

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

JOHN 7.25-36



T. M. Moore

A Scriptorium Study

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets,

He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Luke 24.27

The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Gospel of John: John 7.25-36
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Introduction to *John 7.25-36*

Jesus waited until the middle of the Feast of Tabernacles to show up and begin teaching. He wanted the purpose, protocols, and promise this feast represented to begin sinking in to people's minds before He began to appropriate its symbols as His own.

Naturally, people began to be divided over Him, and some even sought to arrest and destroy Him.

But Jesus is managing this situation according to His agenda and timetable, and nothing will happen but what He Himself has ordained. So let's just enjoy the unfolding of the action.

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1 Who Is This?

Read and meditate on John 7.25-27.

We're now more than two years into Jesus' public ministry, and people are still confused and uncertain about Him. Two thousand years later, nothing has changed.

²⁵Now some of them began to say, "Is this not He Whom they intend to kill?" ²⁶But do you see? He speaks, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that He is truly Christ? ²⁷But He from Galilee is come; when Christ comes, no one knows where He is from."

- John 7.25-27

Reflect

1. The word is out about Jesus: The religious leaders intend to kill Him. The people in Jerusalem clearly understood this. But why did the leaders want to kill Jesus? Do leaders of society and culture today share anything like this attitude? Explain. Complete this prayer: *Lord, people today aren't looking to kill You, just to keep You out of their lives. But You have called me to be Your witness. So I should expect that...*

2. Do you think people today are confused and uncertain about Jesus? Or do they even think about Him at all? What about the people in your Personal Mission Field? *I pray for the people to whom You send me each day, Lord, that they...*

3. Jerusalem was abuzz with conversation and controversy about Jesus, because Jesus was actively doing good works and teaching up and down the land. He was unavoidable, as each new bit of news about Him spread throughout the land. Would you say that Jesus is actively doing good works and pressing His claims throughout your community? Explain. *We are Your voice, O Lord, and if we want people to be thinking about You, we...*

4. Some people were beginning to wonder whether the rulers understood that Jesus really was the Christ. And yet they wanted to kill Him? Would this have made sense to the people of Jerusalem? Why or why not?

5. From verse 27, it seems some of the early facts about Jesus had become obscured, and that some people didn't know their Old Testaments very well (cf. Mic. 5.2). Explain. Bring together into one the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

Summary

"The Evangelist adds, 'from Jerusalem,' for the greatest display of miracles had been there. And there the people were in the worst state, seeing the strongest proofs of his divinity and yet willing to give up all to the judgment of their corrupt rulers. Was it not a great miracle that those who raged for his life, now that they had him in their grasp, all of a sudden became quiet?" *John Chrysostom (344-*

407 AD)

Jesus knew what was going on around Him, how people regarded Him, the questions they had, and the growing rage of those who sought to kill Him. Yet He did not draw back. He was a Man on a mission, and His Personal Mission Field needed what He had to offer. How about your Personal Mission Field?

Closing Prayer

I will extol You, my God, O King;
And I will bless Your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless You,
And I will praise Your name forever and ever.
Great *is* the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
And His greatness *is* unsearchable.
One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts.
I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty,
And on Your wondrous works.
Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts,
And I will declare Your greatness.
They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness,
And shall sing of Your righteousness.
The LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion,
Slow to anger and great in mercy.
The LORD *is* good to all,
And His tender mercies *are* over all His works.
All Your works shall praise You, O LORD,
And Your saints shall bless You.
They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom,
And talk of Your power,
To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts,
And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.

Psalm 145.1-12

Psalm 145.1-12 (*Brother James' Air: The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*)

I will extol You, God, My King, and ever praise Your Name!
I bless You, Lord, for everything, each day, and e'er the same!
Great are You, Lord, my praise I bring; unsearchable Your fame!

To ev'ry generation we Your wondrous works shall tell.
The splendor of Your majesty we contemplate full well.
We speak of all Your mighty deeds and all Your greatness tell!

Then shall we all the glorious fame of Your great goodness sing –
Your righteousness, Your gracious Name, Your mercy; praise we bring!
Your steadfast love remains the same, mercy our covering.

Your works shall thank You; all Your saints shall bless and praise You, Lord.
Your reign we bless without restraint; Your power fills our words.
Our children we shall educate in all Your splendor, Lord.

2 “You Know Me”

Read and meditate on John 7.28, 29.

Now this is curious: Jesus insisted that the people who were confused and uncertain about Him actually *knew* Him, and where He was from. What could He mean by this?

