

John 7:1–13

- ¹ After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him.
- ² Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.
- 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.
- ⁶ Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.
- 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.
- ¹⁰ But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.
- ¹¹ Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?"
- ¹² And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people."
- ¹³ However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

"Jesus and the Feast" **John 7:1-13**

INTRO:

We live in a world in which public opinion plays a greater role than ever before in history. We constantly read or hear news headlines which are nothing but public opinion polls. When issues of right and wrong are reported in the media, an objective standard is no longer applied to the issue, rather we read some poll. For example, we hear things like 51% believe that abortion is wrong, while 48% think that is not wrong. Frankly, it makes little difference what we think on these issues. Ultimately, moral issues will be decided by the Supreme Judge of the Universe and He does not decide issues based on opinion polls.

It is no surprise that like today, the folks of Jesus day had an opinion of who Jesus was. In our text today, we will learn about three opinions about who Jesus was. After considering these three opinions, we will close our time by considering a moment who He really was and is.

I. Who The People Thought Jesus Was.

II. Who Jesus Really Is.

I. Who The People Thought Jesus Was.

A. Jesus' earthly brothers opinion is the first opinion we meet in this text. (vs. 3-9)
“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. 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.’ For even His brothers did not believe in Him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come.’ When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.”

B. The Feast of Booths triggered a discussion between Jesus and His earthly brothers. The Feast of Booths was one of three major feasts every year that God required that every Jewish male present himself at the Temple in Jerusalem. The three feasts were Passover, the feast of weeks (Pentecost), and the feast of Tabernacles (Booths). According to Josephus, the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths had become ***“a most holy and most eminent feast.”*** The brothers no doubt recognized Jesus was very popular with the people. However, the leaders of the Jews did not like Him. So, the brothers began trying to talk Jesus into going publicly to the Feast, and once there, making a public presentation of His Messianic claims.

1. The Lord's brothers understood Jesus claimed to be Israel's promised Messiah. They also knew there was something different about Him. (It was hard to live with someone who never sinned!) Still, John wrote in **verse 5** His brothers did not believe in Him.

2. The second reason Jesus' brothers advised our Lord to go to the feast was because they knew Jesus did some pretty remarkable things. Most likely they were present at the marriage at Cana of Galilee. If they were, they had seen the water turned into wine. How many of the other miracles they saw we have no way of knowing. Still, they surely must have heard the rumors and thought, “Boy, there is no greater opportunity for Jesus to show His stuff than when the crowds are all gathered in Jerusalem for the feast of booths. Let Him go to Jerusalem and strut His stuff.” If He is accepted as Messiah, they will be recognized as brothers to the King. If not, they have very little to lose because He was already well known.

C. The Jewish Leaders opinion is the second opinion we run into here. (v. 11)
“The Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, ‘Where is He?’”

In this verse, we read how the Jewish leaders sought Him. The leaders didn't seek Him because they liked Him. They sought Him because they wanted to kill Him. (v. 1)
“After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him.”

1. Why did they want to kill Him? We find the answer in **John 5:18**

“Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”

They sought to kill Him because He claimed to be equal to God. There are some people today who insist Jesus never claimed to be God. They need to speak to these Jewish leaders in Jesus’ day. As strongly as the modern skeptics deny that Jesus claimed to be God, the Jewish leaders knew He did. They knew that He clearly claimed to be God. This is why they hated Him.

2. Where did all of this hatred come from? What did Jesus ever do to them? **(1)** They hated Him because He condemned their man-made rules and turned them back to the Bible. **(2)** They hated the Lord Jesus because He revealed their hypocrisy and self-righteousness. **(3)** Most of all, they hated him because He showed the world that they were sinners when they thought that they were pretty good and God was fortunate to have them. Look at what Jesus said to His brothers in **verse 7**. The world, including the Jewish religious leaders, hated Him because He pointed out their sin!

D. Third, we meet the opinion of the people at the feast. (v. 12)

“And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, ‘He is good;’ others said, ‘No, on the contrary, He deceives the people.’”

This sample was divided into two camps.

1. First there were the people who were positive about Him. They said he was a good man. There are a lot of folks today who are like this crowd. They believe Jesus was a good man, but no more than this. The problem is that no good man would willingly lie to those He taught. Yet, Jesus made many claims, which unless He was the Son of God, they could not be true. Just think of the **“I AM”** statements in this book. Jesus said in **chapter 6**:

“I AM the bread of life. He that comes to me will never hunger or thirst.”

He also claimed in **8:58**,

“Before Abraham came into existence, I AM.”

Only an eternal being could make this claim. In **14:6**, He said,

“I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

We cannot say Jesus was just a good man. C. S. Lewis wrote: *“You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”* (*Mere Christianity*, p41.)

2. The second sample from the common folks at the feast had a more negative tone. These thought He sought to mislead the multitude. These people were skeptics. They understood His claims and they thought themselves too smart to fall for this trickery. The fact was they didn’t really know enough to make a wise decision. They had heard about Jesus, but they had never really heard Him teach nor had they seen any of the miracles. These people have plenty of kinfolk in modern culture. Their “modern kin” are the folks who say, “The Bible is hard to understand and is full of contradictions.” But they have never read it. They would deny the historicity of Jesus and the truth of the salvation available through Him. They have never even considered His claims.

II. Who Jesus Really Is.

A. We met three different groups of people in this text: **(1)** The Lord's brothers, **(2)** the Jewish leaders, and **(3)** the common folk. We played the first century George Gallup and surveyed the opinions of who Jesus is. The question remains. Who is Jesus? Is He the possible Messiah? Is He the baiter of the Jews? Is He a Good man? Or, is He a misleader of the people?

B. John strove in his book to show us who Jesus is. He told us in **chapter 1** that He is God in human flesh. He also told us Jesus came to be *"the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."* In **chapter 3** John amplified this truth in that great summary verse of God's redemptive purpose, **John 3:16**.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

C. In the miracles John recorded as an eyewitness, he gave us adequate reason to understand who Jesus was and is, and to believe on Him. In fact, John told us in **chapter 20** the very reason he wrote his book. **John 20:30-31** says,

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

D. Who is Jesus? He is God incarnate in human flesh. He is the Savior come into the world to save sinners. He is the One came so that we might have life and might have it more abundantly.

E. The question is do we know this and have we put our faith in Him? If we have, then the question is: Are we telling others about Him?

F. You might be saying to yourself, "I know who Jesus is. I settled that question a long time ago." What difference has this knowledge made in your life? Do you remember Elijah's challenge to the people on Mount Carmel? **1 Kings 18:21** reads

"And Elijah came near to all the people and said, 'How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.' And the people did not answer him a word."

If Jesus is our Lord and God, we need to live like He is. If He is the only hope for a lost and dying world, we need to tell them about Him.

When the public opinion people call you, it really makes little difference what you think about most issues. However, when it comes to Jesus, what you believe about Him will determine your eternal destiny!

Hymn #389 More About Jesus