

Jesus' Brothers Ridicule Him

John 7:1-10

In John Chapter Five, while in Jerusalem, Jesus healed a lame man. Because of this miracle which took place on the Sabbath, and Jesus' claim to be the Son of God the Jewish religious leaders sought to kill Him (John 5:16-18). Jesus left Judea and went north to Galilee because it was safe there. After feeding five thousand with five loaves and two fish He went to nearby Capernaum and there boldly proclaimed He was the Messiah and that salvation was through Him alone. Many of those five thousand who He had fed "did not believe His claim and they no longer followed Him" (John 6:66).

"The Feast of Tabernacles, also called Booths, is described in Leviticus 23:33-44 and comes about six months after the Feast of Passover (John 6:4) This was the third feast that required a pilgrimage by Jews to Jerusalem in order to worship in the temple and offer sacrifices to the Lord. This feast remembers Israel's deliverance from Egypt and their subsequent wandering in the wilderness for forty years. During this time Israel lived in tents and worshiped at the Tabernacle which was also a tent. To remember God's deliverance, during this feast the Jews built small tabernacles or booths from branches (as God instructed in Leviticus 23:42) and lived in them for seven days.

Read John 7:1-10

v.1 – Here Jesus is staying near his home town of Nazareth because the Jewish leaders in Judea wanted to kill Him because of His claim to be the Son of God. Look up John 5:16-18

It was not a lack of courage that made Jesus go to Galilee, but an awareness of the Father's perfect timing (7:6).

v.2 – Three feasts required all Jewish males to come to Jerusalem: (1) the feast of the Passover & Unleavened Bread, (2) the Feast of the Weeks, called Pentecost, and (3) the Feast of Tabernacles.

v.3 – Before His death and resurrection the brothers of Jesus never seemed to be supportive of His ministry. In fact they said "He is out of his mind" (Mark 3:21). It was not until after His work on Calvary that they acknowledged His true identity. Look up: Acts 1:12-14

Some people consider it blasphemous to voice the implication that (The Virgin) Mary had sexual relations with her husband Joseph and conceived additional children after Jesus' Immaculate Conception. The Bible is very clear however that this is exactly what happened. Look up: Matthew 1:24-25, Matthew 12:46, Matthew 13:55

v.3-5 - Basically Jesus' brothers are condescending Him, saying: "Okay big-shot, If you really do have all this miraculous power, why don't you go to Jerusalem where anybody who's anybody will be and make yourself famous?"

The "New Living Translation" says it this way: "You can't become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!" – John 7:4

v.6-9 - Jesus told His brothers, "You go to the feast; it's not yet the proper time for me to publicly draw attention to myself" (as His brothers wanted). But as we see in v.10, that did not stop Jesus from going to the feast secretly. In Jesus' life as well as our own, the Father's timing is just as important as His will. Many stumble because they sense they know God's will, but they move ahead of His timing. This approach will always bring disappointment and frustration. Can you recall a time when you experienced this truth?

v.10 – The religious leaders hated Jesus and the threat that He posed to their teaching and power. The more Jesus taught and worked publicly the more these leaders would cause trouble for Him and His followers. So until His time had come, it was often necessary for Jesus to work quietly. Look up: Matthew 12:15-16, Matthew 16:20-21

Jesus knows the pressures that His followers who stand boldly for Him face today. He who became flesh and made his dwelling among us (John 1:14) fully knows our pain and can empathize with us because He Himself was ridiculed: "Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country. – John 4:44"

How does the Living Word of God express how we should deal with ridicule and persecution experienced because of our pronouncement of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? Look up: Matthew 5:11, Mark 8:38, Hebrews 12:1-3

"All your commands are trustworthy; help me, for men persecute me without cause" – Psalm 119:86