28 Then Jesus cried, “You all know Me, and you know where I come from. On My own I have not come, and none of you has known Him Who sent Me, but He is true, 29 and I know Him, for I am come from Him, and by Him I was sent.”

- John 7.28, 29

Reflect

1. Meditate on Romans 1.18-21. In what sense can we say, with Paul, that people already *know* God? How do many people respond to God’s revealing Himself to them? Why? Is it important to know that the people in your Personal Mission Field already *know* God at some level? Explain. Complete this prayer: *Everyone knows You, Lord, even those who deny it and deny You. Show me how to...*
2. More specifically, Jesus said these people knew *Him*, as well as *where He was from!* How did they know that? What were they doing with this knowledge? *Everyone needs to hear about You, Jesus, and You have sent me...*
3. It might seem as if Jesus was contradicting Paul in verse 28. How was Paul using the word *know*? How was Jesus using it? Can someone both *know* God and *not know* Him? Explain. *Lord, it’s no wonder people are so confused and uncertain about so many things! They know You, but not like I do. Thank You, Lord, for showing Yourself to me. Use me to...*
4. Meditate on verse 29. Explain each of the following words: know, am from, and sent. How would you apply these words to yourself? *I know You Lord, and truly, I am from You, and You have sent me to...*
5. Do you think it’s possible that someone who *truly knows* the Lord, and understands that *he has been sent* by Him, could do anything other than what Jesus did by proclaiming the salvation of the Lord? Explain. Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote from questions 1-4.

Summary

“The Lord introduces two opinions about himself: (1) that they know where he comes from, since his mother is Mary; and (2) that he has something they do not know, since he is and has come from God. Therefore, he would not be a presumptuous person or a self-appointed teacher but had rather arrived at his teaching because God the Father sent him. Moreover, God who had sent him was not known to them because they kept themselves as far apart as possible from the God of true knowledge inasmuch as they revolted from his purpose and deeds. It is quite reasonable that he would know the Father, since he himself was with him. One knows one’s relatives and household

best.” *Apollinaris of Laodicea 310-392 AD*)

Jesus challenged those who heard Him to get the right information about Him – to *know* Him. How does knowing Jesus fit within your presentation of the Gospel? Why is knowing Jesus so important?

Closing Prayer

Give ear to my words, O LORD,
Consider my meditation.
Give heed to the voice of my cry,
My King and my God,
For to You I will pray.
My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD;
In the morning I will direct *it* to You,
And I will look up.
For You *are* not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness,
Nor shall evil dwell with You.
The boastful shall not stand in Your sight;
You hate all workers of iniquity.
You shall destroy those who speak falsehood;
The LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.
But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy;
In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.
Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies;
Make Your way straight before my face.

Psalm 5.1-8

Psalm 5.1-8 (*Meirionydd: O Savior, Precious Savior*)

O Lord, attend and hear me, consider how I groan.
Receive my cries and near be, and love me as Your own.
By morning, Lord, I seek You, for You will hear my voice;
My every need You speak to, and make my soul rejoice!

In sin You take no pleasure; no evil dwells with You.
Vain boasts You will not treasure, nor those who boasting do.
Sin kindles Your hot anger, You crush all those who lie;
The violent live in danger of Your all-searching eye.

O Lord, Your lovingkindness escorts me in this place.
I bow before Your highness and praise Your glorious grace!
In righteous ways You guide me; Your pathway I will know.
No good will be denied me as I with Jesus go.

3 His Hour

Read and meditate on John 7.30, 31.

Here is an interesting look at how the power of God works for His redemptive plan.

³⁰They sought to take Him when He said these things; however, none of them dared lay a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. ³¹And many in that hour believed in Him and said, "When Christ comes, will He do more signs than this Man has?"

- John 7.30, 31

Reflect

1. Verse 30 (NKJV) begins with *Therefore*. Evidently, Jesus' words in verses 28 and 29 were especially provocative. Why? Do people today become provoked when we tell them Jesus is from God, and is God? Explain. Complete this prayer: *Lord, You did not hold back from provoking people as You spoke the truth in love. Let me not be afraid to...*

2. The word *sought* in verse 30 is, in the Greek, *were seeking*. This suggests some activity to "take" Jesus. But "no one laid a hand on Him." What was going on? *How* were they *seeking*? Why didn't they just sweep into the temple precincts, Roman cohort in support, and snatch Him away? What was restraining them? *Lord, I don't understand how Your power works in every situation, but I believe that...*

