

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little.

Isaiah 28:10

First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #195

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

PART 9: CHAPTER 7

1. Christ's unbelieving brothers and the Feast of Tabernacles
2. Divided opinions about Jesus
3. Holy Spirit
4. Confusion about Jesus' Birthplace

Part One-Verses 1-9

1. After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He would not walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him.
2. Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand.
3. His brethren, therefore, said unto Him, "Depart from here, and go into Judea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.
4. For there is no man that doeth anything in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, show Thyself to the world."
5. For neither did His brethren believe in Him.
6. Then Jesus said unto them, "My time is not yet come; but your time is always ready.
7. The world cannot hate you, but Me it hateth, because I testify of it, that its works are evil.
8. Go ye up unto this feast. I go not up yet unto this feast; for My time is not yet fully come."
9. When He had said these words unto them, He abode still in Galilee.

The Feast of Tabernacles was one of the three main feasts of the Jewish people. It is a feast of great rejoicing, and it is also called Sukkot, Feast of Booths, and Feast of Ingathering. As important as it was and is, it is only mentioned once in the New Testament in John 7:2. Booths are little rooms made of vegetation and tree branches. They are a reminder of the fragile dwellings in which the Israelites dwelt during their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. Tabernacles is a feast of thanksgiving for the fruit harvest and lasts for 7 days. It is held 6 months after Passover. Passover celebrates

redemption and is symbolic of Calvary and the beginning of our spiritual journey. The Feast of Tabernacles represents the consummation or end of our spiritual journey as we travel to the world to come and thus is a prophetically unfulfilled time to come, i.e. the return of the Lord. Many people therefore believe that He will come during the Feast of Tabernacles, which generally is held in September or October.

This passage of scripture deals with the last 6 months of Jesus' life. Jesus has avoided going to Judaea because He knows the religious leaders plan to kill Him, and He is on a divine timetable. These men cannot touch Him until His time is come. Indeed, they have tried many times and failed to catch Jesus. He has supernaturally slipped out of the hands of His enemies. (See Luke 4:30, John 7:30, John 8:59, John 10:39.)

If Jesus had brothers is a widely debated topic. The Catholics believe that Mary was without sin and did not have sexual relations with Joseph and thus produced no children. They believe in Mary's perpetual virginity. They believe that the word translated *brethren* or *brothers* here is a word also used to designate close friends or associates. Protestants do not believe that Mary was sinless, and they believe that Jesus had half-brothers. Matthew 13:55 even gives their names: James, Joses, Simon, and Judas. His half-brother James, not the disciple James, was the one who wrote the book *James*. His half-brother Judas most likely wrote the book *Jude*. At this point none of his brothers believed Jesus was the Messiah, and they gave Him bad advice, which would have gotten Him killed, and which He refused to take. Yes, Jesus did end up going to Jerusalem, but He said to them that He would not go *yet*. He knew it would be a mistake to go publically and a mistake to try to win public favor by doing something spectacular.

Even today much of the world hates Jesus, although the largest religious group in the world is Christian. Listen to the media and people in public, and you will often hear people take His name in vain. They hate Jesus because they love their sin and love to walk in the flesh, and the flesh is an enemy to the spirit.

Part Two-Verses 10-36

10. But when His brethren were gone up, then went He also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.
11. Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?"

12. And there was much murmuring among the people concerning Him, for some said, "He is a good man;" others said, "Nay, but He deceiveth the people."
13. However, no man spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.
14. Now, at about the midst of the feast, Jesus went up into the temple and taught.
15. And the Jews marveled, saying, "How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?"
16. Jesus answered them, and said, "My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent Me.
17. If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God or whether I speak of Myself.
18. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory; but he that seeketh His glory, that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.
19. Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill Me?"
20. The people answered and said, "Thou hast a demon; who goeth about to kill thee?"
21. Jesus answered and said unto them, "I have done one work, and ye all marvel.
22. Moses, therefore, gave unto you circumcision (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers), and ye on the Sabbath day circumcise a man.
23. If a man on the Sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken, are ye angry with me, because I have made a man entirely well on the Sabbath day?
24. Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."
25. Then said some of them of Jerusalem, "Is not this He whom they seek to kill?"
26. But, lo, He speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?
27. Nevertheless, we know this man, from where He is; but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth from where He is."
28. Then cried Jesus in the temple as He taught, saying, "Ye both know Me, and ye know from where I am; and I am not come of Myself, but He that sent Me is true, whom ye know not.
29. But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He hath sent Me."
30. Then they sought to take Him, but no man laid hands on Him, because His hour was not yet come.

