGS DIVISION AMONG THE CROWD

"This is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Messiah." Everyone had an opinion. Some were for Him and some were against Him.

- The division came because He spoke about Himself, the Messiah. **He spoke truth. Jesus came to bring a sword, and the gospel is offensive** (Matthew 10:34-36).

NICODEMUS

Nicodemus tried to reason with the leaders. They asked, "Are you from Galilee, too? Go read the Bible. No prophets arise from Galilee." **They were wrong.**

- **When people are filled with self-righteous water, they won't thirst for living water. It will take humility to thirst for living water.**

INVITATION—IF ANYONE THIRSTS...

- If **anyone**—The invitation was broad. Intelligence, race, class, political party, or our past doesn't limit us to come to Him.
- If anyone **thirsts**—The invitation was narrow because **one must see their need**. Thirst is an emptiness and a crying need. **Do we have a desire for Jesus?**

"COME TO ME AND DRINK"

- To come to Jesus and to drink means to put our faith in Him; **to trust in, rely on, and cling to Jesus, in good and bad times.**
- If we come to Jesus and choose to follow Him based on our own wisdom and not depend on His Spirit and wisdom, then following Jesus won't make sense.

"STREAMS OF LIVING WATER..."

- Jesus didn't just speak of something coming into a person, but something flowing out as well. **What flows out of us?**
- When we have a **genuine encounter with Jesus, it should transform us**. When we receive Jesus, we should have "streams of living water flow from deep within."

WILL WE COME AND DRINK?

- This living water is something we have to **consistently consume. If we stop, then we will consume other sources of water.**
- This living water is how we are able to persevere and have hope in the chaos.
- **Shame, confusion, emptiness, loneliness should lead us to thirst for the living water.**
- Zephaniah 3:17