

## Bibles???

### The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bible with me to John 7

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the Gospel of John –

And in our text this morning, we are going to see the importance of walking according to His word.

Let's pray...

**[Jhn 7:1-10 NKJV] 1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him.**

After these things at the beginning of chapter seven, refers to the hard truth that Jesus revealed to His followers and the religious rulers back in the synagogue in Capernaum.

He clearly told them that He was the Bread of Life that came down from Heaven

And He made it clear that the manna that their ancestors had eaten in the wilderness was simply a temporary bread – that pointed to Him

Jesus revealed to them and to us that He is the sustainer of eternal life.

He pretty much told them,

“If you eat physical bread – you will be hungry again, but if you eat of the bread that I offer – you will live forever”

And when He revealed to them, the cost of discipleship – that they were to consume of Him, that they were to drink of Him, that they were to count the cost –

Many of those that followed Jesus, many of those that had seen Him perform signs, many of those who had been beneficiaries of some of those signs – they walked away.

It was too hard for them to accept – so they turned their back on Jesus.

That is when Jesus turned to His disciples and said, “Do you also want to go away?”

And Peter responded for the 12 with “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. “Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

So Jesus is left with the 12

The crowds have all dispersed, and Jesus continued to make His way round the region of Galilee - He continued His ministry. He continued to “walk” in Galilee, but focusing His ministry more on His disciples – as He prepared them for the ordeal that was soon to come.

And John hints at the ordeal that was to come.

The Jews – the religious rulers back in Judea, they were already conspiring on how they can do away with Jesus.

Remember, all this began with Jesus healing the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath.

And from that moment on, the religious rulers wanted to kill Him.

It is important to note -

Jesus will not be afraid of dying when the time is right.

But for now, He is being careful.

It is not God's time for Him to die.

**2 Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.**

John lets us know here that the Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.

And he does it for two reasons.

**The first reason is to provide a time stamp of where we are at.**

The feeding of the 5000 in chapter 6 – occurred around Passover – John 6:4 tells us that.

The Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Booths as it is sometimes referred to, occurs 6 months after Passover.

So, here we are 6 months later.

This also means that we are only 6 months away from Jesus being crucified and His Resurrection.

The second reason that I believe that John mentions the Feast of Tabernacles is because of its significance.

The Feast of Tabernacles was one of the three feasts at which God commanded all the Israelite men to appear before the Lord.

In other words, they were supposed to take a holiday, travel to Jerusalem, and worship the Lord.

The other two feasts were Passover and Pentecost

During the Feast of Tabernacles, the people would build tents and camp out with their family for a week.

It was an intense time of remembrance and reflection of what God had done

It was meant to remember those forty years in the wilderness when the people lived in tents alongside God's "Tabernacle".

It was meant to remember those forty years when God sustained them.

Not only did God provide for them water and manna – but He also provided for them shade during the hot day and a pillar of fire at night for warmth and direction.

It was meant to remember that their ancestors tabernacled with God's glory right in their midst.

God was "camping" with them.

In a sense it too was a picture of Jesus. John wrote,

**(Jn 1:14 NKJV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

The word "dwelt" is literally "pitched His tent".

So here is the thing church,

Jesus is tabernacling among them –

He is sustaining them physically – He has revealed to them that only He can sustain them spiritually –

And He is being rejected because of their unbelief.

**3 His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. 4 "For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, **show Yourself** to the world." 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.**

Turn with me to Matt 1

**[Mat 1:22-25 NKJV] 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and **did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son.** And he called His name JESUS.**

Now, the scriptures do not tell us where Jesus' family lived – but it could possibly be that it was in or near Nazareth where He grew up.

And the reason that we read this portion from Matthew's gospel is that it comes as a bit of a surprise to some people to read that Jesus had brothers.

The Bible here clearly discredits the false teaching that Mary didn't have any more children other than Jesus and that she was a perpetual virgin being married to Joseph. After Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph had normal, intimate, marital relations that resulted in half brothers and half sisters.