31. And many of the people believed on Him and said, When Christ cometh, will He do more miracles than these which this man hath done?
32. The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning Him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him.
33. Then said Jesus unto them, **“Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto Him that sent me.**
34. **Ye shall seek Me and shall not find Me, and where I am, there ye cannot come.”**
35. Then said the Jews among themselves, “Where will He go, that we shall not find Him? Will He go unto the dispersed among the Greeks and teach the Greeks?”
36. What manner of saying is this that He said, ‘Ye shall seek Me and shall not find Me; and where I am, there ye cannot come?’”

The Jewish leaders were expecting Jesus to come, because the law required it. They were, however, totally taken back when He suddenly appeared in the Temple and began to teach. Notice how often Jesus teaches. He put much value on the Word of God, and so should we! The leaders were astonished that this man, untaught in the rabbinical tradition, could teach like Jesus taught. Even they later had to admit, “Never man spake like this man!”

Notice the different opinions about Jesus. Some believe He just was a good man. Some believed He was a deceiver. Some saw Him as demon possessed. Others saw Him as the Christ.

Today people are still debating who He is. Even in Christian circles, unfortunately, some are debating His deity. For some He is just an historical figure. For others, He is a friend; to others, a brother; to still others, He is God. Of course, we know He is all these things.

Part Three-Verses 37-39

37. In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, **“If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink.**
38. **He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.”**
39. (But this spake He of the Spirit, whom they that believe on Him should receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified).

Jesus was glorified only after His crucifixion. He had earlier promised to send the Comforter. The Holy Spirit came in full force on the Day of Pentecost.

Part Four-Verses 40-53

40. Many of the people, therefore, when they heard this saying, said, "Of a truth this is the Prophet."
41. Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Shall Christ come out of Galilee?"
42. Hath not the scripture said that Christ cometh of the seed of David and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"
43. So there was a division among the people because of Him.
44. And some of them would have taken Him, but no man laid hands on Him.
45. Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, "Why have ye not brought Him?"
46. The officers answered, "Never man spoke like this man."
47. Then answered them the Pharisees, "Are ye also deceived?"
48. Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on Him?"
49. But the people, who knoweth not the law, are cursed."
50. Nicodemus saith unto them, he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them),
51. "Doth our law judge any man before it hear him and know what he doeth?"
52. They answered and said unto him, "Art thou also of Galilee? Search and look; for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet."
53. And every man went unto his own house.

If the people really wanted to know Jesus and who He was and is, they could have found out where He was from, i.e. Bethlehem. Many people today are not interested in knowing Jesus so they engage in vain

This was the Nicodemus who came to Jesus by night. Surely, as this passage indicates, he had become a believer. The Pharisees were making fun of Nicodemus, a rich and apparently well-educated, city man. It is like people putting down people today by calling them "country." Notice that none of these people invited Jesus to come to their homes. Every man went to his own house. Today many reject

Jesus in the same way and go unto their own house without inviting
Him to tabernacle in their own temples.

UNTIL THEN
Stuart Hamblen

My heart can sing when I pause to remember
A heartache here is but a stepping stone
Along a trail that's winding always upward,
This troubled world is not my final home.

The things of earth will dim and lose their value
If we recall they're borrowed for awhile;
And things of earth that cause the heart to tremble,
Remembered there will only bring a smile.

This weary world with all its toil and struggle
May take its toll of misery and strife;
The soul of man is like a waiting falcon;
When it's released, it's destined for the skies.

CHORUS

But until then my heart will go on singing,
Until then with joy I'll carry on-
Until the day my eyes behold the city,
Until the day God calls me home.