

IT'S NOT TIME YET.

Pastor Stephen Baker

Study of John / John 7:32-53

Introduction

Last week we studied the Feast of Tabernacles. Jesus had gone to Jerusalem to celebrate this feast. His half-brothers had urged Him to go up with them and make Himself known to the crowds, but Jesus went on His timetable. At the end of the feast, and in the story that follows, we see God's continued control of the time of events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion.

I. "You Will Look for Me but Won't Find Me." (32-36)

II. "If You're Thirsty, Come to Me and Drink!" (37-39)

"Each day of the Feast of Tabernacles was filled with important festivity. Each day, the high priest of Israel, in a great processional made up of priests and tens of thousands of worshippers, descended from the Temple Mount to pause briefly at the Pool of Siloam. A pitcher was filled with water, and the procession continued via a different route back to the Temple mount. Here, in the midst of great ceremony, the high priest poured the water out of the pitcher onto the alter. In Israel, the rains normally stop in March, and there is no rain for almost seven months. If God does not provide the 'early' rains in October and November, there will be no spring crop, and famine is at the doorstep. This ceremony, then, was intended to invoke God's blessing on the nation so that He might provide life-giving water."
(Howard & Rosenthal, The Feasts of the Lord)

III. Division Among the People. (40-43)

IV. Response of the Jews. (44-53)

- A. The Officers. [44-46]
- B. The Pharisees. [47-49]
- C. Nicodemus. [50-51]
- D. The Pharisees Again. [52]
- E. Everyone Goes Home. [53]

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT

1. Who were the characters in this story?
2. What was the setting?
3. According to the text, what day was it?
4. Why did Jesus say, "You will look for me but will not find me"?
5. What was the significance of Jesus saying that the thirsty could come to Him and drink?
6. Why were the people divided after Jesus spoke?
7. What was the response of the Jewish religious leaders?
8. Why did Nicodemus speak up for Jesus?