3. John explains that Jesus' *hour* "had not yet come." What *hour*? What does it suggest about *all* time, and all *activity within time*, that this *hour* had such an effect on those who were seeking Jesus? *It was not Jesus' hour then, Lord, but today is the day of salvation! So help me to...*

4. God's restraining power against the enemies of Christ created space for "many of the people" to believe in Jesus. Meditate on Matthew 12.22-29. Is God still doing this in our day? Explain. *Lord, I pray today that You would bind the devil, the deceiver, the enemy of people's soul, from...*

5. Clearly, the people had *signs* on the brain. They'd seen not only the lame man healed, but many other signs (since people were in Jerusalem from all over Judea and Galilee at this time). Should people today expect to see *signs* confirming the claims of Jesus? What kind of signs? From whom? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you wrote for questions 1-4.

Summary

"His saying, however, 'Whom you know not,' irritated the Jews, who professed to have knowledge. 'And they sought to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.' Mark the invisible check that is kept on their fury, though the Evangelist does not mention it but preserves purposely a humble and human way of speaking in order to impress us with Christ's humanity. Therefore, he only adds, 'Because his hour was not yet come.' *John Chrysostom (344-407 AD)* "They wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him—as if they were prevented by divine power—because the time had not come yet in which his passion had to be accomplished. From this it appears that he could not be

arrested by them if he did not want to be.” *Theodore of Mopsuestia (350-428 AD)*

The power of God often works in subtle ways to accomplish the saving purposes of the Lord. Jesus promised that we would receive that power so that we could be His witnesses (Acts 1.8). How do you expect the power of God to be at work in you today?

Closing Prayer

I will bless the LORD at all times;
His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.
My soul shall make its boast in the LORD;
The humble shall hear *of it* and be glad.
Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
And let us exalt His name together.
I sought the LORD, and He heard me,
And delivered me from all my fears.
They looked to Him and were radiant,
And their faces were not ashamed.
This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard *him*,
And saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him,
And delivers them.
Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good;
Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!

Psalm 34.1-8

Psalm 34.1-9, 3 (*Alleluia [Lowe]: Mighty God, While Angels Bless You*)

I will bless the Lord at all times; I shall praise Him evermore!
My soul makes its boast in Jesus – Him we gladly all adore!
Magnify the Name of Jesus!
Let us lift His Name in praise!

When I sought the Lord, He answered, and from fear delivered me.
Those who look to Him are radiant; shamed their face shall never be.
Magnify the Name of Jesus!
Let us lift His Name in praise!

When I cried to God, He heard me, and from trouble rescued me.
‘Round their camp His angel lingers that they may delivered be.
Magnify the Name of Jesus!
Let us lift His Name in praise!

Taste and see how good is Jesus; blessed are all who in Him hide.
None shall lack for any blessing who in Christ will e’er confide.
Magnify the Name of Jesus!
Let us lift His Name in praise!

4 Sic Him!

Read and meditate on John 7.32.

Oh, how courageous these religious leaders are! They wouldn't dare lay a hand on Jesus, but they'll send the sheriff after Him. Wait till you see how the power of God works on *them*.

*³²And still,
the people argued about Him. So when
the Pharisees and priests heard this, they sent
some officers to take Him.*

- John 7.32

Reflect

1. Let's not miss the fact that when Jesus is doing good and teaching, hubbub arises all around. Why is there so little hubbub about Jesus in our day? Complete this prayer: *Make me a faithful witness, Lord, and let me encourage all my fellow believers to...*
2. The powers-that-be were not happy about all this hubbub swirling around the works and claims of Jesus. But they would not dare lay a hand on Him. So they sic the dogs on Jesus instead. Tell me again why these people were regarded as *leaders*? *Lord, why do we follow people who lack courage, and whose only convictions are for their own advancement and aggrandizement? Give us leaders, Lord, who...*
3. When Jesus is "in the air," so to speak, people must respond. Meditate on Acts 17.32-34. What kinds of responses should we expect as we stir up the air and unsettle people with the Good News of Jesus? Have we seen these responses thus far in John's gospel? Are you prepared to deal with each of these responses? *Lord, when You are with me, I don't have to worry. All I'm called to do is...*
4. The difference between the religious leaders, who would not lay a hand on Jesus, and the Roman temple guard, was that the latter could use force and violence to take Jesus. This is sometimes a ploy of those who are powerless to stop the Gospel. If they can't persuade people, or aren't able to shut us up in other ways, they might resort to bullying, or worse. How should we expect to encounter this reaction in our day? *Lord, what am I afraid of when it comes to sharing Jesus? Help me to overcome...*
5. Like the religious leaders of Jesus' day, many throughout the centuries have tried to stifle all teaching and mention of the Name of Jesus. What are some ways we see this happening in our day? Should we expect them to prevail in their schemes? Explain. Bring together into one your prayers from questions 1-4.

