

II. MANIFESTATIONS OF CHRIST'S POWER IN PUBLIC MINISTRY

John 7

A. The way Jesus' own brethren displayed their unbelief (7:1-9)

1. This chapter begins with Jesus walking in Galilee because the Jews of Judea sought to kill Him (7:1). It is evident there was a lapse of some months between chapters 6 and 7. He had left Capernaum of chapter 6.
2. Notice when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was at hand the half brothers of Jesus pressed Him to go to the feast in Judea. They argued if He wanted to be known openly He couldn't do things in secret. If He could do their things then He should show Himself to His disciples (Not the twelve, but His followers), and to the world (2-4). Verse 5 gives the reason why His half brothers had said these things - they didn't believe in Him. They had spoken in a sarcastic way. Herein lies a principle: oftentimes those nearest and dearest to believers present the most opposition to them and are the hardest to reach spiritually.
3. The Lord Jesus responded to His brothers by saying His time was not yet come, meaning the time of His death. Their time was their own, but Jesus was on a divine timetable and He knew the Jewish leaders of Judaea sought to kill Him (6).
4. Finally Jesus pointed out the reason why the world hated Him but not them (7). He then exhorted His brothers to go up to the feast and He tarried for awhile in Galilee (8, 9). Here we notice how Jesus walked moment by moment in harmony with His heavenly father. Note John 8:29.

B. The events which took place at the feast (7:10 - 36)

1. First of all, the Lord Jesus came later to the feast but in secret (10).
2. Secondly, the Jews (meaning the Jewish rulers who sought to kill Him), were trying to find Him and were questioning others (11). We notice there was a discussion among the people also concerning Jesus. His character and doctrine were apparently the subjects, but no one spoke openly because they feared the Jewish rulers (12,13).
3. About the middle of the feast (after 3 days or so), Jesus went to the temple and taught. The Jewish leaders marveled at what He said and questioned how He knew Scriptural things having not learned or been taught by teachers of their day (14,15).
4. Jesus responded by saying His doctrine or teaching was not His but the One who had sent Him (16). Jesus pointed out if a man wanted to know if His teaching was from God, he could know it by obeying God's will (17). In other words, doing God's will would authenticate what He was saying. Jesus said further that He sought the Father's glory and not His own (18). Notice a principle here - if a person will do what God's will is, God's Word will prove itself true to him.

5. Jesus questioned why they sought to kill Him when Moses had given them a law which they didn't keep (19). The people responded that He must have a demon (or be mad) and questioned who wanted to kill Him (20). Then Jesus pointed out they sought to kill Him for doing one work (on the Sabbath day). Yet they circumcised a child on the Sabbath day if it was the eighth day according to the law (21-23). Jesus exhorted them to judge things righteously (24). In other words if the law allowed for a work of necessity, it would surely allow for a work of mercy (like healing a man on the Sabbath (Jn. 5:16).

6. At this time, some of the common people identified Jesus as the One whom the Jewish rulers sought to kill. Their question suggested a negative reply - no the rulers don't believe in Him. Then they defended their own unbelief (25-27). Notice when Jesus identified Himself and denounced their unbelief they sought to take Him but couldn't (28-30).

7. Notice as a result of Christ's teachings some believed on Him and were discussing the basis of their belief (31).

8. When the Pharisees heard the things the people were saying about Jesus, they sent officers to take Him (32).

9. Verses 33-36 point out the blindness of unbelief among the Jewish leaders. When Jesus spoke of going where they would seek Him and not be able to find Him and going where they could not come, they were baffled. A time would come when they would need the Saviour whom they had rejected.

C. The declaration which Jesus made concerning Himself and the Holy Spirit (7:37-39).

1. On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles as the people would commemorate God's provision of water for the Israelites, Jesus stood and invited any who was thirsty to come unto Him and _____(37). To thirst means to have a spiritual need and realize you're a lost sinner. And to drink means to appropriate Christ for oneself by believing and trusting in Him.

2. The Lord Jesus went on to say those who believe on Him (or drink of Him), would have rivers of living _____flowing out of their heart (38).

