

Let's Go And Party

ARC We ashamed of Christ?

Title: ~~No Man spoke Openly of Him~~

Text: John 7:1-13

John chapter 7, please, beginning at Vs 1. ^(3A) As we continue to look at the reaction that is building up to the ministry of Jesus. In the beginning there was a tremendous response to him. People and the crowds were excited in what he was doing. Then we noticed as it has been woven in through out the text a building reaction against him. And it is going to go all the way to the cross.

John chapter 7 beginning with Vs 1.....(READ Vs 1-13)

Let's join together in prayer

We begin chapter 7 verse 1, "after these things Jesus was walking in Galilee," Literally he was walking in Galilee as a habit of life in contrast to Judea. The Bible says that he would not walk in Judea because the Jews sought to kill him. Vs 2 says the "Feast of ^{Booths} Tabernacles was at hand." *That is the Feast of Tabernacles*

Now, I want you to notice the circumstances that were involved. We are going to study this this morning in these first 13 verses. Several things here.

(1) First of all, I would like to notice the plot of the Jews, ~~that~~ ^{that} was set in motion in trying to get rid of Jesus. That is the first circumstance that caughts our attention. About this feast of Tabernacles. It was a definite plot of the Jews.

Now, when you read "the Jews" literaly it is "the Judeans," ~~it~~ ^{it} is refering to the religious leaders. Often in speaking of the Jews there are other Jews who talk beside "the Jews." "The Jews" is referring to the religious leaders. And there was a host of them. Chief Priests, scribes, Pharaseees, etc. There was a great host of religious leaders.

But the average person who was just a citizen of the country was never refered to as "the Jews." So, we have here a plot by the Jewish leaders.

In Vs 1 it says that "the Jews were seeking to kill~~y~~ him." This is in a tense in Greek which means "as a habit of life." These Jewish leaders were plotting and continually seeking ways to get rid of Jesus. It was a contineous effort to kill him because of who he cliamed to be.

(2) The second thing that I want you to notice is the purpose of the brothers. ~~_____~~

Vs 3 says, "His brothers therefore said to Him, 'Depart from here, and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may behold your works with you are doing. For no one does anything in secret, when he himself seeks to be known publicly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.'"

It is very difficult to discern what the brothers of Jesus were saying here. But there are several things that I would like to draw your attention to.

In Vs 3 it says "His brothers therefore, ..saide to Him." The "therefore" is in the light of chapter 6 verese 66,. I believe. Look back at that verse, please. Verese 66 of chapter 6 says, "as a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him any more."

Then reading Vs 3, "His brothers, therefore said to him." The point is: since he lost disciples here in His Galilean ministry, why waste your time on these little small villages, let's go up to the big city, Jeusalem. And let's go at feast time. Lot's people there.

And literally they are saying to Jesus, " Do your thing there." There are more peole. And let's forget these folks here in Galilee. After all they haven't responded to well. So, I believe, the "therefore" is referring back to verse 66 of Chapter 6 when some of his disciples desided to walk no longer with him.

Now, his brothers were not believers according to Vs 5. His brothers did not believe in Jesus. They said, "Depart from here. Get out of here. Let's go up to Jersuallem."

And in the middle of verse 4 you find this statement, "If you do these things, show yourself to the world."

What does "these things" refer to? Possible referring back to mircles of the loaves.. feeding of the 5 thousand, or back to the healing of the lame man, which he did on the Sabbath. And of course that cause anger with the religious leaders. And he had made himself equal with God by saying that not only is my Father working, but I am also worksing. And that even includes the Sabbath day. That he was not violating the Sabbath by heahing the lame man. And that was the beginning of trouble.

And so the brothers of Jesus are saying "since you are doing these things then show yourself to the world."

Now, some folks read Vs 4 wrong. That is, that the brothers were questioning whether there was a miracle performed. "If you do these things" meaning "probability."

