

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Sept 2013 John 1:1-18 God Revealed
- 2) 08 Sept John 1:19-51 Jesus Identified
- 3) 15 Sept John 2:1-25 Authority Acknowledged
- 4) 22 Sept John 3:1-36 Salvation Offered
- 5) 29 Sept John 4:1-38 The Power to Give Life
- 6) 06 Oct John 4:39-54 The Power to Save
- 7) 13 Oct John 5:1-47 The Power to Heal
- 8) 20 Oct John 6:1-71 The Power to Meet Needs
- 9) 27 Oct **John 7:1-52 Asking Questions About Jesus**
- 10) 03 Nov John 7:53-8:59 Wondering About Judgment
- 11) 10 Nov John 9:1-41 Doubting Jesus' Power
- 12) 17 Nov John 10:1-42 Feeling Insecure?
- 13) 24 Nov John 11:1-57 Dealing with Death

INTRODUCTION

- In this passage Jesus plays “**Catch Me If You Can**” – The Jews were out to kill Him (v1); His own brothers taunted him (v3); the crowd accused Him of having a demon (v20); the Pharisees sought to seize him (v32); and the soldiers failed to lay hands on Him because “*never has a man spoken the way this man speaks*”

Passage	Comments
John 7:1-24	<p>Jesus Teaches in the Temple at the Feast of Booths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. What would provoke the Jews to want to kill Jesus? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Anger? Jealousy? Fear? Hatred? Greed? Pride? • v8. Did Jesus lie when He said He had no intentions of going up to the Feast, but He went up anyway? NO – Jesus had no intentions of going up to make a show of Himself as His brothers alluded in v4 • vv10-14. Jesus did not go up to the Feast to market Himself whimsically, but went up “in secret” to strategically teach and promote God’s glory • v17. HOW does someone who is willing to follow God know the teachings of God? Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Scripture teaches the Holy Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are children of God Romans 8:16 ♦ Those who are God’s children love God and observe His commandments 1John 5:2 • vv21-24. Judge Righteously – Jesus tried to break through the legalistic mindset that had so gripped the Jewish leaders by comparing how Jews worked on the Sabbath in performing circumcision with how Jesus made a man whole on the Sabbath (John 5:9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God desires mercy over sacrifice, grace over legalism - But few get it... • Do we see a “Want to Kill” agenda by some against those who promote God’s agenda? ABSOLUTELY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider our own nation’s abortion program ♦ Consider the vehement attacks against Christians around the world
Jewish Annual Festivals	<p>Men were required to bring their offerings 3 times a year to God’s designated place of worship (Jerusalem):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Festival of Unleavened Bread or Passover, 1st fruits of the Spring wheat harvest (Mar/April - Easter) 2. Festival of Weeks or Pentecost (May/June), and 3. Festival of Booths / Tabernacles / Ingatherings, (Sep/Oct Fall harvest)
7:25-31	<p>The People Question Jesus’ Source of Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv27-28. Jesus, possibly with irony basically said – “So you think you know Me and where I come from!” • v30. God’s providential oversight kept Jesus from harm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does God provide providential protection for us? • v31. And many believed based on the signs seen

Passage	Comments
7:32-36	<p>The Rulers Sought to Seize Him</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv33-35. The Jews were still taking the words of Jesus from an earthly perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Jews thought Jesus would travel to Greece ♦ Jesus alluded to His Resurrection and Ascension • Why would Jesus speak in vague metaphorical terms? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ As noted last week, Jesus spoke in parables, spoke with radical speech, and spoke with vagueness to reach those whose hearts were inclined toward God and to prevent forcing others, whose hearts were inclined elsewhere, to believe in Him ♦ After all, you don’t want people in Heaven who don’t want to be there in the first place – yet, they needed to be held accountable throughout all eternity • Should we mimic Jesus in this instance and be intentionally vague in our witness? Why or Why Not? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this – all the writers of the New Testament wrote to clarify and expound the teaches of Christ and the mysteries of the Kingdom of God ♦ Likewise, God expects us to now speak clearly, boldly, and gently to convince the naysayers
7:37-52	<p>Jesus Causes a Division Among the People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv37-39. On the last day of the feast Jesus “cried out” – IOW, made Himself clearly heard above the noise of the crowd for people to come to Him willingly and on His terms – YET, John clarified that Jesus alluded to the future working of the Holy Spirit who gives life • vv40-43. This outcry by Jesus provoked the crowd to get off the fence – either believe or get hostile • vv44-52. ...and the ones who ruled the day were those who sought hostility. The Pharisees, unwilling to listen to reason or even to heed the law of Moses, led the charge to somehow capture, condemn, and execute the Holy Son of God – without just cause & due course

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Jesus left no room for ambivalence – either people were for Him or against Him – there were and will be no fence sitters

NEXT WEEK: John 7:53-8:59. Jesus basically conveys He is Judge, Juror, and Executioner for everyone who has the ability to accept or reject Him as Lord and Savior