Summary

"Why, he says, are you eager to arrest me, and why do you try to do something that is not in your power? Just wait a little bit, and I will give myself over to you. Indeed, after my death, I go to my Father, and by directing myself to him, I will certainly withdraw from you. And I will be exalted over you so that, even though you look for me, you may not find me. And even though you want to, you cannot come to where I am because I will be exalted over you in glory and honor. But the Jews did not understand a single word of this. And this is not surprising, because not even the disciples, as we

have already demonstrated many times, could understand the words that were said at that time. At the end they learned these things from the facts.” *Theodore of Mopsuestia (350-428 AD)*

The powers of this world – as well as those unseen powers of darkness – are *powerless* to stop the progress of the Gospel and Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Light of Christ has shone in the world, and the darkness cannot overcome it (1 Jn. 2.8). The Kingdom of Light will increase as the Lord’s faithful witnesses stir up the air with the Name of Jesus (Is. 9.6, 7). How will you stir up the air of your Personal Mission Field today?

Closing Prayer

All the ends of the world
Shall remember and turn to the LORD,
And all the families of the nations
Shall worship before You.
For the kingdom *is* the LORD’s,
And He rules over the nations.
All the prosperous of the earth
Shall eat and worship;
All those who go down to the dust
Shall bow before Him,
Even he who cannot keep himself alive.
A posterity shall serve Him.
It will be recounted of the Lord to the *next* generation,
They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born,
That He has done *this*.

Psalm 22.27-31

Psalm 22.23-28 (*Darvall: Rejoice, the Lord is King*)

All you who fear the Lord, now praise His holy Name!
You children of His glorious Word, declare His fame!
We stand in awe of our eternal God, and on His mercy call.

For He has not despised the anguish of our King,
Nor from Him hid His eyes, Who knew such suffering.
Let praise arise from all who love and serve the Ruler of the skies!

The suffering King shall eat and praise with us the Lord.
Forever we His praise repeat and trust His Word.
Praise God above, all you who keep His vows and who His mercies love!

All nations shall repent and hasten to the Lord;
All those to whom His truth is sent shall praise His Word.
The Lord is King! His sov’rign rule on high now we His people sing!

5 Hide and Seek?

Read and meditate on John 7.33, 34.

Part of the genius of our Lord's teaching was His provocative way of making people think. He didn't outline everything, and He didn't explain every mystery or answer every question. He had told the people to judge for themselves according to the righteousness of God's Law (Jn. 7.24), and He continually gave them grist to grind on the millstone of their minds.

³³Jesus then explained, "I shall return to Him Who sent Me after I have been with you for yet a little longer. ³⁴You will try to get with Me, but where I am you cannot come."

- John 7.33, 34

Reflect

1. In Jesus' mind, He was managing the events of His earthly sojourn, and not anyone or anything else. How can you see that in these two verses? Complete the following prayer: *Lord Jesus, You uphold the universe and everything in it! You are the Lord of time, all time, even my time. Help me to use the time You grant me to...*
2. Jesus was already looking ahead to His ascension, as if that were a larger destination than the cross. Was it? Why or why not? *You are seated at the right hand of God right now, Lord Jesus, and I am seated with You, so that...*
3. Why would the people not be able to *find* Jesus? Why do people today have trouble *finding* Jesus? *Make me a guide to the blind, Lord, so that I can help people...*
4. "...and where I am you cannot come." Ever? Explain. *I fully expect to be where You are, Lord Jesus, even this day, as I...*
5. Jesus always seems to have two horizons in view, the temporal and the eternal. Explain. Is this a good discipline for us to master? Bring together your prayers from questions 1-4 into one prayer.

Summary

"Here Jesus is saying: I was sent to give you life, and with long suffering to bring back to God those who had stumbled through sin. I came to remove death which had fallen upon human nature because of transgression. I came to instill the divine and heavenly light in those in darkness and, moreover, to preach the gospel to the poor, to give recovery of sight to the blind, to preach deliverance to the captives, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. But, since it seems good to you in your senselessness to drive away the one who offers you such a rich bounty of heavenly goods, after a little while I will take myself back to him from whom I came, and you shall repent. Then, consumed by unavailing hindsight you will weep bitterly for yourselves and while you eagerly look to find the giver of life, you shall not be able to enjoy the one for whom you long. Having once turned aside and departed from my love towards you, I shall wholly deny you that which you seek."

