



A Summary of the Gospel of John, Chapter 7

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Lesson #26

John 7 brings to light Jesus' wisdom, authority, and divine origin in the face of adversity.

Chapter 7 prompts us:

- *To reconsider our own understanding and judgment, inviting all who read to believe in Jesus as the Christ, the One sent from God.*
- *It offers reassurance that Jesus' teachings, though they may incite controversy or division, ultimately lead to a deeper understanding of His divine nature and mission.*

Everything is in God's Timing...Not Man's.

*John 7:1-9, After these things Jesus moved about in Galilee, for he did not wish to move about in Judaea, because the Jews were out to kill him. The festival of the Jews which is called the Festival of Tabernacles was near. So his brothers said to him: "Leave here and go down to Jerusalem so that your disciples will get the chance to see the works that you do. For no one goes on doing things in secret, when he wishes to draw public attention to himself. Since you can do these things, show yourself to the world." **For even his brothers did not believe in him. So Jesus said to them: "The time of opportunity that I am looking for has not yet come; but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me, because I bear witness about it that its deeds are evil. Go up to the festival yourselves. I am not yet going up to the festival, because my time has not yet come."** When he had said these things to them he remained in Galilee.*

Jesus says: "My time is not yet come." Jesus frequently spoke about his time or his hour.

- *There is the time destined by God. Then,*
- *There is a time that is best time to do something (best opportunity or moment when circumstances are most suitable).*

From this passage we learn two (2) things:

1. *It is impossible to force Jesus' hand. His brothers tried to force him into going to Jerusalem. He does things, not in man's time, but in God's.*
2. *It is impossible to treat Jesus with indifference. Jesus had to choose his moment, for when he arrives something happens.*

- ✓ The Holy Spirit makes his entrance...
- ✓ Man rejects and is defensive or, he listens and opens up a door for Jesus to enter.

Note: Even Jesus' brothers were adversaries at this time.

Verdicts—Opinions and Conclusions about Jesus in John 12.

Responses include:

...He was a good man (John 7:12). *"Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, 'He is a good man.'"*

True, but it is not the whole truth. Napoleon made the famous remark: "I know men, and Jesus Christ is more than a man."

Jesus was indeed truly man; but in him was the mind of God.

...He was a prophet (John 7:40). *"On hearing his words, some of the people said, 'Surely this man is the Prophet.'"*

The prophet is the forth-teller of the will of God, the man who has lived so close to God that he knows his mind and purposes. The prophet says: "Thus saith the Lord." His authority is borrowed and delegated. Jesus does not speak with a dedicated authority, but with his own authority given to him by His Father (all approved by God, the Father).

...He was a deluded madman/demon possessed (John 7:20). *"You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. 'Who is trying to kill you?'"*

Opinions: Jesus is the only completely sane person in the world or he was a demon possessed/madman.

- *Chose a Cross when he might have had power and prestige.*
- *Was the Suffering Servant when he might have been the conquering king.*
- *He washed the feet of his disciples when he might have had men kneeling at his own feet.*
- *He came to serve instead of being served.*
- *He turned the world's standards upside down.*
- *He was willing to die for a world of lost and undone sinners*
How could the world understand His reasoning, His thought process, His actions, His rebel with a cause that would change the world???

...He was a seducer/corrupter/deceiver (John 12b). *"...Others replied, 'No, he deceives the people.'"*

- *The Jewish authorities saw in him one who was leading men away from true religion.*

•*He was accused of every crime against religion in the calendar—*
...He was a man of courage (John 7:25-26a). *“At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill?”²⁶ Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him.”*

•*No one could ever doubt his sheer courage. He had physical courage that could bear the most terrible pain.*

•*He had the courage to go on when his family abandoned him, his friends forsook him, and one of his own circle betrayed him.*

•*He was willing to go into enter the lions' den when he went on into Jerusalem.*

...He had a dynamic personality (John 7:45-46) *“⁴⁵ Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, ‘Why didn’t you bring him in?’ ⁴⁶ ‘No one ever spoke the way this man does,’ the guards replied.”*

•*From him flowed a power that sent those dispatched to arrest him back in empty-handed bewilderment. Sort of like Pilate... “I wash my hands of this verdict.”*

•*He spoke with authority and truth...unlike those who compromised their beliefs.*

...There is the opinion/verdict that he was the Christ, the Anointed One of God (John 7:41) *“Others said, “He is the Messiah.”*

•*Nothing less will do.*

•*It. is the plain fact that Jesus does not fit into any of the available human categories; only the category of the divine.*

•*His verbal communications exuded the presence of the Almighty in his life.*

...The reaction of a certain number of the crowd was belief (John 7:31) *“Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, “When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?”*

•*These were the men and women who could not deny the evidence of their own eyes.*

→*They heard what Jesus said; they saw what he did; they were confronted with his dynamism; and they believed.*

→ *If a man rids himself of prejudice and fear, he is bound in the end to finish in belief.*

∞∞*We have surrounded ourselves with confidence that we have nothing to fear...but fear itself (Churchill). However, when we think of the consequences of not believing Jesus, we tremble. He is the Savior, the One who had atoned for our sins on the cross of Calvary..and we do not have to fear for our souls; but, for others who have not believed and is headed for eternity away from*

Jesus and into the pit of hell. Proverbs 8:13, "To fear God is to hate evil."

...The reaction of Nicodemus was to defend Jesus (John 7:50-52)

"Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, ⁵¹ "Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?"⁵² They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too?

→∞In that council of the Jewish authorities, Nicodemus was the lone voice raised in defense of Jesus.

→∞There lies the duty of every one of us. We live in a generation when every one of us can earn the royal title, "Defender of the Faith."

It is the privilege that God has given us that we can all be advocates and defenders of Christ in face of the criticism...and sometimes the mockery of men.

Chapter Context

John chapter 7 is the beginning of the end of Jesus' public ministry. The feeding of thousands in chapter 6 was the pinnacle of His earthly popularity. That enthusiasm was dampened when Jesus explained the true meaning of His ministry. Here, in chapters 7 and 8, Jesus will confront His critics at a major Jewish festival, using metaphors drawn from ritual celebrations to highlight themes from His preaching. The following chapters include additional miracles and teachings from Jesus, as His eventual crucifixion draws nearer.