"if" and you really are not. But if you were. But that is not in the Greek text. In the Greek text, the condition is a "fact." A statement of fact. Literally, it could be translated "Since you do these things. Listen, his brothers could not deny the miracles that he was doing. Don't you think they were not watching him. They were. And this text proves it. If you saw a miracle happen right here, right now, in front of your eyes, that is no guarantee that you would believe in Jesus.

Why his brothers grew up with Jesus. And they did not believe in him. and literally it says, "Since you are doing these things" which is obvious. And we all know that you are. Well, then why don't you show yourself to the world. Naturally, being his brothers, think of the popularity that would come to them. No doubt they thought that they would share in that glory. But his brothers did not believe in Him.

How could they believe the miracles and know that he did them. And yet, not believe in Him? The same way that you today can believe in miracles, or be like the crowds that were fed by the loaves...you could see and experience that miracle, but they didn't believe in Jesus. And Jesus didn't believe in them.

You see, there is a great difference between believing in the historicity of Jesus, the fact that he existed, or in the trustworthiness of the miracles, the fact that they also existed, You may believe in miracles, but that doesn't mean that you are believing, personally in Jesus Christ as your only saviour. A lot of people know about Jesus. and they know what he did. And will even accept the miracles as being fact. But, that does not mean that you are a true believer in Jesus Christ.

To believe in Jesus is to trust Him for your eternal salvation. To recognize that He is the only way to heaven. And without him you can do nothing. His brothers simply did not believe in Him.

I remind you that Jesus had brothers. People often ask me, Did Jesus really have brothers? They ask because some people teach that Jesus never really had any live brothers. And this passage is only referring relatives such as cousins. But he didn't have brothers. They don't want Mary to have had other children. Some believe that Mary never ever had relationship with Joseph. That is not true. The bible teaches that she did. After the birth of Jesus which was a virgin birth, Mary had not know anyone, physically.

And Jesus was supernaturally conceived of the Holy Spirit. He did not have a natural father. Jesus had no sin nature, at all. He was totally apart from sin. And the Bible says that He was God incarnate in human flesh. God performed the miracle of miracles in putting a baby in the womb of Mary without a human father.

But, following that she had many children. And you will find that answer in Mark chapter 6 verse 3. Jesus also had some sisters. But, the four brothers of Jesus are named. There was James, and there was Joseph, and there was Judas, and there was Simon.

Now, those were common names. And you would find many men having those names.

The thing that excites me about this passage in John 7 is that you read his brothers at this point didn't believe in Him, but isn't it great to know that God changed their hearts. For James, himself, a physical brother of Jesus became the great leader of the church in Jerusalem. The church that grew to over 30 thousand. That Pastor was James, the brother of Jesus.

You say, "I thought it was James, the brother of John?" NO...that is another James, one of the apostles. James the Apostle was the first Apostle to be martyred. In Acts chapter 12 we find that he dies early. But, by Acts 15 and the council of Jerusalem there is a James leading the whole council.

I found in Acts 12 an interesting passage. And I would like you to turn there, please. Just to see the development from John 7 and how God worked and changed these men's hearts. Which ought to prove to us that even though we might live with Jesus for 33 years, that is no guarantee that we will believe in him. That takes the power of God to change a person's heart.

In Acts 12 verse 17, Peter had been in jail, and the angel of the Lord had performed a miracle, He came out of that jail and the prayer meeting that was going on in this home, was absolutely surprised that Peter was freed. Vs 17 says..."But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, He(Peter) described to them how the Lord had let him out of the prison. And he said, 'Report these things to James and the brethren.'"

But back in Vs 2 of chapter 12 we learn that Herod had James the brother of John put to death with a sword.

So, this is James the brother of our Lord. Look over at Chapter 15, please. Chapter 15 verse 13. Here is the great council of Jerusalem. When Gentiles were becoming converted. The early church was basically a Jewish church. And Gentiles were converted. So, the question became should they submit to the O.T. regulations? This was a great controversy. And so a council was held. But Vs 13 says, "And after they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, "Brethren, listen to me."

