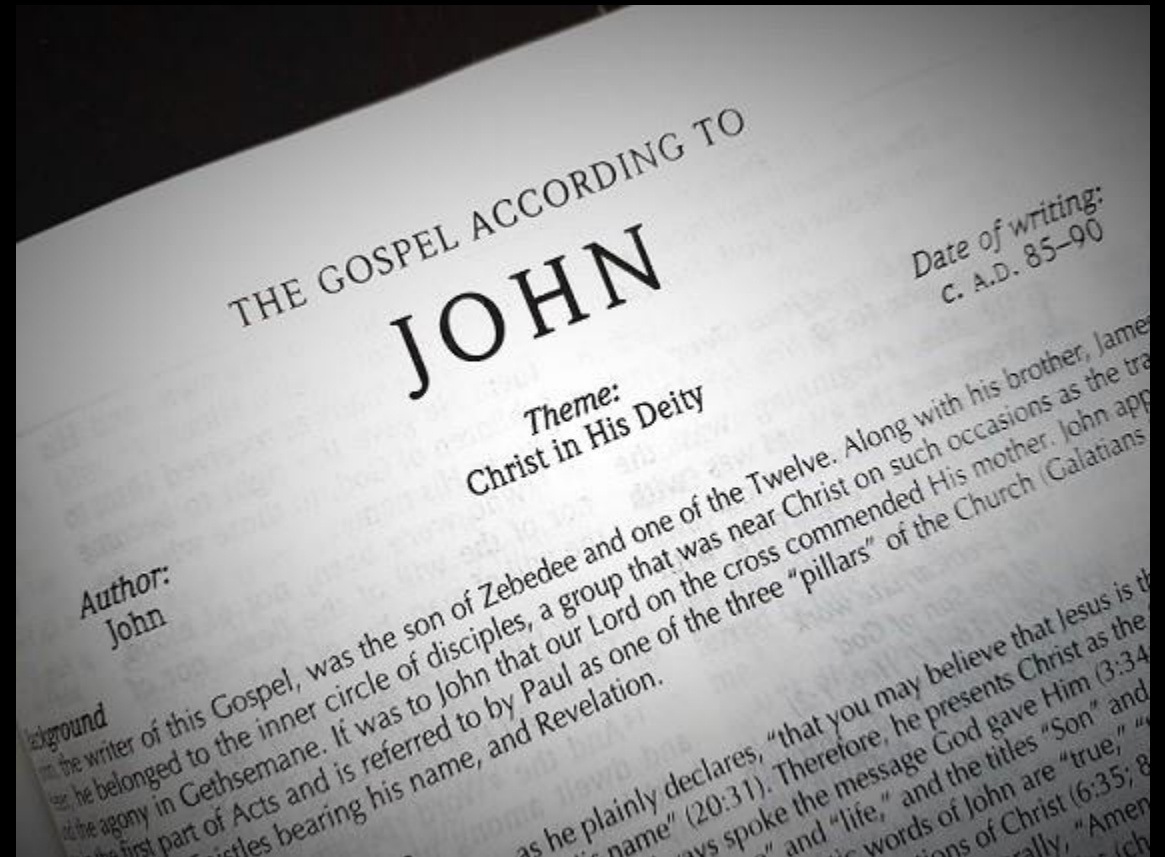


Verse by Verse

John 7



Previously in John

Previously in John

- In **Ch. 3**, we witnessed Christ's dialog with **Nicodemus**.
- In **Ch. 4**, he told the Samaritan woman that he could give her **living water**.
- In **Ch. 5**, Jesus healed a man who had been **lame for thirty-eight years** – and did so **on a Sabbath**.
- Last week in **Ch. 6**, he called himself the bread of life.

John 7 Introduction

John 7 Introduction

- In this chapter, we see Jesus in Jerusalem for the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles).
- While there, as usual, he causes division between those who will listen to him and those who will not.
- As the Feast comes to its climax, Jesus makes an indirect claim to his deity.

