

36 John 7:1-13

Jesus and the Feast of Booths

REVIEW / INTRODUCTION

Last week Pastor Brian finished up chapter 6. We saw that Jesus continued to present Himself as the Bread of Life. God gave Israel bread in the desert but they still died. But now Jesus is offering eternal life to those who feed on Him and get their life from Him. Some took His offer and others turned away.

READING THE TEXT

7:1 After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. 2 Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. 3 So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. 4 For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." 5 For not even his brothers believed in him. 6 Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. 8 You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come." 9 After saying this, he remained in Galilee.

10 But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private. 11 The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, “Where is he?” 12 And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, “He is a good man,” others said, “No, he is leading the people astray.” 13 Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.

PREACHING THE TEXT

7:1 After this Jesus went about in Galilee.

AFTER THIS

In Capernaum many turned away. And ***“After this”*** Jesus returned to His hometown of Galilee where His immediate family lived.

JESUS WENT ABOUT IN GALILEE

Jesus ***“went about”*** in Galilee with no urgent agenda. He visited with relatives and friends. If you are tempted to work constantly, know that Jesus took time to connect with family and to rest, regroup and pray.

Verse 1 continued **He would not *“go about”* in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.**

NOT GO ABOUT IN JUDEA

Jesus was enjoying some downtime with family but He was also purposely avoiding Judea. Why was He avoiding the Jerusalem area? He could not ***“go about”*** near Jerusalem. He could not relax and walk around freely without watching His every word and every step.

BECAUSE JEWS SEEKING TO KILL

Jews were looking for Him in order to kill Him. When the text says “Jews” it is a reference to the Jewish Religious Leaders. Jesus had called out their sin of pride and power grabbing. He called them out for adding things to the word of God. None of us likes to be called out in public. Especially at times when we want to appear super spiritual and put-together. Just when you are trying to act put together something will go wrong in order to humble you.

Jesus became a threat because He upset the status quo. Apparently the status quo was not good enough for Jesus. If you become a threat by calling out sin, especially among those who want to appear to be super spiritual,

people will scheme, exaggerate and even lie in order to get rid of you.

The Religious Leaders lied about Jesus and exaggerated things in order to turn the crowds against Him. Their end game was to strip away His support and then kill Jesus. But Jesus was not ready to die yet.

Listen, if your work is not done then you do not have God's permission to die. Some of you work with dangerous equipment. Some are preparing for a mission field with dangers. And life itself has many dangers. God will see to it that you live every day that you are supposed to live before getting promoted to the home office in heaven. **Your life is in God's hands, not your enemies.**

Remember that as you follow Jesus into a difficult assignment as you stand for the faith. God will power up whatever He thinks up and that includes preserving your life until it is your time to meet Him face to face.

² Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand.

FEAST OF BOOTHS (I will share more next 2 weeks)

The feast of Booths and all the major Feasts were held in Jerusalem, the place that Jesus was temporarily avoiding. Here is a bit of background on the Feast of Booths. We will do more next week.

*****AMY...at about 3:30 in this video there is a picture of an actual booth. Can you keep about the minute of this clip that explains how a booth was set up and it's significance?**

Video Illustration and Explanation of Feast of Booths (Clip A: 3:37-4:15) (Clip B 10:22-13:36)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olnRq1p5KJo>

On the last day of this festival of booths a priest would take a picture of water and in the presence of all pour it out among the people. This represented the outpouring of The Holy Spirit that would occur when God came and made His dwelling among people. This was an exciting celebration that looked ahead to the arrival of the Messiah. Little did the brothers of Jesus realize that this Messiah lived in their own house.

³ So his brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. ⁴ For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.”

HIS BROTHERS

If you have grown up in a denomination that taught Mary died as a virgin this passage may confuse you. Did Joseph and Mary actually have children after Jesus was born?

Matthew 13:55-56 (ESV)

⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these (abilities)?”

Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, and then Mary and Joseph had several other children the old fashion way. Jesus had brothers and sisters.

