

## John 26 - Celebration of Judgment or Plea for Life

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John 7:37-39; 8:12-20

### Probable Addition to John

- The story of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery is probably a scribal addition to show Jesus' forgiveness; however, it negates the message of future judgment
- Sandwiched between two obvious references to Sukkot festivals this story blunts the inspired message that Messiah is nonjudgmental when He will judge the world
- I will not include this story in my lessons as it clouds Christ's true message of grace to avoid the judgment

### Context Vital to Understanding

- Christians unfamiliar with Jewish festival calendar will miss relationship of fall festivals to Messiah's missions
  - The spring festivals dealt with Messiah's first coming
  - The fall festivals deal with Messiah's second coming
  - Underlying both festival seasons was the need for birth from above, New Covenant, to enter God's kingdom
- Christ gives His official announcement: He is here!



## Additions to Sukkot by Rabbis

### Water Festival

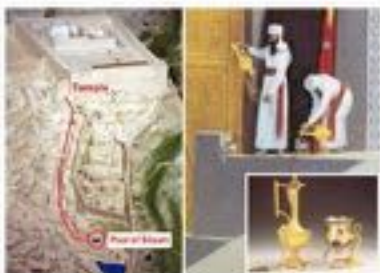
- Everyday priest went to Pool of Siloam (Sent) to draw water
- Accompanied by trumpets and festive crowds
- Poured on altar with wine

### Light Festival

- Performed every night during Sukkot in Court of the Women
- Festive crowds danced around the altar
- Waved willow branches

## Festivals of Works

### Water Festival



### Light Festival



## Chants of Festivals

### Water Festival

- With joy draw the water of salvation (Is 12:10)
- Water and Spirit joined in Isaiah's words (Is 44:3)
- Promise of latter rains and plenty (Isa 2:23-25, 28-29, Ac 2:37-41)

### Light Festival

- Lord made His Light to shine on us (Is 118:26-27)
- Priests and people would pray for Messiah to come
- Worship of altar rather than true Pascal Lamb

## The Great Day – Last Day

- Though consecutive with Sukkot, it is not Sukkot just as the Unleavened Bread is not Pesach (Le 23:35-36; Nu 8:18)
  - Water festival held at evening sacrifice (1500)
  - At sundown the lamps were lighted in Women's Court burning priests old stained gowns; dressed in clean garb
  - Men would march around altar seven times (Jericho) representing God's completed judgment, that began with Yom Kippur (Le 7:9-10; 20:7-15)

## Treasury – Court of Women: Sukkot

- During Sukkot the Light Festival occurred here
- Men would take over the Court while women lined the upper roofs watching
- Treasury lined the Court of the Women - Jesus began His dialogue here



## Christ Announces Himself

- Christ cries out on the Great Day possibly after the Water Festival (Evening sacrifice)
  - "...if anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink..."
  - All who believe in Him will become vessels of living water indicating filled with Spirit, New Covenant
  - This will occur on Pentecost in the Temple (Ac 2:1-4)
  - Clear presentation of Himself as Messiah

## I Am – Light of the World

- Christ makes clear declaration of His Messiahship
  - I Am - Name of God
  - Light - That which they have been praying for every night during their Festival of Lights - Messiah to come
  - Those who believe in Messiah will walk in the Light instead of in the darkness of sin
  - Coupled with Daniel's schedule, only Jesus is Messiah

## He is Rejected by Crowd

- Jews keep coming back to the fallacy of witnesses
  - How can anyone witness that Jesus is God unless one was also with God {Impossible due to inherent sin}
  - This is a False Dilemma fallacy since anyone who *verified* Jesus' testimony would also be rejected - empirical truth
  - Christ is only One who knows He was with the Father
  - Issue is not witnesses but acceptance of truth with signs

## His Witness is True

- Christ says they can only judge from the flesh, empiricism, which makes their judgment invalid
- They cannot know the Father because their sinful worldview has hidden the truth from them; again, invalidating their judgment of Him
- Comes back to His works they *acknowledge* are of God  
John 10:21

## Powerless Against Christ

- They have already tried to arrest Jesus and failed because the guards had more acceptance of Christ's truth than the hierarchy who sent them
  - Christ cannot be touched until the *fullness of time*
  - Demonstrates their complete absence of power while demonstrating power of Christ

## Futility of Their Rituals

- Adding to God's rituals clouded the picture of Christ
  - Their ritual of Water and Lights claimed to look for the coming Messiah
  - If they had understood God's Word they would have expected Messiah
  - Mirrors the truth: Most dangerous elements in the world are not simply the lost but the pious religious lost who suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Ro 1:18-19)

## Christ Redirected Their Rituals

- Christ redirected their celebrations of themselves to the proper object of true worship: Himself
  - Not because of Himself but because of who He is: the Son of God who will die as Pascal Lamb for sin
  - They gloried over the joy of God's past actions; yet, He was here to give them true joy in His salvation of life
  - Those not called of God could not accept His truth

## Christ Never Entered Priest Court

- Christ never seen at the altar - No sin offering needed
  - The only altar associated with Christ is heavenly altar (He 9:11-12, 24-25)
  - Hebrews writer demonstrates knowledge of *The Great Day* when he writes, "...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment..." (He 9:27-28)
  - Christ offers them the opportunity to miss the *second death* resulting in eternal judgment so they can experience the joy of their salvation forever (He 11:30-12, Re 20:6)

## Christendom Much the Same

- Much of Christendom claims to look to Christ but finds joy in their works of supposed goodness (Mt 6:1-4)
  - They think they will be heard for their much speaking (Mt 6:6-8)
  - They will be heard at White Throne when their words testify against them as against the Jews who rejected Messiah at His coming, though they prayed for it (Re 20:11-15)
  - This is the Second (Final) Death (Re 20:14-15)

## Christianity Flows from Judaism

- Lack of knowledge of Judaism robs Christians from clearly understanding the Bible, especially eschatology
  - Too many treat Christianity as a separate faith
  - Christianity is *New Covenant extension* of Judaism during this indeterminate period without cultic rituals
  - *New Covenant* faith will come to Jews when Christ returns to establish Millennial Kingdom; then Sukkot will be practiced annually by everyone (Ec 12:13, 13:8-9, 16:8-9, 16:19)