

Lighthouse Bible Church

May 19th, 2013

John 7: 1 - 13

'His time has not yet come'

Stand – Read – Pray

It has been a few weeks since we have been in the book of John so let me catch you up with what brings us to where we are this morning in John Chapter 7.

Remember Jesus had fed almost 20,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish and then later that night He walked on water to His disciples who were in a boat. The next day He began to tell the people that He was the true bread of life that endures to everlasting life.

Most of those people, both Jew and Gentile, were enamored with Jesus and His miracles of healing and provision of food but they did not want to believe His teaching about coming from God in heaven and the only way for someone to get to heaven. They believed His works but they refused to believe His words.

He told them that the words that He spoke were life but they would not believe Him and that really began to expose the two types of followers of Jesus, the true disciple and the false disciple.

The false disciples, the false followers of Christ would affirm Christ as being a miracle worker, but they would reject Him as the only way to heaven and consequently would not come to Him for salvation. We saw the ultimate false disciple that Jesus knew would betray Him was Judas Iscariot.

The true disciples respond like Peter and the others did when they see what Christ has done and heard what He had taught about the kingdom of heaven and Him being the only way there.

There response and anyone's response should be **'You have the words of eternal life and we believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.'** The right response of a true disciple is one of belief, faith, repentance and following Jesus, in obedience, no matter what the cost. And that takes us to the beginning of Chapter 7.

Verses One and Two: after these things Jesus walked in Galilee for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.

It says **after these things**, after the things that had happened in Chapter 6, Jesus stayed in Galilee because He didn't want to go back to Judea because the Jews wanted to kill Him.

Remember back in **John 5: 16** Jesus had healed the man who had an infirmity for 38 years and He told him to take up his bed and walk. What day was that done on? It was the Sabbath day. This man, as we saw before violated the Sabbath law by carrying something more than 1000 feet and carrying something that weighed more than a dried fig, remember.

Jesus also violated the Sabbath by healing a man on that day when no work was to have been done. So as a result, Verse 16 says **for this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill Him because He had done these things on the Sabbath.**

So Jesus didn't want to go back down to Judea because He knew the Jews there were still wanting to kill Him. By the way, the events of Chapter 6 which cover only a couple of days, were around the time of the **Passover, a feast of the Jews, John 6: 4** said, which was held in April.

Now notice that in John 7 and Verse 2 that **the Feast of Tabernacles was at hand**. This is celebrated in October, so you have a period of about 6 months between the end of Chapter 6 and the beginning of Chapter 7. In another 6 months will be the final Passover where Jesus will be killed.

During this six month period of time, John only mentions the fact that **Jesus walked in Galilee**. The other writers record that during this 6 month period of time Jesus went N/W to Tyre and Sidon, He went S/E to Decapolis (*Matthew 15: 21 – 28, Mark 7: 31 – 37*) and He performed miracles of healings and casting out of demons and even feeding of upwards of 15,000 people with 7 loaves and a few fish. (*Matthew 15: 29 – 31, Mark 8: 22 – 26, Matthew 15: 21 – 28, 32 – 38, 17: 14 – 18*).

Six months have passed and now **the Feast of Tabernacles was at hand**. By the way, as we saw before, this was one of the 3 feasts that every male 20 years old and older (living w/i 15 miles) was required to attend according to **Deuteronomy 16: 16 – 17** which says **3 times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses; at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Tabernacles...**

The Feast of Tabernacles or the Feast of Ingathering lasted 8 days, you can read about it sometime in **Leviticus 23: 33 – 44, Numbers 29** and **Deuteronomy 16: 13 – 15**. This feast was to commemorate the gathering of the first fruits of the land and to remember what the children of Israel went through in their wilderness wanderings once they left Egypt as well as other significant events as we shall see.

Leviticus 23: 41 – 43 says you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month. You shall dwell in booths or tabernacles for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt... Wherever you were at you were to build a booth made of branches of trees **Nehemiah 8: 15** says, and stay in there for 7 days.

In the time of Jesus this is what would happen during the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. You would take these branches and build a small booth anywhere you could. On top of your house, in your yard, in the street, anywhere, but it was to be a temporary booth that you could take down each day if need be.

The booth must have a thatched roof where you could see the stars at night and walls in which the sun could get in during the day time. This was a vivid reminder about the children of Israel being homeless while wandering in the wilderness and that their residence was only temporary.

These portable booths could even be taken into the temple in Jerusalem and be set up and taken down each day. What would happen is that a priest would take a golden pitcher and walk out of the temple and south to the pool of Siloam and fill it with water. Many times there would be a procession following him and joined by those in booths in the streets.