He seems to be in charge. This is James the brother of our Lord. Over to chapter 21, please. Acts chapter 21 verse 17 and 18. "And when we (that is Paul and Luke) had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. And now the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present."

All the elders of the church in Jerusalem. Yet, James is again marked out as the leader.

And how thrilling it is to know that the book of James in our N.T. was written by the brother of our Lord. That wonderful book that shows us that faith results in life and practice. That shows us that real faith produces works. It was James, the brother of our Lord who wrote that book.

Yet, on one occasion in John chapter 7, he did not believe in Jesus. And isn't it also thrilling to know that Jude who was a brother of James and Jesus, Jude who is mentioned in Mark 6:3 wrote the book of Jude. But, in John 7, at that time he did not believe in Jesus Christ.

God can change anyone. And no matter how much you know about Jesus. And certainly those brothers knew the inside story. From the beginning they knew what he was like. They grew up with him. They heard him speak. They saw his miracles. But that is no guarantee that you will believe.

But, I am thankful that one day God got a whole of their hearts. And one day those men were wonderfully converted. And they became great leaders. You may be religious, but you may not be saved. You may know a lot about Jesus, but you may not be born of the Spirit of God.

But, God at any time can take anyone of us and change us in a moment of time. And I am so thrilled that He did that with those brothers of Jesus.

By the way, this a fulfillment of prophecy back there in John 7. In Psalms 69:8 the Bible predicted that the brothers of Jesus would not believe in Him. So, they were fulfilling prophecy in John chapter 7 verse 5 when says that his brothers would not believe in him.

Now, I want to take a few moments to comment on the Feast of Tabernacles. I would like to share with you the Feast of Tabernacles because it is going to effect everything that you see later in the chapter. Vs 2 simply says that the "feast of the Jews, the Feast of Tabernacles, was at hand."

Now, the facts on that Feast you will find in two passages. You will find it in Leviticus chapter 23 verse 34-44. And Numbers chapter 29 verses 12-40. And in those two passages we have the teaching concerning the Feast of Tabernacles.

Now, there are only two occasions in the Bible where the Feast of Tabernacles was observed and it was recorded. Only two occasions.

One, is in I Kings 8. In the days of Solomon when he had completed and dedicated the temple they celebrated a Feast of Tabernacles. And you can read about it in I Kings chapter 8.

And the second occasion that it is recorded is in Nehemiah chapter 8. And this is when the Jewish remnant came out of captivity in Babylon. When they returned to Palestine. And the Bible says they celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles.

Now, let me share with you 7 facts about that feast. I want you to know why this feast is important in understanding John chapter 7. So, take this 7 facts down. And please keep them handy as we study this chapter.

(1) Number one, it begins on the 15th day of the seventh month. Usually in our October. The first month of the Jewish year is usually around April, our time.

So, the Feast of Tabernacles begins on the 15th day of the seventh month.

(2) Number two, the feast lasted for eight days. The feast lasted for 8 days.

(3) Number three, it was a holy convocation. A holy convocation on the first and last days of that feast. On day 1 and day 8 it was a holy convocation. It was to be treated like Sabbath days no matter if it fell on Saturday or any other day of the week. They were Sabbath days. The first day of the feast and the 8th day of the feast.

That is also true of the Feast of Unleaven bread. Which starts the day after Passover. And that is very important because Jesus did not die on Friday. He died on Wednesday. And if you want to know why they had to take Him down from the cross because the next day was a high holy day or a Sabbath day, the reason is because the first day of the Feast of Unleaven bread is a Sabbath. There was really only one day that the women could have gone under the O.T. law to prepare the spices. And that would have been Friday. And Friday was in between two Sabbaths. The normal one on Saturday. And the one on Thursday which would have been the first day of the Feast of Unleaven bread. Wednesday was the Passover of that week our Lord died. And he died at 3:00 on that day. So, he was literally three days and three nights in the tomb. Each of these feast, especially and 8 day feast begins with a Sabbath and ends with a Sabbath. Please keep that in your notes and in your minds. We will not get to it today. But later on it will be very important in your understanding.,

By the way, in this holy convocation they were to make an offering of fire unto the Lord. There were burnt offerings going on the first day and the eight day.

