

A Study of John's Gospel

Lesson 9: Increasing Conflict (7:1-24)

“My time has not yet come” (7:1-10)

Jesus' half-brothers (Matt 13:55; Mark 6:3) did not understand that He was the Messiah and that He would actually rule over all on a spiritual throne. The scriptures do not indicate that they ridiculed Jesus but they urged Him to go to Jerusalem to prove Himself. They seem to reason that if He wanted to gain the recognition they thought He was seeking, He needed to perform miracles before the Jews gathered at one of the major Jewish feasts. Jesus told them that the “time has not fully come”, speaking of His death. He knew they did not believe in Him.

“Jews sought Him at the feast” (7:11-13)

During His last visit to Jerusalem, Jesus had stirred the crowds and the Jewish leaders by His actions on the Temple grounds, His teaching and His miracles (John 2:13-25). Six months later He attended the Feast of Tabernacles. The Jews knew He would be there and searched for Him. “Jerusalem was abuzz with cautious talk about Jesus among the people gathered for the festival” (Mott). He was living God's purpose to save mankind; a plan so far from man's comprehension.

“My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me” (7:14-24)

Jesus' teaching was profound and His knowledge perplexed the Jewish rulers. Rather than accepting His words, they challenged His source of authority. Jesus now exposes their plot to kill Him on the grounds of their hypocritical accusation of Sabbath-breaking. He goes further and exposes their inconsistent application of the Law concerning the Sabbath day. Jesus instructs those listening that His teachings are from God; He does not speak on His own authority, but upon the words given to Him by His Father. *“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”* (18).

Questions:

1. What did Jesus' brothers urge Him to do (3-4)? What is John's explanation of their proposal (5)?
2. What is the reason, that Jesus states, that the world hates Him (7)?
3. What did Jesus mean when He told His brothers that His “time has not yet come (6)?
4. Why did no one speak “openly” concerning Jesus (13; see also 5:16-18 and 9:22)? Can you see an application in our actions today?
5. Why did the Jews marvel when Jesus spoke (15) and what do you think this meant?
6. How did Jesus explain that the Jews were judging themselves according to their superficial stipulations of the Sabbath when they judged His actions of healing a man on the Sabbath (21-23)?