This pitcher held 2 pints of water that the priest would fill and then walk back to the temple and pour out as an offering to God. As the priest was entering through the gate to the temple the people recited **Isaiah 12: 3** therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. As the water was being poured out they would sing from **Psalms 113 – 118** accompanied by musical instruments and the Levite choir.

One writer said ‘when they came to the words ‘O give thanks to the Lord from Psalm 118: 1 and ‘Save now I pray O Lord from Psalm 118: 25 and finally to the closing words ‘O give thanks to the Lord’ from Psalm 118: 29, the worshippers shouted and waved their palms towards the altar. The whole dramatic ceremony was a vivid thanksgiving for God’s good gift of water and an acted prayer for rain and a memory of the water which sprang from the rock when they travelled through the wilderness.’ *Barclay on John page 249.*

That is one reason why Jesus will shout what He does later in **John 7: 37 - 38** **cried out saying if anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**

So 6 months have passed and Jesus has stayed in Galilee because the Jews in Judea want to kill him and He is doing many miracles and teaching about the kingdom of heaven. The Feast of Tabernacles is at hand and He knows, as do His brothers, that the law requires them to go to Jerusalem in Judea and celebrate this feast. So we see His brothers talk with Him in Verses 3 – 5.

Verses 3 – 5: His brothers therefore said to Him ‘depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be know openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world. For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

And as we have seen before, Jesus had brothers and He even had sisters. They were from Joseph and Mary and He was from Mary and the Holy Spirit. But in **Matthew 13: 55 – 56** they are listed there as **James, Joses, Simon, and Judas** The Greek equivalent of Jude and at least two **sisters.**

So His brothers say to Him in Verse 3 **depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing.** They tell Him, since you have to go to Jerusalem for the feast, do some miracles while you are there so Your disciples can see them.

As we have seen before, His **disciples** are not necessarily believers, they are just followers which can include believers and unbelievers who are following Him. Then they say to Him **for no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.**

They are saying to Him ‘listen, there are going to be a whole lot of people in Jerusalem and Judea and you can show them some incredible miracles instead of just staying up here **in secret.** If you want people to know who You are, go up there and show them, is what they are in essence saying.

Then they say **IF You do these things, show Yourself to the world.** Why would they say “if”? They have lived with Him most of their life and had seen His miracles and heard His teaching and heard from others about His miracles and teaching. The reason they said ‘if’ is because they don’t believe in Him.

They don’t sound too much different than Satan when he met Jesus in the wilderness. Remember in **Matthew 4: 1 – 11** when Satan came to Him and said **if You are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread. If you are the Son of God, jump off the temple and God will take care of You.** And now they are saying if you are the Son of God, do these things and show yourself to the world.

Jesus didn’t come to show Himself off to the world with some kind of sensational, emotional miracle works.

He came to teach them that He was the Son of God and the only way to heaven and that His miracle works were a verification of that and nothing more. They weren't for show.

There are some churches and ministries today that would do well to learn that. Not to build a ministry on emotion or sensation or the performing or display of supposed miracles but on the teaching of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and obedient living to His word and the making of disciples and the sharing of God's word. The reason His brothers wanted Him to perform for the people is clear, look at Verse 5.

Verse 5 for even His brothers did not believe in Him.

They had seen the miracles and heard Him teach about who He is and where He came from and how one is born again, and they didn't believe Him. As a matter of fact, that passage in Matthew where His brothers are named, it says in the very next verse **Matthew 13: 57 – 58 they were offended at Him.** So Jesus says **a prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house. Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.**

The good thing about that is that they would come to believe in Him after His resurrection, **Acts 1: 14** says and that James would go on to lead the church in Jerusalem and Jude would write the little book of Jude just before Revelation.

After His unbelieving brothers tell Him to go to Judea, Jesus tells them, in essence, no, not yet, you go, My time has not yet come, I will stay here in Galilee. Look at Verses 6 – 9.

Verses 6 – 9 then Jesus said to them ‘My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. You go up to the feast, I am not yet going up to the feast, for My time has not yet fully come. When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.

The reason Jesus is not going to go up to Jerusalem in Judea with them is in the phrase **My time has not yet come ... My time has not yet fully come.** Remember that Jesus has said ‘I came not to do My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me’. Jesus always lived in the will and timing of the Father, not the whim of the people, even His own family.

