

“The Son of God in a Hostile World”

John 7:1-13

Jesus’ perfect clarity about His mission and the response of a fallen world

1. Jesus’ Awareness and Understanding of the Opposition of Sin vv. 1-9

(1) The Threat of Death! (1) *“After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him.”*
- “the Jews” = those of the Jewish leadership

(2) The Counsel and Pressure of Unbelief – “Worldly Wisdom” (2-9)

-1- The Counsel (“Ministry Advice” from Unbelievers!) vv. 3-4

- “Go public!” “Work the crowd!”

-2- Counsel skewed by Unbelief! v. 5 *“For even His brothers did not believe in Him.”*

-3- Jesus’ Instructive Reply vv. 6-8

> **The timing of His actions determined by obedience to the Father’s will and counsel** *“My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.”*

> **“The world cannot hate you, but is entirely opposed to Me!”** *“The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.”*

- “the world” – here, the fallen world system opposed to God and Christ
- Emphatic here: *“Me it hates”*

> **Fallen, unbelieving man entirely opposed to Christ WHY?**

Christ tells the truth about man’s sinful condition!

(1) His Wise Approach (10)

- **Apart from His brothers’ knowledge**

“But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.”

- **Not publicly, seeking to draw the attention of the multitude, but privately**

- Not in a fleshly way – so as to “rally a crowd”
- Entering, moving about in it, and engaging those in it *according to the Father’s direction!*

(2) The Hostile Environment (11-13) It is *the world* that awaits Him in Jerusalem!

-1- Jewish “Search and Destroy” Agents! *“Then the Jews sought Him at the feast and said, ‘Where is He?’”*

-2- The Fog and Fickleness of Unbelief!
- “Earth-bound” opinions about Jesus
- A very *volatile* environment!
“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.’”

-3- A Super-saturation of the Fear of Man! *“However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.”*

Further Application

2. Jesus’ Commitment to the Father’s Will amidst the Opposition vv. 10-13