GO SHOW YOUR FOLLOWERS WORKS

Jesus was staying at the family home. His brothers were not believers and could not make sense of His action. *“If you claim to be a prophet you should be out there showing what you can do to those who follow you. Don't hide away in the family home.”*

IF HE SEEKS TO BE KNOWN OPENLY

His brothers were following logic when they encouraged Him to go to Jerusalem and win over the crowds. Their logic was both sacred and secular.

The sacred part of their instruction to Jesus is that each of us has talents, gifts and abilities that we are called to use for the glory of God and the benefit of others.

The secular mindset of His brothers was about riches or fame. If you want to be famous and powerful then act like you are trying to become powerful and famous. Go out and sell yourself and win people over. Live up to your

potential! There might even be good money if they think you are a prophet or a great teacher. Here is what His brothers missed.

When you are called to be a Christ follower **you are not called to live up to your potential**. That is what our culture says; live up to your abilities. Maximize your potential. The Lord on the other hand tells us be obedient. I might have the ability to make between 125k to 200k a year by running a food service company. That would be living up to my potential. But God might call me to live in the Mission Field among the poor for next to nothing.

The brothers of Jesus are encouraging Him to get a following and become famous. But Jesus is more interested in obedience and following the plans of His Father.

THE BIG TRAP

Whatever you do use it as a mission field for the glory of God. One of you could be a major league catcher. Someone here has a son and a daughter with a full ride to college. Others have dreams of building a business. All

that is fine if and only if the Holy Spirit green light you and gives you peace about living up to your potential.

But what if living up to your potential means ignoring your family and working 7 days a week? What if living up to your potential means that you set aside your calling and mission field. Or even worse, what if you never check with God to see what He wants you to do or dream with God about how you will use your incredible talent to magnify God's Son? We are here to bring glory to God. Sometimes it will look like success in the world's eyes. But that's just God's excuse to get you into open doors for the glory of His Son.

IF YOU DO (MIRACLES) SHOW EVERYONE

Notice they said; "if" you do miracles. Nothing in their language states they believed Jesus was the Messiah. They were witness to the miracles of Jesus. They knew about His turning the water into wine at a wedding in Cana. They heard that He had healed a cripple at the pool. Word spreads fast, especially among family. *"Did you hear what your older brother did, he is amazing!"* I

wonder if the younger brothers were tired of hearing about the miracles of Jesus. But miracles by themselves do not cause people to believe. In chapter 6 we learned that no one comes to faith unless they have help from The Father.

All by ourselves we would never choose God. So if you are saved it is a miracle of God. You owe your life and salvation to God and not yourself. This leads to gratitude which we all could use, especially in our “*everyone gets a trophy*” culture.

The brothers of Jesus saw or heard of His miracles and I'm sure they listened to Him as He taught others. But verse 5 tells us;

⁵ For not even his brothers believed in him.

They were giving him all kinds of advice but none of it came from hearts that were transformed by God's grace. James and His brothers would come to believe in Jesus for salvation. James ended up serving as one of the pastors of the church in Jerusalem and wrote the book of James.

Jesus responds to the worldly flesh-driven advice given by His brothers.

⁶ Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always here.

MY TIME HAS NOT YET COME

Jesus was constrained by a few factors. First, He always followed the lead of His Father in Heaven. Second, He knew this was not the time in which The Father had called Him to die for our sin.

YOUR TIME IS ALWAYS HERE

Your time is always here He said to His brothers. You can go anywhere you want at any time. You do not have people searching for you to kill you.

⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.

His brothers do not understand why Jesus has to take precautions. Before Chapter 6 the huge crowds following Jesus would have body slammed anyone trying to arrest or hurt Jesus. But now his entourage was much smaller.

He was an easier target. His brothers did not understand these details and dynamics.

