

## John 7:1-53 **Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem**

### The brothers of Jesus did not believe in Him – Going to the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem

1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him.

2 Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. 3 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. 4 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."

5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

6 Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. 8 You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." 9 When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.

### Jesus went to Jerusalem to the Feast of Tabernacles secretly

10 But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.

11 Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?" 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." 13 However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

### Jesus began teaching openly in the Temple – Jews marveled at His Doctrine

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 wants 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?"

20 The people answered and said, "You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?"

### Healing on the Sabbath – (work) – Righteous Judgment

21 Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one work, and you all marvel. 22 Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. 23 If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? 24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

### Do they know that Jesus is the Messiah?

25 Now some of them from Jerusalem said, "Is this not He whom they seek to kill? 26 But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ?"

27 However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from."

28 Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, "You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. 29 But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me."

30 Then they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

31 And many of the people believed in Him, and said, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?"

### Officers sent to take Jesus

32 The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him. 33 Then Jesus said to them, "I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him who sent Me. 34 You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come." 35 Then the Jews said among themselves, "Where does He intend to go that we shall not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? 36 What is this thing that He said, 'You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come'?"

### Rivers of Living Waters from the Heart – The Holy Spirit

37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

### This is The Prophet – The Messiah – From Galilee?

40 Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? 42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" 43 So there was a division among the people because of Him.

### No man ever spoke like this Man

44 Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

45 Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" 46 The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" 47 Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? 48 Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? 49 But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." 50 Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, 51 Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?" 52 They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

53 And everyone went to his own house. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

- ✠ Jesus had healed the man who had a crippling infirmity for 38 years at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem on the Sabbath, and told the man to take up his bed and walk, which the man did. The Jews challenged him for carrying his bed on the Sabbath. [\[John 5:1-16\]](#)

- ✚ The Jews sought all the more to kill Jesus, because He healed the man on the Sabbath, and because He said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. [John 5:16-18]
  - ✧ The time was probably at the feast of Pentecost (Shavuot).
- ✚ Jesus returned to Galilee and did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. [John 7:1]
- ✚ All males of the Children of Israel were to go to Jerusalem three times each year at the Feasts of the Lord, **Passover** (Pesach), **Pentecost** (Shavuot), and Feast of **Tabernacles** (Sukkot). [Exodus 23:14-17, 34:22-24, Deuteronomy 16:16-17]
  - ✧ Jesus had been in Jerusalem for **Passover** (Pesach). [John 2:23]
  - ✧ Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath on a feast of the Jews, probably **Pentecost** (Shavuot). [John 5:1-18]
  - ✧ Now it is the **Feast of Tabernacles** (Sukkot). [John 7:2]

### The brothers of Jesus did not believe in Him – Going to the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem

- ✚ Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. 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 known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." [John 7:2-4]
  - ✧ For even His brothers did not believe in Him. [John 7:5]
  - ✧ Jesus did indeed have a mother named Mary, and brothers named **James, Joses, Judas, and Simon**, and sisters as well. [Matthew 13:55-56, Mark 6:3]
- ✚ Jesus did not go to Jerusalem openly with His family because His time had not yet come. [John 7:6-9]
  - ✧ The events in the life of Jesus were laid out on a time schedule established by God.
  - ✧ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. [Galatians 4:4-5]
  - ✧ There was a time for Jesus to be arrested and die on the cross as the Passover Lamb, not on the Feast of Sukkot.

### Jesus went to Jerusalem to the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) secretly

- ✚ 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]
- ✚ Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?" [John 7:11]
  - ✧ The concern of Jesus was obviously correct, and the Jews were indeed looking for Him when His family arrived at Jerusalem.
- ✚ And there was much discussion among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people." [John 7:12]
  - ✧ Those who accepted the evidence of the signs Jesus performed, were convinced Jesus was good.
  - ✧ Those who only saw that Jesus did not follow their man-made traditions, were offended by Jesus, and said that Jesus was deceiving the people. Evidenced by the challenges of the Pharisees, Sadducees, Lawyers, Elders, and Chief Priests, all of which should have recognized the truth of who Jesus is from the evidence of Scripture.
- ✚ However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews. [John 7:11-13]
  - ✧ The Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. [John 9:22]

### Jesus began teaching openly in the Temple – Jews marveled at His Doctrine

- ✚ Now **about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught.** [John 7:14]