John 7 Key Verses

John 7 Key Verses

- John 7:37-38 (ESV)

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

Discourses in John 1 – 12

Discourses in John 1 – 12 ²

1. The new birth 3:1–21
2. The water of life 4:1–42
3. The divine Son 5:19–47
4. The bread of life 6:22–65
5. The life–giving Spirit 7:1–52
6. The light of the world 8:12–59
7. The good shepherd 10:1–42

John 7 Outline

John 7 Outline

1. The Feast of Booths 7:1-24
2. Can This Be the Christ? 7:25-36
3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

1. The Feast of Booths 7:1-24

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- 7:2 the Feast of Booths (Tabernacles)
- This is one of the major feasts of Judaism and lasts for a full week during the fall.
- People build little huts (*Sukkot*) to eat and/or sleep in to remember the wilderness wanderings.
- This is still often practiced today.

1. The Feast of Booths 7:1-24



Sukkah in front of a kosher Burger King in Jerusalem

(photo credit: Judy Lash Balint)

https://israelforever.org/interact/blog/12_places_to_look_for_sukkot_jerusalem/

1. The Feast of Booths 7:1-24



Sukkah in Japan

<http://www.chabadjapan.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/sukka.jp>

op

1. The Feast of Booths 7:1-24



Multiple
Sukkot on
balconies in
Brooklyn

<https://streeteasy.com/blog/sukkot-brooklyn/>

1. The Feast of Booths 7:1-24

- **John 7:3-5** Christ's brothers are sort of encouraging him to go to Jerusalem and show off.
- This is a little like the devil tempting Jesus to jump off the pinnacle of the temple to prove his identity.
- They did not believe in him – not yet at least.

1. The Feast of Booths 7:1-24

- **John 7:3-5** Later James and Jude became leaders in the church.
- If your faith is a point of disagreement in your family, you are in good company.
- Jesus dealt with the same sort of thing, only in a bigger way than we do.

1. The Feast of Booths 7:1-24

- **John 7:7** People still hate Jesus and for the same reason that he says here.
- Sin can be a sensitive topic, especially if we don't want to admit when we are wrong.
- As it turns out, this made Jesus a few enemies.
- Maybe you have dealt with the same thing when you have refused to call evil good and good evil.

1. The Feast of Booths 7:1-24

- **John 7:8** (Evangelical Heritage Version)

You go up to the festival. I am not going up to this festival yet, because the right time for me has not yet arrived.

- (God's Word Translation)

Go to the festival. I'm not going to this festival right now. Now is not the right time for me to go.

2. Can This Be the Christ? 7:25-36

2. Can This Be the Christ? 7:25-36

- The **Gospel of John** pushes people to make decisions about Jesus.
- We see the arguments and disagreements that took place when Christ was here on earth.
- Arguments still take place today over Christ and whether he was uniquely sent by God.

2. Can This Be the Christ? 7:25-36

- According to Jesus he was not just another prophet.
- He had a unique relationship with God the Father and was uniquely sent by God the Father.
- See 7:16, 18, 28, 29 and 33.
- This is actually one of the keys to the relationships between the persons of the Trinity in John.

2. Can This Be the Christ? 7:25-36

- In the **Gospel of John**, **the Father** is sent by no one, but instead **sends the Son** (e.g. **3: 17; 17: 3 etc.**) and **the Spirit** (**14: 26**).
- **The Son** is sent by the Father and sends the Spirit (**15: 26; 16: 7**).
- **The Spirit** is sent by the Father and the Son but himself sends no one. ¹

2. Can This Be the Christ? 7:25-36

God the Father	God the Son	God the Holy Spirit
Sender	Sent	Sent
Sender	Sender	Sent
Twice-Sender	Sent One Turned Sender	Twice-Sent

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52



Though it is not mentioned in the OT, the Jews had a ceremony of carrying water from the Pool of Siloam and pouring it into a silver basin by the altar of burnt offering each day for the first seven days of the feast of Tabernacles ...

