

John 7

- I. 7:1-9 The Unbelief of Christ's Brothers
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I. 7:1-9 The Unbelief of Christ's Brothers

A. 7:2 *Feast of Tabernacles* This was an eight-day feast, which took place in the Fall. The crowds would come up to Jerusalem for it. People stayed in booths made of branches to commemorate the wilderness wanderings of their ancestors.

i. This was the most joyful of all the festivals: non-stop rejoicing, music and light; rabbis dancing before the crowds with flaming torches in their hands; Rabbi Shimon ben Gamaliel, the son of Paul the apostle's mentor, would actually juggle as many as eight flaming torches at once. (Now *that* changes my impression of the Sanhedrin!)

B. 7:5 His brothers did believe later – after the resurrection.

C. 7:7 One reason people hate Jesus: He (lovingly) says their works are evil.

II. 7:10-24 Understanding Jesus

A. 7:15 Most Jewish children learned to read, but Jesus was not a trained Bible scholar.

B. 7:16 He wasn't “self-taught” either. His teaching was from the Father. Similarly:

Acts 4:13 (NKJV) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

C. 7:17 **Key Point #1 Obedience leads to understanding.**

D. 7:22-24 Jesus has a good point. Circumcision was (and still is) always performed on the eighth day even if it's a Sabbath.

III. 7:25-31 Knowing Jesus

A. 7:25-27 The people here are baffled, trying to think through the issues surrounding Christ's origin. Christ's points to His Father who sent Him.

B. 7:28-29 *whom you do not know* These are religious people, but they don't know God.

i. **Key Point #2 Relationship leads to understanding.** (Peter in 6:68-69)

IV. 7:32-36 Christ's Return to the Father

- A. 7:33-34 Jesus knows that He is going to heaven but they are not. Jesus already had His sights set on heaven. We should too.

V. 7:37-39 Living Water **See Below**

VI. 7:40-53 Judging Jesus

- A. 7:43 *there was a division ... because of Him* This still happens today.
- B. “The greatest obstacle to discovery is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge.”
- C. 7:52 *no prophet ... out of Galilee* Jonah was from Gath-Hepher (2 Kings 14:25), about 2 miles from Nazareth. (See *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*)

Living Water

- Temple Customs during the Feast of Tabernacles (From Alfred Edershiem (1825-1889), *The Temple: Its Ministry and Services*):
 - Joyous procession with music, to the Pool of Siloam, for water into a golden pitcher
 - As he entered the area of the Temple via the Watergate the priests would blow their trumpets three times.
 - He would then ascend the steps to the altar and pour the water into a silver basin, which led to the base of the altar. At this point the people would shout “Raise your hand!” to show that he really poured out the water.
 - Music and singing of the Hallel Psalms (113-118), ends with Messianic prophecies.
 - People would wave palm branches toward the altar.
- This ceremony, called “The Drawing out of Water” had three meanings:
 - Past: Looking back to the wilderness wanderings it pointed back to the water coming from out of the rock. (Exo 17 & Num 20)
 - Present: It was part of a prayer for rain, as this holiday comes at the beginning of Israel's rainy season.
 - Future: According to the Talmud, it predicted the future outpouring of the Holy Spirit:
 - “Why is the name of it called, 'The Drawing Out of Water'? Because of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, according to what is said: 'With joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation'” (Isa 12:3)

- Here is the verse in context:

Isaiah 12:1-3 (NKJV) ¹And in that day you will say: "O LORD, I will praise You; Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me.

*²Behold, God is my **salvation** [Yeshuah], I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my **salvation** [Yeshuah]."*

³Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation [Yeshuah].

- On the last day, the eighth day, they didn't perform the water ceremony. This signified the end of the wilderness wanderings. They were now in a well-watered land that flowed with milk and honey. God had kept His promise.
- It was on the last day, the climax of this Feast that Jesus spoke the words of 7:37-38.
- We are three-part beings:

*1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV) Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- The soul is normally defined as the *mind, emotions and will*.
- The three parts are so closely integrated that they affect one another.
 - Our thinking, emotions or will (decisions) affect us spiritually.
 - Our physical well-being affects us emotionally.
 - A spiritual experience, like conversion, can affect us both emotionally and even physically.
- Each part of us has its own needs and own desires.
 - Greek terms for love: *eros, phileo, agape*
- People often try to fill the spiritual void in their lives with physical or emotional experiences.
- Jesus speaks here of the ultimate in *spiritual* satisfaction

Isaiah 44:3 (NKJV) For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring;

Isaiah 58:11 (NKJV) The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

- God wants to not only pour out His Spirit upon us, but let His Spirit flow forth from us.
- 7:38 *heart* is actually more like "belly" - our innermost being.
- Reality Check: Does this outflow of "rivers of living water" describe our relationship with God?
 - Do you truly experience an overflow of the Holy Spirit?
 - I sometimes think mine is more like a leaky faucet than "rivers of living water".
 - Do you think maybe the Lord has something more for us?