- ✧ And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?" [\[John 7:15\]](#)
- ✧ The understanding Jesus held of the Scriptures was from a higher source than their studies provided by the most learned of the Jews. Even as a youth at age twelve, Jesus baffled the teachers of the Law in the Temple. [\[Luke 2:41-49\]](#)
- ✚ Jesus answered them and said, "**My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.** If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. 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. [\[John 7:16-18\]](#)
- ✧ Discernment of Truth is found in the doctrine of the teaching. Those who are concerned enough to search out the Will of God in the Scriptures, will recognize that the doctrine of Jesus is perfectly in line with the doctrine of Scripture.
- ✧ The focus of Jesus was to do the Will of God the Father Who sent Him, to the glory of God The Father.
- ✧ There is no unrighteousness in Jesus who sought the glory of God the Father, and was accepted by God the Father Who has given Jesus a name above all names, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, all in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth (the dead), and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. NKJV

- ✧ Those who seek their own glory speak from themselves, and often follow traditional error men have introduced into the law, desiring the approval of men instead of God.
- ✚ Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?" [\[John 7:19\]](#)
- ✧ Jesus knew the hearts of those who resented Him.
- ✧ Their desire to kill Jesus is very good evidence that they do not keep the Law of God, given through Moses, which says: "Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked." [\[Exodus 23:7\]](#)
- ✚ The people answered and said, "You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?" [\[John 7:20\]](#)
- ✧ Here we see that many of the people did not realize that the leaders sought to kill Jesus, therefore they thought that Jesus was paranoid or demon possessed.

### Healing on the Sabbath – (work) – Righteous Judgment

- ✚ Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one work, and you all marvel.
- ✚ Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? [\[John 7:22-23\]](#)
- ✧ The work Jesus spoke of, was the healing of the man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath. [\[John 5:1-16\]](#)
- ✚ Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment." [\[John 7:21-24\]](#)

- ✧ We are to judge for discernment based on the righteous judgments God gave in Holy Scriptures, not according to the commandments of men which change the Spirit and Heart of the Law.
- ✧ Before condemnation of others, we must first consider the evidence of Scriptures so we can make righteous judgments.

### Do they know that Jesus is the Messiah?

- ✧ Now some of them from Jerusalem said, "Is this not He whom they seek to kill? But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ? However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from." [\[John 7:25-27\]](#)
- ✧ Some of the people of the multitude who were from Jerusalem knew that the religious leaders were seeking to kill Jesus.
- ✧ The fact that Jesus was boldly teaching in the Temple where His opponents were congregated, and the rulers did nothing, was evidence that led the people to question if the rulers actually knew that Jesus is truly the Messiah (Christ).
- ✧ Their only question was the place of His origin. Jesus came as a preacher from Galilee, but some thought that no one knew where the Messiah was from. [\[John 7:27\]](#)
- ✧ However some others in the crowd knew that the Messiah is from Bethlehem. None of them knew Jesus was in fact born in Bethlehem. [\[Matthew 2:1-8, Luke 2:1-20\]](#)
- ✧ They thought He could not have been born in Bethlehem, because Herod had killed all the male children in Bethlehem below the age of two. [\[Matthew 2:13-18\]](#)
- ✧ Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, "You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me." [\[John 7:28-29\]](#)
- ✧ Jesus responded to their doubt of His origin by telling them that His origin was not of this earth, but from God Who sent Him.
- ✧ Though the Jews claimed to know the God in Heaven, Jesus said they did not know God at all, but that Jesus Who knew God personally, came to represent God Who sent Him in Truth.
- ✧ Then they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. [\[John 7:30\]](#)
- ✧ Even though Jesus was teaching openly in the Temple in front of His adversaries who wanted to kill Him, no one laid a hand on Him, because His time had not yet come. Passover was still about six months away.
- ✧ There was a time for Jesus to be arrested and die on the cross as the Passover Lamb, not on the Feast of Sukkot.
- ✧ And many of the people believed in Him, and said, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?" [\[John 7:31\]](#)
- ✧ The evidence of the teachings and miracles of Jesus was sufficient to cause many people to believe that Jesus is indeed the Messiah (Christ).
- ✧ The ability to believe was only given to those who were open to honestly consider Who Jesus is based on compelling evidence demonstrated in the life and work of Jesus.

### Officers sent to take Jesus

- ✧ The Pharisees and Chief Priests sent officers to arrest Jesus. [\[John 7:32\]](#)
- ✧ As is the case of most prominent persons, they sent others to accomplish their evil work which they themselves could not do, because they could find no legal violation of their laws in the person of Jesus.