As a matter of fact, every aspect of the life of Christ, from His birth, to what He did in His life, to His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to His arrest, torture, crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection, are all in the perfect and exacting timing of God, even down to the very minute of every day.

That is why **Galatians 4: 4** says **that when the FULLNESS of TIME had come, God sent for His Son, born of a woman born under the law to redeem those who were under the law.**

Think about the perfect timing that it took for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem as the scriptures recorded and the census that needed to be done in order to get Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem from Nazareth.

Think about every event in the life of Jesus, many that were pre-written about, coming to pass at the very moment they were supposed to. Just take His entry into Jerusalem the week before His death.

The Old Testament prophesied the exact day that He would ride into Jerusalem and be proclaimed the Messiah. Had he entered one day sooner or one day later, God's plans would have been undermined and the scriptures untrue if His timing were not perfect. Every other event in His life from that point forward would not have corresponded to God's perfect timing.

Think about the timing of His sacrificial death on the cross, dying at exactly 3:00 pm, at the very moment the animal sacrifice was to be made for sin. He was dying for the sin of the world. Had He raised from the dead one day sooner or one day later we could throw the Bible away because God's timing would not be perfect. But His timing is perfect and Jesus understood that His time was in God's hands and that His time for revealing Himself and being taken by the Jews and crucified and killed was not yet come.

That is why Jesus told His mother back in **John 2: 3 – 5** that **My hour has not yet come**. That is why He is telling His brothers here that My time has not yet fully come. That is why it will say later in **John 7: 30** **therefore they sought to take Him but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come**. That is why it will say later in **John 8: 20** **these words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple, and no one laid hands on Him for His hour had not yet come**.

God and Christ's timing will also be perfect and at exactly the right time when Jesus comes back, right?

And by the way, just so you know, God's timing is exactly perfect in your life as well, especially as a believer. **Psalm 139: 16** says that **all your days were written in His book before you were ever born**. **Ecclesiastes 3: 2** says **there is a TIME to be born and a TIME to day**. And if God is sovereign in His perfect timing of those, then everything in between those two times are in His perfect timing as well. As a believer, you are on Christ's divine timetable in redemptive history and you are called to redeem the time for His glory. *How do yours.*

One writer said 'if we spend our employer's time like we spend God's time, many of us would be on welfare'. *MacArthur on John 7GT*

Jesus goes on to tell His brothers **but your time is always ready**. What did He mean by that? He means that they, as unbelievers, are not on God's divine timetable, they can do what they want in their randomness of sin and lack of purpose and godly direction.

They are, in essence, living for themselves and loving what the world offers; because that is what unbelievers do? They do what **1st John 2: 15 - 17** tells them not to do. **Do not love the world or the things that are in the world, for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life are not of the Father but of the world..** That is why He says what He does in Verse 7 and is also another reason why He does not want to go to Judea until the time is right.

Verse 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.

Jesus says to them, listen you are not going to be hated by anyone at the feast, no one is going to try and kill you, because you, as an unbeliever, are a part of the world system, I am not, I speak against the world because I speak the truth.

Jesus says 'I'm going to Jerusalem and they are going to kill Me because I tell them the truth that what they do is evil, it is sin. They are not going to hurt you because you don't speak against the evil of the world and it's sin, you are a part of it.

The world will tolerate its own but when you speak up against what is going on in the world and you call it for what it is; sin and evil, the world hates someone like that and Jesus says **the world hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.**

We are living in that day, aren't we? When Christians speak out against abortion or homosexuality or same sex marriage or the biblical discipline of children, or sexual immorality or whatever, the world hates to hear that and they will do what they can to silence that.

Jesus said in **John 15: 18 - 25** *Read*

Look at your own life; does the world hate you? It should, if you are living and telling the truth in love. The world should and will hate you and you should hate the world as well. Not the people in the world, but the world system, run by Satan, that captivates the world in its darkness and sin and decay and lusts of the flesh and eyes and the pride of life.

Remember what Jesus said in **John 3: 19 – 20** **and this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.** The same thing Jesus is saying here. Then He goes on to say **for everyone practicing evil HATES the light and does not come to the light that their deeds should be exposed.**

That is really the bottom line issue that Jesus is talking about; when someone's sin is exposed. They don't want out of the darkness, they don't want the light to expose their sin and they hate it when someone does that through their speaking of the truth of God's word.

Jesus said in **Luke 6: 26** **woe to you when all men speak well of you.** We don't go around trying to antagonize people or make people hate us. We simply speak the truth of God's word and not what is politically correct or what people want to hear or what is popular at the time. We speak the truth in love and because of that we will have those who will hate us and say all manner of evil against us for His name's sake as **Matthew 5: 11** says.