(4) Number four. It was a feast of the gathering in of the harvest. You know, one of the Jewish feast is called the feast of first fruits. The Bible says concerning Jesus and his resurrection that Jesus is the "first fruits." We find this in I Cor. 15. First fruits of what? Of the final harvest at the end of the age. All believers being gathered together. Well, the feast of Tabernacles celebrated the gathering in of the harvest.

(5) Number five. It began by taking branches from trees which were then waved in the air by the people. And there was rejoicing in the Lord.

It was a feast of victory and happiness in other words. They took branches of palm trees and willow tress. And they waved them in the air. It was a feast of rejoicing. The harvest had been gathered. And they were happy.

The Feast of Tabernacles in contrast to many other somber feast of the Jews, this one was one of joy and happiness.

(6) Number six. During the feast all the Jews were to dwell in tents for seven days. And the purpose was to remember their jouney in the wilderness. Please keep that one in mind. It will also effect your understanding of John chapter 7.

And so if you went to the Feast of Tabernacles you would find all the people dwelling in tents outside the main gate into the city of Jesusaelm.

(7) And number seven. This feast was to be celebrated for ever. And it is going to be re-instated in the land of Palestine during the one thousand year reign of Christon earth. The feast of Tabernacles will be re-established.

Now, there are three feast in which every Jews male had to go to Jersuelem to the temple. He had to go to the Feast of Passover..the Feast of Pentecost....and the Feast of Tabernacles. That is three out of the 7 feasts. They had togo to Jersuelam. So, get the picture. The reason why his brothers wanted Him to go is because all of the Jewish males in the Roman world, 20 years and above, were there. What a time. What an oportuntiy.

So, theysaid, "God show yourself." Show your miracles there. I bet those people will believe. Back to John chapter 7, please.

The first thing we mentioned was the plot. Second, was the purpose of the brothers. (3) Third, I want you to notice the plea of Jesus to his brothers in verses 6 to 8. This is verytouching. Jesus said in Vs 6.....(READ Vs 6-8)

You know, this is beautiful the way Jesus turned to his brothers and said, "Your time is always oportune or ready."

And what Jesus is saying here is that your time to display yourself before the world is all the time. But, not for me. There motivation was to gain the approval of the world. Your time is always ready to gain the approval of the world. Jesus didn't come to gain the approval of the world. Jesus didn't come to prove a point. Jesus came to die on a cross for the sins of the whole world. "The son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

And there purpose was not the purpose of the son of God. and so, he wasn't saying, it is time now for you to be saved. He was saying that your time for openly displaying yourselves is now. You are always wanting to do that. Ypu want the approval of the world. But that is not what I want.

Some people believe that Jesus tricked these men. He said you guys go on up to the feast. I am not going to go. But, then he went.

But, if you read it carefully in vs 8 He didn't trick them. Because he said "I do not go yet." He did go up. He didn't say "I will not go." He said, "I am not going yet."

And that causes me to say this. If you see the historical background, you will understand what is happening. When they went up to the feast and yuou traveled from Jerioh to Jersuelam, you always traved in caravans. They traveled with lots of people. And Jesus did not want to go in those public caravans. To travel with all those peop¹/₂le and have his brothers say, "why don't you prove yourself. Why don't you show yourself/"

Jesus had other motivations. And he wanted to go privately up to the feast. And so he said to them, not to offend them, "You fellow go on up, I am not going yet."

I think his brothers made a big mistake here. You see, if they had really been tuned into the Lord, they would rather have spent time with Jesus no matter where He was. And they would have forgotten all about the feast. That sort of hit me. Because most of us would rather go to a dinner then to fellowship with Jesus. There hearts were so far from their own brother. They saw the miracles He did and spent so much time wsth Him. But thier hearts were far from Him. Like many of us.

