

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 2ND, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

### WHERE IS HE? JOHN 7:1-13 OPPOSITION HAS PEAKED

John did not leave Jesus' motives for not going to Judea up for interpretation: **"the Jews were trying to kill him."**

- They hated Jesus because **He exposed their evil works** and the futility of their man-made systems. They wanted to kill Him because **He claimed to be God**, which they viewed as blasphemy.

### GOD'S PERFECT PLAN

It wasn't fear that kept Jesus in Galilee. Instead, He was in complete alignment with God and was aware of the Father's perfect timetable.

- If we are submitted to God's will, we also submit to His timing. **Many of us make the mistake of knowing God's will but acting outside of His timing.**

### FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The festival was referred to as the Festival of Booths by the Hebrews. It was one of three major festivals that the Jewish people would make the pilgrimage back to Jerusalem for.

- During the week-long festival, Jews would construct temporary shelters from branches and leaves **to remember God's protection of Israel in the wilderness.**

### JESUS' BROTHERS WERE UNBELIEVERS

Jesus' literal half-brothers mockingly told Him to **go to the festival to garner attention and recoup followers.**

- Jesus said He was not going up because His time had not yet come. However, this meant He was not going up to gain attention as His brothers told Him to do, so He went up secretly after His brothers.

### LIAR, LUNATIC, OR LORD?

The Jews had made their minds up about Jesus, and they sought to kill Him. There was division throughout the crowd at the festival about who Jesus was. Some called Him **"a good man,"** while others said He was **"a deceiver."**

- Who do we say He is? Jesus came not to bring peace to the earth but a sword to divide and sever (Matthew 10:34-36).

### WHO IS HE? (JOHN 7:14-36)

#### "HE HASN'T BEEN TRAINED."

Jesus avoided a grand entrance, then eventually found His way to the Temple to teach, where **people were amazed at His teachings, though He had never been trained.**

- Jesus points out that His teachings were not received from any rabbinical school. He did not regurgitate teachings from other rabbis. Instead, **His teachings were from His Father.**

### HYPOCRITICAL PRACTICES

Jesus uses their professed love and knowledge of the Word, especially the word received from Moses, against them.

- The law was clear about murder, yet they sought to kill Jesus. They said Jesus' miraculous works violated the Sabbath, yet they performed circumcisions on the Sabbath.

### IGNORANT OF HIS TRUE ORIGIN

Because of their flawed and partial knowledge of Scripture (O.T.), they thought the Messiah would reveal Himself in a spectacular way.

- Jesus sarcastically says, "You know me, and you know where I'm from," because they should. **They knew of His earthly origin but missed His heavenly origin.**

### "NO ONE COULD LAY A HAND ON HIM."

Jesus struck a nerve as some claimed that Jesus was demon-possessed (v. 20), while we see others believed in Him (v. 31).

- The chief Priests and Pharisees sent servants to arrest Jesus, but **He was protected.** He told the men who tried to take Him away that His time had not yet come, and He would be with them a little longer.

### "WHAT IS THIS REMARK HE MADE?"

In 6 months, Jesus would return to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. He would be received and welcomed, only to be arrested and crucified a week later.

- Jesus would resurrect and, after a time, return back to the Father in Heaven. **Those who reject Him here will not be able to follow Him there.**

### DIVIDED OVER HIM (JOHN 7:37-52)

#### "ON THE LAST AND MOST IMPORTANT DAY..."

On the last day of the festival, the priest would circle the altar seven times and be joined by another priest as they ascended to the top of the altar and poured water and wine on it.

- In the Jewish culture, **to witness the pouring of water on the altar was the height of joy in a person's life.**

### THE STAGE WAS SET

It was this day at this moment, when everyone is anticipating this incredibly special and sacred moment, that Jesus stands up and cries out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. The one who believes in me, as the Scripture said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him."

### WHAT WAS JESUS REFERRING TO?

John did not want any confusion about what Jesus was referring to when He said this, so in verse 38, John says, **"He said this about the Spirit."**

- The Holy Spirit, like water, **flows not only into us but also out of us.** As Believers with the Holy Spirit, **we receive a blessing and become a blessing to others.**

### "THE SPIRIT HAD NOT YET BEEN GIVEN."

In the O.T., the Spirit would come and empower work through people for a time, but soon those who believed in Jesus would receive the Spirit.

- The "not yet" attached to the statement is because **Jesus had not yet been "glorified" through the work of the cross and the day of Pentecost**, when the disciples received the Holy Spirit, **had not yet taken place.**

### LIVING WATER

The crowds at the festival awaited this outpouring of water. They waited in anticipation of reenacting a tradition that would never truly satisfy their hearts.

- Jesus offered anyone who believes Him a living water that brings eternal satisfaction. **The Holy Spirit, like water, would satisfy the crowd's thirst, satisfy their hearts, and enable them to bear fruit.**

### THEY WERE DIVIDED BY JESUS' DECLARATION

Some said, **"He is the Prophet."** Others said, **"He is the Messiah,"** while others were hung up on Him coming from Galilee.

- Everyone had an opinion on who they thought Jesus was. **We cannot be confronted with Jesus and remain neutral.** Neutrality is the same as rejection, which is no different than hostility.

### DO WE REALLY KNOW HIM?

They showed their ignorance of who Jesus was by asking, **"Will the Messiah come from Galilee?"** They made a decision about Him, yet they didn't know He was born in Bethlehem.

- We can't be so quick to cast Him off. We must be careful not to reject Him based on ignorance.

### THEY WERE "ARRESTED"

The reason the ones sent to seize Jesus never did is revealed in verse 46. When the chief Priest and Pharisees asked the servant why they didn't seize Him, they answered, **"No man ever spoke like this."**

- Jesus was no mere man because no man speaks as He does. **They were captivated by the Word of God.**

### THEY CONTINUED TO TRY AND SEIZE HIM

Nicodemus tries to plead with the other Jewish leaders not to judge Jesus too hastily.

- We must evaluate Jesus in the same manner that Nicodemus urged the leaders to. **We must evaluate Jesus by His Word and His works.** Jesus is who He says He is, and everything He has said and done testifies to it!

### INVENTORY

- Is God's timing good enough for us?
- We cannot know God's will without God's Word.
- We cannot be so quick to judge by appearance.
- Salvation begins by knowing who He is.
- If we are divided from other people, what is the source of division?