

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 2ND, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

## SKEPTICS (JOHN 7:1-13)

### PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Jesus' half-brothers encouraged Him to do His miracles at the Festival so more people might believe (in a miracle worker, not the Messiah).

- **Jesus shared that He was surrendered to the Father's will and would not set His agenda by the world's desires, but they could go when they desired because they were still aligned with the world.**

### OPINIONS

Jesus quietly entered Judea, where many were talking about His miracles and message. The Jews (religious leaders) were looking to condemn Him. Some were looking to use Him, and others were looking to expose Him.

- **Modern culture may have the same motives, but Christ still enters the crowd with a message from the Messiah.**

## MESSAGE (JOHN 7:14-24)

### AUTHORITY

As Jesus taught in the Temple, the religious leaders were amazed by His understanding.

- **Jesus then exposes their misunderstanding by revealing that they were unwilling to DO God's will. God had given them the law, and they had used it to bring glory to themselves.**

### STANDARDS

As Jesus was challenging their traditions, position, and power, they sought to end His life and get back to their good lives.

- **These leaders assumed they were the judges of men's souls based on their own righteousness. Judgmentalism is forbidden, while moral discernment is expected in the context of faith.**

## MESSIAH (JOHN 7:25-36)

### QUESTIONS

Again, the people question who Jesus could be and that He might be the Messiah. Quickly, they dispel the possibility.

- **Jesus always knows the hearts of people and responds to their questions. They thought they knew Him, but they didn't. Jesus stated again that they didn't know the Father either.**

### ARREST WARRANT

While some did begin to believe in Him, the religious leaders sent temple guards to arrest Him.

- **Jesus, despite the opposition, continued to teach and then shared that His time left was short. They didn't understand, but Jesus knew the cross, His death, and resurrection were only six months away.**

## PROMISE (JOHN 7:37-44)

### MOST IMPORTANT DAY...

Jesus cries out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him."

- **Jesus is calling them to remember all that they have experienced, all that He has said, and calling them to Himself one more time.**

## DIVIDED

Jesus had just promised the Holy Spirit to all who would believe and follow Him.

- **Some did believe, but some still chose to deny a place in their understanding, lives, and hearts for Christ. The message of the Messiah hasn't changed, and people are still divided over the invitation that Christ gives. WHY?**

## UNBELIEF (JOHN 7:45-52)

### BROKEN

When the guards were asked why they hadn't arrested Jesus, we see they were torn in their deepest parts by the words and actions of Jesus.

- **In the chaos of misunderstanding and self-righteousness, these men begin to accuse one another. This may be the American church without Jesus.**

## ENOUGH

- We live our lives hearing about God, Jesus, and the Church.
- **Jesus' brothers "knew" all about Him.**
- **How much will it take for us to believe that Jesus is who He says He is? Are we waiting for another sign? What will it take to convince us?**

## WILLING

- Jesus stepped into the crowd, knowing their hearts.
- **Jesus went to the cross, knowing our sins.**
- **All that Jesus did was in His Father's will. He simply calls us to come to Him, believe in Him, and do the Father's will.**

## SURRENDER

- In John 7, Jesus reveals Himself as the Spirit-giving, sacrificial Messiah.
- **We see the people respond with disbelief, debate, and division.**
- **Where are our hearts today? Hungry? Thirsty? The answer to our unbelief is surrender and sincere obedience.**