- ✠ Then Jesus said to them, "I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him who sent Me. You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come." [John 7:33-34]
- ✧ Jesus knew that the time of His death was rapidly approaching, after which, though they might seek Him, they would not be allowed to go to Him. [Hebrews 4:1-7]
- ✧ Jesus would return to the Father in Heaven after His Resurrection, where His enemies will not be allowed to follow.
- ✧ Many will come from the east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ✧ Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be in the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ✧ Gentiles from the east and west will be with them in the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ✧ Unbelieving Children of Israel as sons, who should be first in the Kingdom of Heaven, will be cast out into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (torment). [Matthew 7:21-23, 8:11-12, 10:15, 13:40-42, 47-50, 22:1-14, 24:45-51, 25:1-13, 14-30, Mark 10:15, Luke 13:22-30, 18:17]
- ✧ Entry into the Kingdom of Heaven will be based on faith, for the Jew first and also for the Gentiles who believe.
- ✠ Then the Jews said among themselves, "Where does He intend to go that we shall not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? What is this thing that He said, 'You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come'?" [John 7:35-36]
- ✧ The Jewish leaders were so stuck on their own traditional form of religion, they could not understand the message of truth from Jesus, even after He had taught it so many times before and in so many ways.
- ✧ The message of Salvation found in the Gospels is so clear a child can understand, but adults who are brain-set by their traditional ways of worship are blind to the Truth. [Matthew 11:25, Luke 10:21, Colossians 1:26]

### Rivers of Living Waters from the Heart – The Holy Spirit

- ✠ **On the last day, that great day of the feast**, Jesus stood and 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.**" But this He spoke concerning the **Spirit**, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the **Holy Spirit** was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. [John 7:37-39]
- ✧ Speaking of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, which we are promised. [Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 13:16, John 1:33, Acts 11:16]
- ✧ Scriptures make many promises to the power of the Holy Spirit flowing through the lives of the **believers**. [Mark 16:17-18, Luke 11:13, Acts 1:4-8, 4:13-41, Romans 15:19, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, 1 Thessalonians 1:5]
- ✧ The Holy Spirit was not yet given until Jesus ascended on High and sat down at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. [Acts 2:33 (2:1-39)]

### This is The Prophet – The Messiah – From Galilee?

- ✠ Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said;
  - ✧ "Truly this is **the Prophet.**"
  - ✧ Others said, "This is **the Christ.**"
  - ✧ But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"
  - ✧ So there was a division among the people because of Him. [John 7:40-43]
  - ✧ The evidence was compelling, but the people were confused as to which Scripture was being fulfilled.
  - ✧ Actually all of them were correct,

- ✧ Jesus is The Prophet spoken of by Moses. [Deuteronomy 18:15, Acts 3:22-23]
- ✧ Jesus is the Messiah (Christ). [Matthew 1:16-18, 2:1-8, 16:16, 20, 22:42, 27:17, 22, Mark 1:1, 8:29, 12:35, 14:61-62, Luke 2:11, 26, Luke 4:41, 9:20, 20:41-42, 24:26, John 1:17, 41, 4:25-26, 42, 6:69, 10:24-25, 11:25-27, 17:1-5, 20:31, Acts 2:29-39, 3:1-21, 4:10, 23-31, 5:42, 8:37, 9:20-22, 32-35, 10:34-36, 11:15-18] etc.
- ✧ Jesus is mentioned to be the Messiah (Christ) over 500 times in the New Testament alone.

### No man ever spoke like this Man

- ✧ Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. [John 7:44]
  - Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" The officers answered, "**No man ever spoke like this Man!**" [John 7:45-46]
  - ✧ The officers had been sent to arrest Jesus by the Pharisees and Chief Priests. [John 7:32]
  - ✧ Though they wanted to lay their hands on Jesus, they were unable to do so.
  - ✧ Their only answer was; "**No man ever spoke like this Man!**"
- ✧ Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." [John 7:47-49]
  - ✧ The arrogant self righteous Pharisees in their pride held themselves up as the final authority and could not tolerate any other view. "Have any of the rulers of the Pharisees believed in Him?"
  - ✧ **Actually some did believe**, but were afraid of the others, and kept quiet.
  - ✧ Nicodemus was one of them who did believe. At least Nicodemus asked them, "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?" [John 7:50-51]
  - ✧ They turned on Nicodemus as if his question was preposterous. "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." [John 7:52]
  - ✧ Blinded by their own ego, they did not know that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem of Judea just as was spoken by the prophet. [Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1-8, Luke 2:1-20]
  - ✧ They only saw Him as the one from Galilee.
- ✧ And everyone went to his own house. [John 7:53]