

Lesson 7 [Chapter 7] "The Promise of the Holy Spirit"

Remember:

In chapter 6, Jesus uses five loaves and two fish from a boy to feed a massive crowd, with 12 baskets of leftovers, prompting the crowd to try to make Him king. He walks on the Sea of Galilee to His disciples in a storm, immediately bringing their boat to shore.

Jesus tells the crowd to seek spiritual food, not just physical bread. He declares, "I am the bread of life".

Lesson Goal:

Jesus challenges the crowd to look beyond appearances and judge with righteous judgment: "Stop judging by outward appearances and start judging justly" (John 7:24). This lesson calls us to look deeper, beyond the surface, and to evaluate situations and people with fairness and compassion, reflecting God's justice.

Lesson opener:

I was in the marching band in high school. One of the fascinating things about marching bands is that it is genuinely one of the only places in all human civilization where the one thing you are trying to do is to *not stick out*. Everyone wears the same uniform. Everyone is marching. You must march according to the right beat. You must be playing the right notes.

Well, of course, this works against every inclination of the human heart because you have showboats in the marching band who want to show off their unique way that they can play. You also have people in the band who are the sort of person who is saying, "hey, I'm in the right spot and all of you are in the wrong spot, you all need to conform to me". So, they insist this is where I am going to stand, I can do no other. So, in that they are standing out from the crowd.

Everyone blends into the band perfectly, and no one at any point is standing out, it is something difficult and remarkable to behold. Because of our hearts, we want glory. We want to stand out in a good way, to be exalted and glorified, and people will start to look upon us and see our glory. So, it is hard to be in that kind of a situation. Jesus was called to show off but He refused.

Lesson Body:

Background:

The feast of Tabernacle is one of the three major Jewish feasts. During the first seven days of the feast, they brought water from the pool of Siloam. The water was brought in a golden vessel, and the high priest poured it in front of the people to declare that whoever is thirsty may approach and drink. This indicated the rock from which water flowed for the people in the wilderness. On the eighth day they did not bring water from the pool. This was to show that the people would drink from the springs of Canaan, not from the water of the wilderness. On that day, the LORD Christ who is the Supreme High Priest and Bishop of our souls, stood up to offer Himself as the spring that flows living water into the depths of the souls of believers. He asked the believers to drink joyfully from the wells of salvation.

Jesus' Brothers Disbelieve 7:1-9

The healing of the paralytic on the Sabbath aroused the anger of the religious leaders (John 5:16) and they sought to kill Jesus either by stirring up the people against Him or by formal accusation. For this reason, the LORD Christ preferred not to appear publicly in Jerusalem, and instead, to walk in Galilee because it was not His time to be crucified yet.

Therefore, Christ chose to remain in Galilee rather than make a public appearance in Jerusalem, since the time for His crucifixion had not yet arrived.

The Holy Bible usually calls relatives in the same family 'brothers.' Therefore, the words "His brothers" probably mean the LORD Christ's relatives.

Why did Jesus' brothers suggest He go to Jerusalem? How is their logic in verse four like many people's logic in the world?

Jesus' brothers suggested that Jesus go up to the feast and reveal Himself publicly there, showing His miracles to everyone. They are not sincere and don't really believe in Jesus. Their suggestion is in doubt. It reads kind of like a challenge. "If you are really who you say you are, then prove it! Now you have a perfect chance. Go to the feast. Show your miracles and we will believe in you!"

Why did He tell them He will not go but He went later?

It might be because if He went then, in their company, while multitudes were going, it would have too much the appearance of parade and ostentation; it might excite too much notice and be more likely to expose Him to the envy and opposition of the rulers.

[You can go] It makes no difference to you when you go up. Your going will excite no tumult or opposition; it will not attract attention and will not endanger your lives. Jesus therefore chose to go up more privately, and to remain until the multitude had gone.

They commonly traveled to those feasts in large companies, made up of most of the families in the neighborhood.

The Heavenly Scholar 7:10-24

He did not say I am not going, but not going yet, which means He would go alone, later in the feast to avoid the crowds.

People had different opinions about Him when He started teaching in the temple. Some said He was good and some said He was a deceiver.

The Jews marveled when they heard His teaching because He spoke with authority. He quoted from the books of the Old Testament. He explained, argued, and said proverbs. His teachings are profound and convincing.

Jesus here tells them three things.

1. He could teach like that because His teaching came from God.
2. Those who know God will discern true teaching from false teaching (the implication is they didn't know God so they couldn't tell).
3. The true teacher seeks the glory of God, not himself (like the Pharisees).

Look at Peter and John. They had NO education in the eyes of the world. These guys were fisherman. What in the world could they do? Their relationship with Christ transformed them. He gave them confidence and boldness. He gave them wisdom. He gave them strength to do the task. Remember, knowing God and having a close relationship with Him will give you much more success than the best degrees at the best schools in the world.

How did He explain to them that they are breaking the Sabbath not Him?

They claim that they keep the law, but they break the law when they kill the innocent. They blamed Him for breaking the Sabbath when He healed the paralytic by the pool.

The commandment of circumcision was established long before Moses; it dates to Abraham, as noted in Genesis 17:9-10. The Jews kept the circumcision ritual on the eighth day even if it fell on the Sabbath.

If that was the case concerning the practice of circumcision, how much more important was to heal the paralytic who was lying down on his bed for 38 years?

Circumcision was believed to be the "healing" of the newborn by bringing him into the sacred Covenant. Jesus' argument is that if it is lawful to "heal" part of the body, how can it be unlawful to heal the whole body when the need arises on the Sabbath?

The LORD Christ asks them to judge with righteousness, not according to appearance. Jesus shows that to do good is the most important thing.

