

# *Jesus Teaches Openly During the Feast*

*John 7:10-53*

Just prior to this passage of scripture Jesus was staying in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea (Jerusalem). Some of the Jewish religious leaders there were trying to kill Jesus after He healed of a lame man on the Sabbath and for His claim to be the Son of God (5:18; 7:1). Here Jesus attends the Feast of the Tabernacle in Jerusalem; first discretely, not making His presence known. But then halfway through (3-4 days later) Jesus begins to teach openly in the temple courts (7:14, 26). This passage shows the many reactions toward Jesus. They called Him a good man (7:12), a deceiver (7:12), a demon possessed man (7:20), the Christ (7:26) and the Prophet (7:40).

## **Read John 7:10-15**

v.13 – Everyone was talking about Jesus, but no one dared to defend Him publicly. The religious leaders had a great deal of power over the people. They threatened to drive out anyone from the synagogue (a severe punishment for these repressed and dependent people) who might openly support Jesus. Look up: John 9:22, John 12:42

v. 14-15 – Why did the Jews marvel at Christ’s teaching?

## **Read John 7:16-32**

v.16- Jesus doesn’t point to His credentials, but to His teaching (or “*doctrine*” – KJV). It is as if He says, “*I don’t have a seminary degree, but judge me by the doctrine I proclaim.*” If the Jewish leaders listened carefully to the doctrine of Jesus, they would know that it was all rooted in the Old Testament Scriptures, and that it was from God.

v.17- What must one do before he can know the teaching of Jesus to be that of God?

v.19 - Because He healed a man on the Sabbath, the rulers wanted to kill Jesus (John 5:16). Most of the people were not aware of this plot and were still trying to decide what they would believe about this man.

v.22-23 – “Moses” and the “Law of Moses” were prominent subjects during the feast of the Tabernacles. Look up: Deuteronomy 31:10-11

v.27 – There was a common belief that “The Messiah” would just appear. Those who believed this false teaching were ignoring the Old Testament Scriptures that clearly state the Messiah’s birthplace. Look up: Micah 5:2-5a

v.31-32 – The religious leaders, threatened by Jesus’ teaching send officers to arrest Him. But many in the crowd put their faith in him on the basis of the signs they have seen. The Contemporary English Version says: “*When the Messiah comes, he surely won’t perform more miracles than this man has done!*”

v.37 - On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, large crowds gathered as water was poured out at the altar to remind everyone of the water God miraculously provided for a thirsty Israel in the wilderness. Look up: Exodus 17:5-6

v.38 - The water of the Holy Spirit not only indwells an individual, but it also flows out from within him. Not only does the believer receive blessing, but he becomes a blessing to others.

v.39 - John speaks of Jesus’ coming work at the cross as being *glorified*. The sacrifice on Calvary is the necessary prelude to the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the cross is seen as glory, not shame. Look up: John 12:23, John 16:7

## **Read John 7:33-53**

v.40-43 – Some believed, others were hostile, and others disqualified Jesus as the Messiah because He was from Nazareth, not Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). But Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7), although this crowd knew Him as the boy who grew up in Nazareth. If they had looked more carefully they would not have been mistaken.

Everyone has an opinion about Christ. One cannot be confronted with Jesus and remain neutral; false neutrality is rejection, and is the same as open hostility. Look up: Revelation 3:15-16

v.43 - Jesus is a divider of men. Because we cannot be of two opinions about Jesus, some will be for Him and others will be against Him. This is subject that Jesus Himself repeated often. Look up: Matthew 10:34-36

v.45-46- Although the Romans ruled Palestine, they gave the Jewish religious leaders authority over their minor civil and religious affairs. The Pharisees supervised their own temple guards. How did Jesus’ words affect these officers?

v.50-52- Nicodemus, who had previously sought Jesus under the cover of night, had apparently become a believer. Nicodemus was not merely one of the crowd, but a Pharisee and member of the Jewish ruling council (John 3:1). Nicodemus risked his high position when he spoke up for Jesus.

After Jesus’ death Nicodemus brought spices for His body (John 19:39).