

The Gospel of John: *The Feast of Tabernacles*

John 7:1-52

God's Timing (v. 1-10)

- Jesus continued His ministry in Galilee for a while because of the opposition of the Jewish leadership
 - They still wanted to kill Him because of healing the man on the Sabbath (5:18)
- When the Feast of Tabernacles was approaching, Jesus' brothers try to convince Him to go back to Jerusalem
 - They did not believe in Him and likely did not appreciate the attention He and they were getting
- He refuses to go on their timetable but travels later in secret

A Good Teacher? (v. 11-24)

- The people have a variety of opinions about who Jesus is
- Once Jesus starts teaching in the Temple courts, the crowds are amazed at His insights, especially because He lacked formal rabbinic training
- Jesus informs them that He is pointing them to the truth of His Father, who sent Him
 - He does not seek His own glory, but only His Father's
 - He tells them not to judge by appearances

A Question of Identity (v. 25-44)

- The crowd is divided over Jesus' identity
 - Some think He is the Messiah because of the signs He performs and His teaching
 - Others question this because they think that He is from Galilee when Scripture points to the Messiah being from Bethlehem
 - Matthew & Luke inform us that Jesus was born in Bethlehem because of His Davidic lineage
- Jesus tells them that He is going away to a place that cannot follow
 - This is a cryptic reference to His death, resurrection, & ascension
- He offers those who believe in Him living water (4:10), meaning the Holy Spirit
 - The Feast of Tabernacles was a time of remembrance of God's provision for the Israelites during the 40 years in the wilderness
 - Jesus is utilizing the imagery of God's repeated miraculously provision of water in the desert

Denial & Unbelief (v. 45-52)

- The Temple guards, whom the religious leaders had instructed to arrest Jesus, are likewise amazed
- Some of the Pharisees claim that both the guards & the crowds are deceived because none of their own have believed in Jesus
- But Nicodemus (3:1-21) speaks up in Jesus' defense, saying that they should hear from Him directly
 - He alludes to the OT Law
 - They show their ignorance of Scripture, saying no prophet comes from Galilee
 - Isaiah prophesied that there would be (Isa 9:1-2)

So What?

- What do we believe about Jesus?
 - Is He just a good teacher, a prophet, or a miracle worker?
 - Or is He the Messiah, the Son of God and King of the World?
- Is He alone where we place our hope?

Meditation Verse: John 7:38

Next Week's Scripture: John 7:53-8:11