Cyril of Alexandria (375-444 AD)

People need to realize that, when it comes to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, *today* is the day of salvation, *now* is the acceptable time. They may not have a tomorrow, much less a “some other time.” Do you think your church is sufficiently urgent about proclaiming the Gospel to its community? Why or why not?

Closing Prayer

I will praise the name of God with a song,
And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.
This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bull,
Which has horns and hooves.
The humble shall see *this and* be glad;
And you who seek God, your hearts shall live.
For the LORD hears the poor,
And does not despise His prisoners.
Let heaven and earth praise Him,
The seas and everything that moves in them.
For God will save Zion
And build the cities of Judah,
That they may dwell there and possess it.
Also, the descendants of His servants shall inherit it,
And those who love His name shall dwell in it.

Psalm 69.30-36

Psalm 69.34-36 (*Greensleeves: What Child Is This?*)

Let heav'n and earth now praise You, Lord, the seas and all their creatures,
For You will save us by Your Word and build Your City's features.
There we will with Jesus dwell and know His blessings full and well.
His glorious Name we'll tell to every man and creature!

6 Where Is He Going?

Read and meditate on John 7.35, 36.

The confusion continues, and perhaps a bit of wishful thinking to boot.

³⁵The Jews then asked, "Where is He going from us, that we may not find Him? Will He go to those who dwell among the Greeks, and show Himself to them, and teach the Greeks? ³⁶What can He mean by saying to us, 'Where I am you cannot come, though you will seek Me?'"

- John 7.35, 36

Reflect

1. There is something rather ominous about that first question in verse 35. Did they really think He couldn't escape them? What does it suggest about the network these leaders had working for them all over Judea and Galilee? Complete the following brief prayer: *It's frightening, Lord, the lengths people will go to maintain their power. But we do not need to fear, because...*

2. On the other hand, their second question (again, in v. 35) sounds hopeful. Explain. *I'm sure, Lord, that some people would just like us to go away and bother someone else. However...*

3. These religious leaders were completely stymied by Jesus' remark about going somewhere they would not be able to find Him. They could not imagine what He meant by that. Their problem was they were one horizon short in their thinking. Explain. *Let me never lose sight of the fact that I live in two worlds, Lord, and this means...*

4. Do you sense that these religious leaders were beginning to *fear* Jesus? Why? What threat did Jesus pose for them? Do you think sometimes people are so concerned that Jesus is a *threat* to them, that they can fail to see the *promise* He offers? Give an example. What is our role in clearing up this confusion and uncertainty? *Let not my life be a threat to anyone, Lord, but let me embody the promise You offer of...*

5. John 7 focuses on three different groups of people: the confused people in the streets, the religious leaders, and those who believe in Jesus. It's probably the case that we have people from each of these categories in our Personal Mission Fields. Our calling, like that of Jesus, is to show up and show Jesus. How do you prepare for this calling each day? Bring together your prayers from questions 1-4 into one prayer.

Summary

“‘Will he go to the Gentiles and teach them?’ They did not understand this at all. And yet even their mistake is an unwitting prophecy of our salvation. The Lord would indeed go to the Gentiles, not in his own person, but by his feet. What were his feet? Those which Saul desired to trample upon by persecution when the Head cried out to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ... He sent to us those whom he had made his members, and so made us his members.” *Augustine (354-430 AD)*

It's important that we pay careful attention to the ways people respond to Jesus, because they will respond to our witness in similar ways. Jesus did not hold back, did not flinch, and did not avoid confrontation. His message is too important. Pray daily that the Lord will give you the courage you need to stir up the air for Jesus wherever you go. What will that mean for you today?

Closing Prayer

The LORD reigns;
Let the earth rejoice;
Let the multitude of isles be glad!
Clouds and darkness surround Him;
Righteousness and justice *are* the foundation of His throne.
A fire goes before Him,
And burns up His enemies round about.
His lightnings light the world;
The earth sees and trembles.
The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord,
At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
The heavens declare His righteousness,
And all the peoples see His glory.
Let all be put to shame who serve carved images,
Who boast of idols.
Worship Him, all *you* gods.
Zion hears and is glad,
And the daughters of Judah rejoice
Because of Your judgments, O LORD.
For You, LORD, *are* most high above all the earth;
You are exalted far above all gods.