Could This Be the Christ? 7:25-39

There was a common theory that the Messiah would be a “man of mystery” and His origins would be unknown. They thought they knew where Jesus was from so reasoned He couldn’t be the Messiah. Jesus told them WHO He was from.

What spurred the Pharisees to seize Jesus? They heard some of the crowds believing in Him. It made them angry and jealous. They wanted to be leaders. They were prideful and wanted the crowds to follow them. Hearing the people believe Jesus made them want to kill Him. They failed at disproving Him or beating Him fairly through debate.

Jesus prophesied about His coming ascension. He wouldn’t be in the world much longer, but after His resurrection, He would go up to heaven. Because of their sins and refusal to believe in Him, they would not be able to go be with Him in heaven.

37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Jesus made a big announcement on the last day of the feast. The Jews had a ceremony of carrying water from the Pool of Siloam and pouring it into a silver basin by the altar of burnt offering each day for the first seven days of the Feast of Booths. On the eighth day this was not done, making Christ’s offer of the water of eternal life from Himself even more startling.”

What is the significance that Jesus made the offer of living water on the last day of the feast?

Jesus offers living water. He will satisfy our thirst since there is no water in the world that can quench it. He will satisfy this by giving His Spirit to all who come to Him. This Spirit being in us, we can experience the blessings of God and the joy that comes only from Him. We will also be able to spread this joy to others. It will become a spring in us that nothing can contain.

As we live for God with His Spirit in our hearts our joy will spread to others. We will then be a channel of blessing for those around us in actions and words (verses in Proverbs). The way to have this is by coming to Jesus. That is the only way we can have this water and the only way we can become a spring of this water to others.

By this living water, He refers to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which were promised to the faithful. This is the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit after His ascension at Pentecost.

Who Is He? 7:40-53

Some doubted, as they did not know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem but thought that He was born in Galilee.

The Pharisees wanted to know why the officials they sent to arrest Jesus didn't bring Him. The only reason they had was that He speaks differently than anyone they had met before. Jesus' voice and teaching did certainly have a special power to it. Hearing and seeing Him they were simply unable to make a move against Him.

Verse 52: The leaders thought that Jesus was from Galilee, although He was born in Bethlehem of the house of David. They thought that most of His disciples were Galileans, yet He had many disciples from Judea. Moreover, they claimed that no prophet had arisen out of Galilee, but Elijah the prophet was from Gilead.

Lesson Delivery Idea:

How do we develop and increase our love for the Father's glory?

The way we increase our love for it is the same way we increase our love for anything in this life. I never cared about classical music at all. In fact, if you said the words "classical music" I would have found the idea completely revolting. However, to get my business degree, I was required to take a fine art in college. I hated this idea. Why does someone who is getting his degree in accounting have to take a silly fine art class? So, I took a semester of classical music. You may not believe what happened. I started to like classical music. I started to appreciate it and began to enjoy listening to various composers. Beethoven and Vivaldi became instant favorites for me. How did this happen? I did not want to like it. I did not really try to like it. But by exposure I began to appreciate classical music and then developed a joy for it.

If you want to increase your love for the glory of the Father, spend your time looking at His glory, studying His greatness, and spending time with other lovers of the Father. This is how you will increase your love for God's glory and diminish your love for yourself. Focus on the Father. Spend your time in His word. Gaze on His glory and you will love Him more and more.

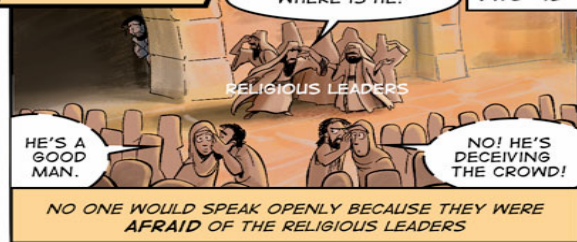
Memory Verse: 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

FESTIVAL OF TABERNACLES

IN GALILEE



IN JERUSALEM



IN THE TEMPLE



ON THE LAST DAY OF THE FESTIVAL



Name: _____ Date: _____

John Chapter 7

J O B P L A B O R A P A J H H X U F B T Z M T K
T X C L L W A T K S U W T Q X V E H J C F W F O
D D K P Y Z T U T E R C E S A D T T D W E B L C
D D V L W B L E D J M L C W J Z Z A M G H E Y D
Z R J I Y U E J G H D C K A S N I B L J B G S P
V C G G T S L G P U J C Q L F N U B P F W W W T
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D S E T A H U U W X P X H Y P D L R E A N K C B
E Q M S L R F E S H W H S M T A Q S M B G X S O
A I N M U A S L X V K V E D C M V N B C K H R N
N J A B P L J M O O D W X V N W S M A Z W E I L
K J A C O U I E U L E K M L W J B M R B G A R G
L W Z Y P F F B I F D Z R I O O D R A Z D L A G
J P I F E S X Q J F Y M L A E G M L S L B I A H
Q P T B L X T H Q O N T S X Z D S U S D Z N U S
E L J P S C C N V I V I G T B Y E U E F I G D A
Z W F M F M I Z D K V M H S A O A D D S V T C R
O E U V R E L H V S G R E J D B Z P U B M R S Z
S U M E D O C I N G X M R A W E K U L V A W R B
K Z E F U F K D F F Q Y T R H A R Q T N V T A C
W O D F F C L L T Q D L O Q H R Q I V H K M B F
R T B T J A K O E O W D A N Y L C Y K V J A O V
F B Q S F K R B Z N A M D O O G U E E T K L T O

Popularity

Embarassed

Nicodemus

Good Man

Luke Warm

Healing

Sabbath

Secret

Laws

Bold

