

Calvary Chapel Viewpoint

Care Group

Study in John

Jesus Attends the Feast

John 7:1–24 (ESV)

- ¹ After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.
- ² Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand.
- ³ So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing.
- ⁴ For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world."
- ⁵ For not even his brothers believed in him.
- ⁶ Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here.
- ⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.
- ⁸ You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come."
- ⁹ After saying this, he remained in Galilee.
- ¹⁰ But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private.
- ¹¹ The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, "Where is he?"
- ¹² And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, "He is a good man," others said, "No, he is leading the people astray."
- ¹³ Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.
- ¹⁴ About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching.
- ¹⁵ The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?"
- ¹⁶ So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.
- ¹⁷ If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.
- ¹⁸ The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.
- ¹⁹ Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?"
- ²⁰ The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?"
- ²¹ Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it.
- ²² Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath.
- ²³ If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well?
- ²⁴ Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

John Chapter 6 was the pinnacle of Jesus' popularity, now He is facing a steadily deepening hostility. Our Lord's rejection is widespread, intense, and very apparent. At this point Jesus has to stay away from Judea for the Jews are intent on arresting Him and putting Him to death. It was not yet time to make a bold entrance at Jerusalem. Our Lord spent this six-month period, just prior to the crucifixion, focusing on His disciples and maintaining a low profile in Galilee.

What three pilgrimage feasts/festivals are Jewish men required to attend yearly?

The feast of Tabernacles occurred six months after Passover. It was a fall grape and olive harvest festival. In Jesus' day it was the most popular of the three required Jewish feasts. It commemorated the Israelites' sojourn in the wilderness. Many devout Jews built shelters out of branches and lived in them for the week to simulate the wilderness conditions in which their forefathers had lived.

Where is Jesus' opposition coming from now?

What do Jesus' brothers (step-brothers) want Him to do?

Why? What is their motive?

Application: Let those who will follow our Lord take note that when we follow Christ, men will respond to us as they have to Him. Jesus was rejected by His family. We should expect that we may experience this, too. Have you experienced this?

What does this incident tell you about Jesus' brothers?

What becomes of the brothers after Jesus' resurrection and ascension?

How did Jesus respond to His brothers' suggestion that He go up to Jerusalem? What is the issue?

Why does He go up secretly instead of with his brothers?

What effect does Jesus have on the crowd?

Consider Matthew 10:34-36: "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace on the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'"

What effect does Jesus have on people today?

Why are they whispering and watching what they say?

How do the Jews respond to Jesus' teaching?

How does Jesus answer their question?

Jesus doesn't point to His credentials, but to His teaching (doctrine). It is as if He says, "I don't have a seminary degree, but judge Me by My teaching." If the Jewish leaders listened carefully to the teaching of Jesus, they would know that it was all rooted in the Old Testament Scriptures, and that it is from God.

What does Jesus mean in v. 17?

In verse 20, why does the crowd question whether someone's trying to kill Jesus?

Note: The Jews of Jesus' day commonly thought of mental illness, in this case paranoia, as being demon-induced. This explains their reference to Jesus having a demon

What is the controversy involving circumcision all about?

What does Jesus mean by saying, "Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment"?

Application: What are some things that are not okay to judge? A person's heart, motives, eternal destiny, relationship with God.