We live in this world but we are not of this world. We live in this world and touch the lives of unbelievers through what we say and do and many will be antagonistic towards us, even those of our own household as Jesus said in **Matthew 10: 34 – 37**. That is what testifying that the world is evil will do.

So Jesus tells His brothers that He is not going up to Judea because it is not the right time and they want to kill Me and that is not in God's timing, yet. He has one more feast to go to before the timing to kill Him is fulfilled and that will be in about 6 months at the Passover feast. Then Jesus will say in **Luke 22: 53** **this is your hour and the power of darkness** because it will be God's timing for His death.

So in **Verses 8 – 9** He tells them to go up to the feast for His time has not yet fully come and He remains in Galilee for a short time. Then look at Verses 10 – 13 real quickly.

Verses 10 – 13: *Read*

Verse 10: When Jesus decides the time is right, then He goes to Jerusalem and to the Feast of Tabernacles, but He goes alone, in **secret** because the Jews want Him dead. He didn't want to present Himself publically until the time was right, and it would be in just a short time.

Verse 11: Notice when He gets there that **the Jews sought him** and asked **where is He**. The Jews as we have seen before are referring to the religious leaders, the scribes and Pharisees and Sadducees, the hypocritical unbelieving religious leaders who hated Him and wanted Him dead, as we have already seen.

Verses 12 - 13: Everyone was talking about Jesus and it says **there was MUCH complaining** or grumbling or murmuring. They were in low tones of voice like a whisper. Everyone was whispering about Jesus because they didn't want to make their opinions public for fear of contradicting the religious leaders and being excommunicated from the synagogue or branded a follower of Jesus with such hostility about Him.

Some were saying **He is good**. They weren't saying He was the Son of God or the Messiah, they were just saying that He was good. Jesus was more than good, He was God, so that description is not accurate.

Then others were saying **no, on the contrary, He deceives the people**. And we know that description of Him is not accurate either. **However no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews**.

These people were caught in such a religious system of hypocrisy and lies that they could not even express openly what they believed about Jesus until the Jews, the religious leaders, told them who He was, for fear of the consequences.

One final thought as we close and it is in the form of a question. Who is Jesus to you? Is He a good guy or do you think He is deceiving you and the world around you. There are a lot of people who have differing opinions about Jesus, many of them very good. They say He is a moral upright man, a good teacher, a miracle worker, a man of love etc.

But to believe in that kind of Jesus, is to have no saving faith at all.

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Introduction and Review:

Verses One and Two:

John 5: 16, John 6: 4, *Matthew 15: 21 – 38*
Mark 7: 31- 37, 8: 22 – 26, Matthew 17: 14 – 18
Deuteronomy 16: 13 – 17, Leviticus 23: 33 – 44
Numbers 29, Nehemiah 8: 15, Isaiah 12: 3
John 7: 37 – 38

Verses Three – Five:

Matthew 13: 55 – 58, Matthew 4: 1 – 11
Acts 1: 14

Verses Six – Nine:

Galatian 4: 4, John 2: 3 – 5, 7: 30, 8: 20
Psalm 139: 16, Ecclesiastes, 1st John 2: 15 – 17
John 15: 18 – 25, John 3: 19 – 20, Luke 6: 26
Matthew 5: 11, 10: 34 – 37, Luke 22: 53

Verses Ten – Thirteen:

Who is Jesus to you?
Who is Jesus really?
John 6: 69

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Introduction and Review:

Verses One and Two:

John 5: 16, John 6: 4, *Matthew 15: 21 – 38*
Mark 7: 31- 37, 8: 22 – 26, Matthew 17: 14 – 18
Deuteronomy 16: 13 – 17, Leviticus 23: 33 – 44
Numbers 29, Nehemiah 8: 15, Isaiah 12: 3
John 7: 37 – 38

Verses Three – Five:

Matthew 13: 55 – 58, Matthew 4: 1 – 11
Acts 1: 14

Verses Six – Nine:

Galatian 4: 4, John 2: 3 – 5, 7: 30, 8: 20
Psalm 139: 16, Ecclesiastes, 1st John 2: 15 – 17
John 15: 18 – 25, John 3: 19 – 20, Luke 6: 26
Matthew 5: 11, 10: 34 – 37, Luke 22: 53

Verses Ten – Thirteen:

Who is Jesus to you?
Who is Jesus really?
John 6: 69