

Quiet Grumbling, Fearful Threats & Glorious Teaching

John 7:10-20

I. *The quiet grumbling (complaining) of a fearful crowd –*

1. *Jesus' brothers went to the feast, and after they did, Jesus went, by Himself, in secret -*
¹⁰ But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. John 7:10 (NKJV)

2. *The Jews mentioned here are the crowd -*

A. *They are seeking Jesus –*

¹¹ Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, “Where is He?” John 7:11

- *They had not followed Him out of town, they looked for Him only when it is convenient, not with faith, commitment, and / or a desire to worship Him, like the wise men –*

2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” Matthew 2:1–2 (NKJV)

- *They seek Him or are curious about Him, only when there is also a FEAST, food and celebration, they were there anyway, and expected He would be as well.*
- *When I was a younger Christian, it was always the spaghetti supper, to the point I had my spaghetti sauce cat dream!*

B. *They are complaining, grumbling, discussing Him, with differing opinions –*

¹² And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, “He is good”; others said, “No, on the contrary, He deceives the people.” John 7:10–12 (NKJV)

3. *They are fearful of the Jews (the rulers) who wanted to kill Jesus –*

¹³ However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews. John 7:13 (NKJV)

A. *The crowd is a large, they are there for the feast.*

B. *But they are also looking for, and talking about Jesus, because of His miracles He is famous!*

C. *They speak with opinions, some for Jesus “He is good” some against “No, on the contrary, He deceives the people.”*

D. *Yet, they ALL speak to each other with more FEAR than faith, because the THREATS against Jesus' life, they fear may extend to their own ...*

**II. The loud, fearful threats of the Jewish leaders who sought Jesus' life -
13 However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews. John 7:13 (NKJV)**

1. Note by this time it is common knowledge that the Jewish leaders are seeking to kill Jesus!
2. There may have been threats about speaking at all about Jesus – **John 7:13**

“The reference to **the Jews** here is to the people who ruled and had the power of government in their hands. They fumed with hatred against Christ so much that they would not allow anyone to speak. This was not because they minded Christ being slandered with all kinds of malice, but because they thought it would be better if his name was buried in oblivion.” John Calvin

3. Merrill C. Tenney points out about the word translated “sought” “seek” used in verse :11 was also used in verse 1 was about people who sought to kill Jesus –
7 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. John 7:1 (NKJV)

“First, the Jews sought for Him, presumably to kill Him. A comparison of verses 1 and 11 shows that such is the meaning of “seek” (*zetein*), which is employed in this sense seventeen times out of a total of thirty-four times in JOHN. It was a continued attempt,⁴ which showed that their attitude dominated the atmosphere of the feast.”
Merrill C. Tenney

III. Christ's bold and glorious teaching -

14 Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. 15 And the Jews marveled, saying, “How does this Man know letters, having never studied?”
16 Jesus answered them and said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. 17 If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. 18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. 19 Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?”
John 7:14–19 (NKJV)

1. Note Jesus' timing - **14 Now about the middle of the feast...**
 - A. Not at the beginning, He was too much expected ... those who desired to “kill Him” would be ready, but perhaps in the middle of the feast, they think He is not coming?
 - B. He allows the crowd to talk among themselves about Him, preparation?
2. Note what is worth risking your life for - **Jesus went up into the temple and taught. John 7:14 B (NKJV)**
 - A. What is worth risking your life for? Jesus' Teaching! Truth! God's Word ...
 - B. Note Jesus does not reveal Himself to heal or feed men, or to WOW them with miracles, He makes Himself known to TEACH!

3. *What was the subject of Jesus' teaching? We are not specifically told here, but I can make an educated guess –*

Since it was the feast of booths celebrating God's care and provision for His people as they travelled toward the promised land, Jesus could have been teaching:

- A. *How this world is not our permanent home –*

¹⁴For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Hebrews 13:14 (NKJV)

- B. *How God's provides for us while we travel, spiritually through this dark immoral world, not only physical bread, but spiritual –*

⁴But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)

- C. *This was something God was teaching His people as they actually walked through the wilderness –*

²And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. ³So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. Deuteronomy 8:2–3 (NKJV)

I believe Jesus would apply such teaching to their circumstance, John does not give us the details here but we are told the response ----

4. *Note the RESPONSE to Jesus' teaching, even His enemies' response –*

¹⁵And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?" John 7:15 (NKJV)

ἐθαύμαζον θαυμάζω ethaumazon, thaomazo, Marvelled, are Amazed!

① to be extraordinarily impressed or disturbed by something

ⓐ intr. wonder, marvel, be astonished (the context determines whether in a good or bad sense)¹

They were astonished as much, or even more by His teaching, as He had not been to their SCHOOLS, yet His knowledge of God's Word was amazing -

The word for letters here is gramma from which we get our word grammar, but this includes theology and knowledge of Scripture.

¹ Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). In [A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature](#) (3rd ed., p. 444). University of Chicago Press.

IV. *Jesus' answer about where His teaching / learning came from –*

¹⁶ Jesus answered them and said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. ¹⁷ If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. ¹⁸ He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. ¹⁹ Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?” John 7:14–19 (NKJV)

1. *Jesus' wonderful, marvelous teaching is not His own, but from God the Father –*

¹⁶ Jesus answered them and said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. John 7:16 (NKJV)

A. *If Jesus did not preach His own message, neither should I, or any preacher! We should not make it up, change it, soften it ...*

B. *If you will to do God's will God will show you truth ...*

2. *Jesus' sought God's glory, not His own while He spoke, so should we –*

¹⁸ He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. John 7:18 (NKJV)

Question 1 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism

What is the chief end of man?

Man's chief end is to glorify God, (1 Corinthians 10:31) and to enjoy him forever. (Psalm. 73:25–26)

3. *Jesus was not afraid to tell people the TRUTH, even when it hurt –*

¹⁹ Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?” John 7:19 (NKJV)

V. *These people would not admit the TRUTH, that everyone knew, but confronted, they lie about Jesus – They were seeking to kill Jesus! Duh!*

²⁰ The people answered and said, “You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?” John 7:20 (NKJV)

1. *Everyone knew the leaders of the Jews were trying to kill Jesus –*

²⁵ Now some of them from Jerusalem said, “Is this not He whom they seek to kill?” John 7:25 (NKJV)

2. *Yet, they try to tell Jesus, He is demon possessed ...*

“You have a demon. (Meaning possession) Who is seeking to kill You?”

Oh, how much like liars today? When they blame someone of a crime or sin, or demon possession, it is they themselves who are committing the crime, the sin, who are demon-possessed! Especially when this blame is coming at Christ or real biblical Christians.