Jesus was calling out the sins of those who were part church boss and part politician. No politician wants to be exposed for who they really are, especially in public. This is a threat to their power and control. His brothers did not understand. They saw only the glamor of a prophet who healed people and had exciting exploits. But they did not appreciate the warfare involved in following The Father's plan. They were not there in the desert when Jesus was tempted. So Jesus tells His brothers;...

⁸ You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come.” ⁹ After saying this, he remained in Galilee.

MY TIME HAS NOT YET FULLY COME

His time had not yet FULLY COME. For His time to “**fully come**” Jesus would need the Disciples ready to build the church. And He must die on the Passover. He had to fulfill all the prophecies written about Him. He had a blind man to heal in Chapter 9 to further fulfill Isaiah's

prophecy about bringing sight to the blind. He would raise Lazarus from the dead in Chapter 11. And He needed to ride into Jerusalem in a Triumphal Entry in Chapter 12 to declare openly that He was the King chosen by God. He had to explain the role of The Holy Spirit in chapter 16 and predict His death and resurrection in the same chapter. So, His time had not yet fully come.

¹⁰ But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private.

THEN, HE WENT IN PRIVATE

So the feast of booths was an important feast. Every God fearing person would come to the feast. This feast was about God protecting and dwelling with men. And Jesus is the one who would make this possible. So this feast was about Him. However, He still had some things to accomplish and was not ready to die. If He came with a following He would be easy to spot. He came privately to take in the feast and appreciate His mission which could be seen in the festival if one had kingdom eyes.

¹¹ The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, “Where is he?”

The Jews is a reference to the Jewish Leaders who wanted to kill Him. They could not find Him because He was not with His crowd that followed Him and He did not want to be found. The only one truly capable of the Jedi stuff you see on the movies is Jesus. He escape the clutches of people when necessary and disappear when he had to. In this case He is blending into the massive crowds.

¹² And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, “He is a good man,” others said, “No, he is leading the people astray.”

MUCH MUTTERING

Everyone has an opinion. Some people are optimistic and see the blessings. Others are fault finders and highlight the negative. No matter how well you do, you will have people that highlight the negative.

SOME SAID HE’S A GOOD MAN

Those who looked at the fruit of Jesus' ministry saw the good deeds that he did. He fed people, healed people, and would even raise someone from the dead. He cast out demons and made the bible come alive. He took away the extra rules that the Religious Leaders were adding. It's hard enough to follow the rules that are actually in the bible.

OTHERS SAID HE'S LEADING PEOPLE ASTRAY

Then there were those who saw things from a political and establishment view. Jesus seemed to be calling for a change in the law. Some were leery that he would lead them to abandon the faith for something else. As we all know change of any kind provokes fear.

¹³ Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.

FOR FEAR NO ONE SPOKE OPENLY (they only muttered)

It takes a great deal of courage to speak openly about your faith and your views. If you speak openly and take a stand then those who oppose you will make you a target. You can disagree with those who are ungodly as long as

you keep your mouth shut. But those who have courage from God will end up confess their faith. **Those who believe will speak.** And the courage to speak will come from The Holy Spirit. If you see people speaking boldly about their faith know that you are seeing a miracle. People do not have the courage on their own to speak about their faith in Christ.

We first see this courage displayed in Acts among the Apostles. The result of the power of the Spirit flowing in their lives is that they must testify. They must speak. And this speaking brings glory to God publicly. It foretells the day when every tongue will confess out loud that Jesus is Lord and Christ!

Acts 4:17 (esv)

¹⁷ But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” ¹⁸ So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you

*rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for **we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.**" ²¹ And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.*

Acts 4:31 (esv)

*³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.***

When The Holy Spirit comes down with power God's people gain the boldness to speak the words of life in Jesus Christ.

SUMMARY / CHALLENGE

TAKING IT HOME

1. Are you more interesting in living up to your potential or following Christ?

2. Are you resting and regrouping like Jesus did?
3. Are you feeding on Jesus until you have the courage to speak?
4. Will you pray that God gives you the faith to follow His timing rather than your own?