3. Verse 39 makes it clear that the "living water" is the Holy Spirit whom believers would receive after Jesus was glorified. We find in Acts 2 after the Lord Jesus was glorified, the Holy Spirit came and indwelt believers. Since that time, all who believe on the Lord Jesus receive the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9).

D. The division which arose over the Lord Jesus (7:40-53).

1. After Jesus had declared Himself to be the source of living water those who heard Him were divided. Some concluded He was the _____ which Moses had written about (40). Others said He was the _____ (41). And some questioned these opinions because He came from _____ (42,43). Notice some would have arrested Him for prosecution (44).

Notice also some men and women are still divided over who Jesus is. Notice a certain principle in Verse 44: when a person is in God's will he is immortal until his work is done.

2. From verses 44-45 we find the Pharisees had sent _____ (apparently the temple guards) to arrest the Lord Jesus. But when they returned empty-handed, the Pharisees were annoyed and asked them why they had not brought Him. When the officers testified of how Jesus spoke, the Pharisees accused them of being deceived by Jesus (46,47). The Pharisees then denounced those who believed in Jesus by saying that none of the religious leaders had believed and that those who believed were accused because they didn't know what the law said about the coming Messiah (48-49).

3. According to verses 50-51 Nicodemus realized the Pharisees had already passed _____ upon Jesus without a fair trial so he put a question to them. The Pharisees responded by asking if he was from Galilee meaning one of Jesus' followers (52). They went on to discount faith in Jesus because He had come from Galilee.

4. Finally the people returned to their homes since the Feast of Tabernacles was over (53). Notice as a result of meeting Jesus, some had believed on Him. But the vast majority had rejected Him.

QUESTIONS WHICH APPLY TO OUR LIVES

1. Why do you think Jesus' half brothers urged Him to go to Jerusalem for the Feast?

2. What principle is illustrated in verses 7:7,8? _____

3. How did the Lord Jesus relate divine teaching to practical living in verses 17 and 18? _____

4. What was the argument that Jesus used against the Pharisees in verses 22 & 23?

5. Why were the Jews unable to take Jesus according verse 29 and what principle is revealed here when a person is in God's will? _____

6. What truth about the Holy Spirit's indwelling is revealing in verses 37-39? _____

7. Name some present-day religious groups who teach otherwise.

8. What was the response of the officer in verse 46 and what did it reveal? _____

9. Based upon verse 50 do you think Nicodemus was a believer and saved at this time? _____
10. If Nicodemus was saved at this time what problem is revealed here? _____

11. Based upon the error and ignorance displayed by the Pharisees in verse 52 what important principle can we learn? _____

Expository Notes

- 7:1 "in Jewry" refers to Judea where Jerusalem, the spiritual center, was located
- 7:2 The Feast of Tabernacles was celebrated in the fall (Oct) and it commemorated God's provision for His people in the wilderness. It was one of the three feasts held at Jerusalem and the Jews dwelt in booths made of branches during this feast of seven days. To commemorate the pillar of fire which had led them, the temple area was lighted by large candlesticks. Each day the priests would carry water from the pool of Siloam and pour it out commemorating how God had provided water from the rock.
- 7:3 "His brethren" here refers to Jesus' half brothers born to Mary after Jesus was born (Act 1:14; Matt. 13:55).
- 7:6 "My time" is the way the Lord Jesus referred to His death (Jn. 2:4; 7:6,8,30; 8:20; 12:23; 13:1; 17:1). Jesus lived on a divine timetable and everything He did was done in submission to the Father. "Your time", referring to Jesus' brothers, was always ready or not lived in obedience to God's will. They could go where they wanted to and do what they pleased because they were living for their own desires.
- 7:11 "The Jews" here no doubt refers to the Jewish leaders who sought to kill Jesus because He had broken the Sabbath with miracles.
- 7:15 Having never learned means that Jesus did not attend a school for rabbis like Paul had studied under Gamaliel (Acts 22:3).
- 7:21 The "one work" refers to the miracle of healing of the impotent man by the pool of Bethesda in chapter 5.
- 7:52 This statement displayed the ignorance of the Pharisees because the Scriptures teach that Jonah came out of Galilee and he was the sign giver to their sinful generation (II Kings 14:25; Matt.12:39,40).

