

## COMMENTARY

### Gospel of John Chapter 7:

vs. 1-13

Jesus' brothers wanted Him to use His messianic powers to impress the people gathered at Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. [This feast was instituted in Lev. 23:33-42; Numbers 29:12 and was one of the 3 main feasts that the Jews celebrated. The other 2 would be the Passover & Pentecost. The feast of Tabernacles was also known as the feast of the ingathering and was a feast following the harvest to give thanks and sacrifices to the Lord. The people would dwell in "tabernacles" or booths during this time to remind them of how God had led them and provided during the years in the wilderness.] Jesus' brothers felt that such a demonstration of power at a time like this would substantiate Jesus as a leader with a large following.

Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come, but your time already is come. The world can't hate you, but it hates me, because I testify that its works are evil." Jesus then sent them on their way to the feast and later also went secretly. When Jesus arrived the people were debating who He was but were afraid to say that He was the Messiah or from God, lest they be forced out of the synagogue and possibly put to death for blasphemy.

vs. 14-24

When Jesus got to Jerusalem for the feast of the Tabernacles, He went to the temple, probably Solomon's Porch. There He began to teach. Three groups were there: 1. Jewish leaders, 2. inhabitants of Jerusalem, and 3. the officers sent by the chief priests. His knowledge of sacred literature concerned the Jewish leaders. Jesus claimed He was from God and yet the people couldn't accept it. Jesus gave an example of how they accepted other teachings that on the surface also appeared to be contrary to the will of God, on the surface. Jesus challenged them to look into the matter and told them that they would find that He had come from God.

vs. 25-44

Jesus continues to try to convince the people that He is from God. Many in the crowd were convinced and believed. The chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest Him, but they failed to do so. Jesus tells the people that those who thirst, should come to Him and drink. He that believes on His name shall have rivers of living water flow out of them. This living water is the Holy Spirit. The people then argued as to whether or not He was the Christ.

vs. 45-53

The temple guard returned and told the chief priests that they had never heard anyone speak the way Jesus did and therefore did not perform their mission. The Pharisees retorted. Nicodemus then said that they should at least listen to His message before judging Him. They also turned on him.



COMMENTARY

Gospel of John Chapter 8:

vs. 1-11

It is suggested that this passage was included because that it shows Jesus to be the defender of the Weak. Since it is not contrary to Jesus' teaching or personality and does represent what can be found in other passages, there is no problem in including it.

The woman was caught in adultery and was brought by the Pharisees to Jesus. They asked Him, what He thought should be done. According to their law, Jesus had no authority to clear her, yet they knew Jesus to be a man of compassion. Jesus solved the situation, after the leaders became impatient because of a deliberate lack of attention and response. Jesus questioned them and asked for the person who had not sinned to throw the first stone. At this the people left one by one, realizing that they also had sinned. After everyone had left and Jesus was there with the woman, He told her that He would not condemn her either, but that she was to show her repentance by going and sinning no more.

vs. 12-30

Jesus claims to be the light of the world. The Pharisees refused to accept His testimony, even though God testified through the miracles and the Scriptures also. They became bitter and vile.

Jesus tells them that they will not be able to go where He is going. He referred to the presence of God, and they failing to believe would not be accepted. The Pharisees, not understanding how He could go someplace that they couldn't, asked if He would kill Himself. This would have condemned Him to the lowest region of Hell, and they being so "righteous in their minds, would not be able to follow.

The Pharisees try to get Jesus to claim His Messiahship. Since they failed to believe it, they could claim that Jesus was blaspheming and was worthy of death.

vs. 31-41

Jesus tells the Jews that if they hold to His teaching that they will know the truth and will be free from sin, besides being His disciples. They answered Him by claiming that they were not slaves but free, because they were the children of Abraham. Jesus told them that all who sin are slaves and that He is the only way to freedom. He then tells them that if they were really Abraham's children then they would accept His teachings and implies that because of their failure to do so, that Abraham is not their father.

vs. 42-47

The people then claim that god is their father. Jesus states that because of their lies and refusal to accept the truth, there is no way that God could be their Father, but that in reality, it was Satan that was their Father.

vs. 48-59

The people continue to deny that Jesus is the Christ. He states that it is God who seeks to have people accept and honor Jesus, the one that He had sent. Those that will, will not die spiritually but will have eternal life. The people are confused because all of their great men of faith had died and they fail to acknowledge that this new teaching is from God. Jesus finally states that He is God. The people become outraged and pick up stones with which to kill Him for His "blasphemy". Jesus escapes from them and leaves the temple area.

## STUDY GUIDE

### Gospel of John Chapter 7:

1. Why does Jesus say that the world hates Him?
2. What were the people saying about Jesus?
3. Why did people not say anything publicly?
4. What will the one who chooses to do God's will, find out?
5. What example did Jesus give of the Jews breaking the Sabbath?
6. What did Jesus say to stop judging by?
7. What did those who put their faith in Christ say in verse 31?
8. What does John say the "streams of living water", represent?
9. Why did the guards fail to bring Jesus in to the chief priests?
10. How did Nicodemus try to act rightly?

### BONUS:

1. How do Christians fall into the "popularity trap" that Jesus brothers fell into?
2. Cite examples of people whose messages are their own and come not from God.
3. What are excuses that people give today for not believing in Jesus?



## STUDY GUIDE

### Gospel of John Chapter 8:

1. Why did the Pharisees ask Jesus what he would do to the woman caught in adultery?
2. What did Jesus say, that caused the people to go away one at a time, the oldest ones first until Jesus was left with the woman?
3. How can a person have the light of life?
4. How did the Pharisees judge, according to Jesus?
5. What would cause the Jews to die in their sins, according to verse 24?
6. Who would be Jesus disciples and what would they know?
7. Who did Jesus say, are slaves to sin?
8. What would the Jews have done if they loved God?
9. According to verse 47, what does Jesus say the reason is that they don't hear Him?
10. What will be the result of keeping Christ's words?
11. What did Jesus say, that caused the people to pick up stones to stone Him?

### BONUS:

1. What does the incident of Jesus and the adulterous woman teach us about judging and forgiveness?
2. What does Jesus say about freedom and slavery?
3. Why did Jesus say the Jews were the children of the devil? Could that ever be said about people today?