*– Charles Ryrie (1925 – 2016),
from his Study Bible*

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52



... On the eighth day this was not done, making Christ's offer of the water of eternal life from Himself even more startling. ²

*– Charles Ryrie (1925 – 2016),
from his Study Bible*

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

- 7:37-39 The claim that Jesus makes about living water sounds like something he has said before.
- Think back to the Samaritan woman at the well.

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

- John 4:10-14 (ESV)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? ...

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

- John 4:10-14 (ESV)

... He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

- The first use of this metaphor in Scripture goes back to Jeremiah.

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

- Jeremiah 2:12-13 (ESV)

¹² Be appalled, O heavens, at this;
be shocked, be utterly desolate,
declares the LORD,

¹³ for my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me,
the fountain of living waters,
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,
broken cisterns that can hold no water.

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

- By applying this expression to himself in this way, Jesus is making an indirect claim to deity.
- If we forsake our false gods and turn to Jesus, rivers of living water will be ours.

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

- 7:40-49 Again, however, Christ divides people.
- Jesus is pushing people toward that decision.
- And John is using these stories to do the same to us.
- We can have rivers of living water or broken cisterns of our own making.

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

- 7:50-52 Nicodemus may already be persuaded.
- He has talked to Jesus personally and is not as quick to judge him as the rest of the religious leaders.
- It may be that he is already beginning to believe.

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52



Nicodemus' question was meant to prick the consciences of his fellow Pharisees, but they brushed it aside. They had already made up their minds. They knew that Nicodemus was from Judea, ...

*– Samuel M. Ngewa,
Africa Int'l University, Kenya*

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52



... but were implying that no Judean could possibly be taken in by Jesus. He was a Galilean and could only deceive Galileans. The Judeans were too bright to believe in him! ³

*– Samuel M. Ngewa,
Africa Int'l University, Kenya*

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

- The leaders in Jerusalem had an attitude that we might call spiritual elitism.
- We saw this beginning in 7:15, where they marvel at Christ's great learning.
- He didn't study under the elite rabbis or in the best rabbinical schools.
- But think about it: Who was going to truly teach him?

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

- They seem to think that because they are the best educated, they are also the most godly.
- This is incorrect.
- True conversion is even more a work of the heart than the head.

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

The basic human dilemma is not ignorance needing education; it is sinfulness needing redemption.⁴

– Andreas Köstenberger, Midwest Baptist Theological Seminary



3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

- This is what pushes people to that choice.
- The world is never going to be OK with Jesus telling it where it went wrong. *What about us?*
- Some others are too smart to imagine that they need an “ignorant” Christian faith. *Again, what about us?*

3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

- Christ offers us the living water of the Holy Spirit's presence within us.
- The alternative is broken cisterns that cannot hold water at all.

John 7 What We Just Read

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1. The Feast of Booths 7:1-24
2. Can This Be the Christ? 7:25-36
3. Rivers of Living Water 7:37-52

John 7 Key Verses

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John 7 Key Points

John 7 Key Points

1. We looked at relationships between the **Persons of the Trinity** and how the Son and the Spirit are sent.
2. Jesus said that the world hates him because he declares that its works are evil.
3. We also saw how spiritual elitism can keep people from a life-giving faith.
4. Finally, Jesus offers us “**rivers of living water,**” which speaks of the Spirit’s work within our hearts.

John 7 A Prayer

John 7 A Prayer

- Dear God and Father,
- We know that what you say is true and that in fact Jesus is the truth, which you sent to this earth.
- When he speaks of our sin he always speaks correctly.
- Help us to accept that we continuously need your grace and the forgiveness you offer through Christ.
- Help us also to avoid any kind of spiritual elitism.

John 7 A Prayer

- In other words, help us to avoid any kind of thinking that we are too good or too smart to need a simple, childlike faith in Christ to be saved.
- Finally, please give us those rivers of living water that Christ said would flow from within us thanks to the work of your Holy Spirit.
- In Jesus Christ,
- Amen

John 7 References

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