In fact, in Mark 6 and Matt 13 – they even provide us with some of their names.

You see church, this is an example, throughout the scriptures of how traditions and the teachings of men can overshadow and even overtake the clear teaching of the bible.

So John is telling us here that Jesus' half-brothers – the ones He grew alongside of.

They didn't believe that He was the Messiah.

You might ask yourself, didn't Joseph and Mary explain to them about His miraculous birth?

Of course they did – they just didn't believe it.

There were rumors going around that Jesus was born out of fornication – we will see in a few weeks in chapter 8, that the Pharisees will make this accusation against Jesus.

(8:41)

So maybe the brothers started to believe these rumors –

Maybe dad and mom were trying to cover up something???

It could even be that they were there when Jesus turned water into wine (we know Mary was there for sure)– yet they still did not believe.

To His own brothers, Jesus was just the eldest brother.

Oh sure, he was a good kid – in fact, it was hard to think of a single thing he did wrong.

But He didn't perform tricks; He didn't wiggle His nose & do all the dishes, dust the furniture, complete all the ironing, & vacuum the floor.

He didn't make clay animals then bring them to life as gifts for His friends.

He didn't give evidence to being anything other than a faithful & obedient son.

Now, the scriptures do tell us that James and Jude did believe – after the resurrection.

So here His brothers come up to Jesus and pretty much say,

“Jesus, if you are really the Messiah and you want people to recognize you as the Messiah – maybe it’s time you stop running around Galilee and head on over to Jerusalem where all the people are”

To put it in today’s terms – “If you really want to be popular – stop hanging around Nogales and go to L.A. or New York – you need to be active on social media Jesus – open up a Tick tok account”

They are offering worldly wisdom to Him.

It’s logical advice, its practical advice – it makes sense.

**Except – it is not council from God.**

Notice that they were not suggesting that Jesus do something sinful –

It just wasn’t from the Lord.

And this brings about a very important application -

Church, when we are receiving council from friends or even council from people that are close to us and council of any kind – we need to be careful to hear form the Lord and obey Him.

One of the things I have learned in my 48 years is that everyone seems to have an opinion – is that true or not true?



And 99.9% of everyone wants to share their opinion

Everyone has an opinion but only God's opinion matters – it is very important to grasp that.

We may even seek out the opinion of people –

**[Pro 15:22 NKJV] 22 Without counsel, plans go awry (*a rye*), But in the multitude of counselors they are established.**

But there is also confusion as people weigh in on their opinion on your life – especially if they don't seek the Lord.

Church, I know this – good council will be confirmed by the Holy Spirit in your life.

We want to be able to base our lives not on the whims, the wishes and even the pressures of people – we want to base our life on the word of God

If we can't and we are not able to, then we should pause and wait for the Word to speak to our situation.

The bible says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

And what happens church is that we begin to fear man – we start to entertain their opinion (because we want to please man) and in the process this causes us to not hear what the Lord is saying.

Not all council is wise and not all council is good, we should be careful to hear from the Lord and hear His approval and His confirmation.

**6 Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.**

Jesus lived according to a different time zone than the rest of the world.

He lived according to His Father's time.

And what Jesus is saying here is that -

He is living out a predetermined protocol for His life.

He is living according to a different clock – God's clock

By the way – did you know that as believers, we also live by God's clock

**[Eph 2:10 NKJV] 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

We too are living according to a predetermined protocol for our life.

You see, Jesus says my time has not yet come because He is living according to a different clock – but He says to them –

“Your time is always ready” – you go by a different clock – the world's clock

I wait – you run

I sit, you go

I follow God, you follow yourself

The flesh is always ready – ready for what? Sin

The spirit waits

The flesh is not disciplined

The Spirit is disciplined

**7 "The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. 8 "You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." 9 When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.**

JC Ryle – an old dead guy -

“They could have and would have tolerated anything but this. Rejecting Him as messiah and ignoring Him and His miracles they could do, and do with proficiency. But it was His holy proximity to their sinful lives that they could not stand any longer.”