(4) The fourth thing I want you to notice is His presence at the feast. This is found in verses 9 to 13. And there are three things that I would like to share with you.

(1) Number one, in vs 10, I would like you to notice the secrecy of it.

Jesus did not intend to be public. He wanted to be private. Vs 10 says , "But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He himself also went up not publicly, but as it were , in secret."

(2)Then, secondly, I would like you to notice the search that the Jews were making in Vs 11.

It says, "The Jews--meaning: the Jewish leaders -- were seeking Him at the fest, and were saying, 'Where is He?'"

I like the Greek text here. Because the question was, "Where is that one." And that tells you one thing. The intensity of that plot, this desire to kill Jesus, is not so severe that all they had to say when they walked around the feast was, "where that one" ..Hay! you know who we mean.

It gives you some idea about the atmosphere that Jesus walked into when He came to the feast of Tabernacle. The Jewish leaders are looking every where for Him. The crowds of people, thousands upon thousands, have come from all over the Roman empire, and these Jewish leaders trying to find Jesus.

(3)The third thing I want you to noitice is strife the people caused over Him in Vs 12-13.

There was much grumbling among the multitudes concerning him. Another text says that there was great grumbling. It was tremendous. The people were really stired up . They were realy upset that Jesus might attend. And whgat right does He have to claim what He claims.

Thee were three reactions here. Vs 12 says that "some were saying that he is a good man; others were saying 'No, on the contrary, He leads the multitude astray. Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jewws."

Do you see the contrast? On the one hand some were saying that He was a good man. On the other hand some were saying that he leads the multitude astray.

The point athat I am making is that isn't it fascinating how the same crowd seeing and hearing the same things can be so divided?

In this audience, here today, the majority are in unity. But there are some that are still divided over the person of Jesus Christ. They were divided then.

(1) None, he was good. He is a good man. That really isn't enough. Jesus said, "thee iis none good, but one, namely God." He said that to a rich young man who wanted to know how he could inherit eternal life. What good thing he could do to have eternal life. And Jesus said, because he had called Jesus a "good teacher, a good master"...in response Jesus said, "Why do you call me good, there is none good, but one, and that is God.

Some people look at that text and say, "You see, Jesus doesn't claim to be God." Are you kidding. It is just the opposite. The point is...If I am God, ther. I am good. If I am not God, then I am not good. So why would you ask the question about eternal life from me?"

There is non good but one, and that is God. Perfect in every way. No sin involved. He is good, they said.

(2)But secondly, some saaid "he leads the people astray." You know, when I look at some of the ways that the gospel is presented, there doesn't seem to be much difference. People today make all kinds of claims about Jesus. And they claim if you follow Jesus he will lead you astry. Of course the opposite is true. If you do follow Jesus, he will never lead you astry.....Praise God.

(3) And the third reaction realy hit me in Vs 13..Yet, no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews."

FearGreat fear amongst the people of the Jewish leaders.

Turn , ple3ase, to Acts 5..Acts chapter 5 be~~g~~ing with Vs 1~~2~~²....The apostle was preaching in the name of Jesus. And the name of Jesus would strick fear in the hearts of those who were listening. and conviction would come to their hearts as Peter preached in the name of Jesus. VS 12 says....(Read Vs 12-14)

This is the same thing we find inJohn chapter 7. "No one dared associate with him." No one spoke opening of him, says John 7.

Proverbs 29:25 says "the fear of man bringth a snare." And yet Paul wrotein Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

I wander...Where do youstand? No one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

Some of us, without that problem of persecution, without that fear of religious leaders trying to kill him, yet, still we do not speak openly of him.

The Bible says that God has not given to us the spirit of fear, but of love and power and a sound mind. Philippians 1:20 says that in nothing should we be ashamed. But in all boldnes Christ shall be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death."

Dear friends, are we ashamed of Christ? Or, do we speak openly of him with out fear. Knwqing that in Christ we have heope...life....joy.....and the message of salvation to all who are lost.

Let us close in prayer