The world hates Jesus because He is Light

The world was not going to hate Jesus' brothers because they didn't believe in Him and because they had no profession of principles that were in opposition to the world.

They behaved just like the world

And this is the distinction between a believer and a nonbeliever

The world doesn't hate unbelievers

But, ultimately the world hates believers

Church, this is why we must guard our hearts against compromise.

**[Jhn 15:18-19 NKJV] 18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before [it hated] you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.**

I cannot help to think of James – one of Jesus' half-brother who Jesus is telling this to –

Because here Jesus is telling him that the world is not going to hate him – but after the resurrection, after he has become a believer and a leader in the church in Jerusalem –

He writes in his epistle –

**Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

James was a friend of the world here in John 7 – but became an enemy of the world when he became a believer.

**10 But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.**

In verse 9, John stated that Jesus stayed in Galilee

Here in verse 10, John stated that He went up to the feast.

His half-brothers had already given Him the advice to go to Jerusalem and He said no.

And after a few days, He goes – not openly like His brothers suggested but secretly.

So why did Jesus go?

Because He was following the advice from His Father –

He also got council from God

**[Deu 16:16 NKJV] 16 “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.**

Do you know why Jesus went to Jerusalem – because the Father told Him to.

Because the Word of God instructed Him to

He didn't go up to make Himself known

But rather, He went up to please the Father

He went to Jerusalem in obedience to the Father – not under the pressure of man.

Church, often times when we are overcome with emotion, when we are overcome by situations or difficulty – and we are tossed to and fro because of the circumstances in our lives, we need to remember this – especially when people are telling us what to do.

The Word of God has priority over my own understanding

Let me say it again, the Word of God has priority over my own understanding

This means that the Word of God has priority over my emotions

The Word of God has priority over my wants over my desires

The Word of God has priority over even how I think I understand the situation

It is very important that we learn to make our default in life – the Word of God

Think of how many times we have made an important decision in our lives based on emotion and we wish we hadn't.

We say something or we do something and we didn't default to the Word of God –

Because we had people telling us – do this and do this – or because we thought that it was the right thing to do.

Not so with Jesus –

Jesus looked them in the eye and said – My time hasn't come.

I'm not going up because you want me to go up and I am certainly not going up to Jerusalem for the purposes that you have.

I am going up to Jerusalem on God's time to obey the Father

Church, obedience is the route to take – especially during difficult times.

**[Phl 4:6-7 NKJV] 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

God has promised to give us a peace that will guard us until a decision needs to be made.

That we may trust Him and default to the word of God

Only God's opinion matters church and His opinion is found in the Word of God

This is why I stress the importance of being in His word every day – of having daily devotionals and being I prayer every day.

That is the connection to the Father, the connection to the wisdom we are looking for, where the Holy Spirit who dwells in us will bear witness to the council of men.

And even though God sometimes uses other believers to give us wise council – my desire is not for us to be dependent upon man, we need to be dependent on the Lord.

We don't want to live without the consciousness of God in our lives.

God has not forsaken or left us, but we might live in such a way that we forget that He is with us.

That we don't even acknowledge that He is in us

That we fail to cry out to Him or look to His word for direction.

He is ready to guide us

He is ready to give us direction

He is ready to give us His opinion – and it is the only opinion that matters.

**[Psa 119:1-12 NKJV] 1 ALEPH. Blessed [are] the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed [are] those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart! 3 They also do no iniquity; They walk in His ways. 4 You have commanded [us] To keep Your precepts diligently. 5 Oh, that my ways were directed To keep Your statutes! 6 Then I would not be ashamed, When I look into all Your commandments. 7 I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments. 8 I will keep Your statutes; Oh, do not forsake me utterly! 9 BETH. How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. 10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! 11 Your word I have hidden in**



my heart, That I might not sin against You. 12 Blessed [are] You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I

accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