Psalm 97.1-9

Psalm 97.1, 6, 9 (*Darwall: Rejoice, the Lord is King!*)

Rejoice, the Lord is King! O earth, lift up your voice;
Be glad, you islands, shout and sing: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Beyond, above all gods and nations be exalted, God of love!

The heav'ns above declare His glorious righteousness;
And tribes and peoples everywhere His Name confess.
Beyond, above all gods and nations be exalted, God of love!

7 Is This the Christ?

Read and meditate on John 7.25-36.

The Feast of Tabernacles commemorated the sovereign provision of God for His people, especially during the sojourn in the wilderness, when they dwelt in tents. God had saved them then, saved them often in the past, and was saving them now – and eternally – by the coming of Jesus Christ. The Feast of Tabernacles provided the perfect setting for driving that truth home.

²⁵Now some of them began to say, “Is this not He Whom they intend to kill?” ²⁶But do you see? He speaks, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that He is truly Christ? ²⁷But He from Galilee is come; when Christ comes, no one knows where He is from.” ²⁸Then Jesus cried, “You all know Me, and you know where I come from. On My own I have not come, and none of you has known Him Who sent Me, but He is true, ²⁹and I know Him, for I am come from Him, and by Him I was sent.” ³⁰They sought to take Him when He said these things; however, none of them dared lay a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. ³¹And many in that hour believed in Him and said, “When Christ comes, will He do more signs than this Man has?” ³²And still, the people argued about Him. So when the Pharisees and priests heard this, they sent some officers to take Him. ³³Jesus then explained, “I shall return to Him Who sent Me after I have been with you for yet a little longer. ³⁴You will try to get with Me, but where I am you cannot come.” ³⁵The Jews then asked, “Where is He going from us, that we may not find Him? Will He go to those who dwell among the Greeks, and show Himself to them, and teach the Greeks? ³⁶What can He mean by saying to us, ‘Where I am you cannot come, though you will seek Me?’”

- John 7.25-36

Reflect

1. What would it look like in your community if people were as abuzz and curious about Jesus as they were in Jerusalem in John 7? What is your church’s role in stirring up the air in your community for Jesus? How’s that going? Complete this prayer: *Why is it so hard for us to be Your witnesses, Lord? Our community needs to hear the Good News, and You have appointed us Your people to...*

2. Some people will always resist Jesus because they see Him as a threat. What do they fear He is going to do to them, take from them, or keep from them? *Help me to understand why people resist You, Lord, so that...*
3. Others will hesitate to believe in Jesus because they've only *heard* the signs accompanying His salvation, but never really *seen* them. Meditate on 1 Peter 3.15. How do you expect that *hope* to become visible in your life? *Fill me with hope, Lord, and let others see in me...*
4. Still others will resist believing the Gospel because they just can't fit it into their intellectual categories. If they can't make sense of Jesus within their own frame of reference, they will hold off believing in Him. What do we need to say to these folks? *Lord, not everything You teach can be understood by reason alone. But still, it is my responsibility to make the Gospel clear, while I can trust You to...*
5. Jesus is making the most of this situation in Jerusalem, unsettling the settled, attracting those who believe, and asserting His authority over all the worn-out traditions and philosophies of men. What will it take for His people to continue this work in our own day? Bring together into one prayer the prayers you composed for questions 1-4.

Summary

"Now the power appears that was thought to be timidity: he spoke publicly at the feast, so much so that the multitude marveled.... They knew the fierceness with which he had been sought for. They marveled at the power by which he was not taken." *Augustine (354-430 AD)*

Where the Gospel is lived and proclaimed, the power of God is at work. But to what ends? How should we expect to see the power of God at work in our community, when we are faithful in showing and telling the Good News?

Closing Prayer

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!
For He has done marvelous things;
His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.
The LORD has made known His salvation;
His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;
Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.
Sing to the Lord with the harp,
With the harp and the sound of a psalm,
With trumpets and the sound of a horn;
Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.
Let the sea roar, and all its fullness,
The world and those who dwell in it;
Let the rivers clap *their* hands;
Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,
For He is coming to judge the earth.

With righteousness He shall judge the world,
And the peoples with equity.

Psalm 98.1-9

Psalm 98 (*Duke Street: Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord*)

Come, let us sing unto the Lord new songs of praise with one accord!
Wonderful things our God has done: Jesus has our salvation won!

Now is God's saving mercy known; His glory to the world is shown.
Faithful and kind is God our Lord; earth has the Name of Jesus heard.

Raise to the Lord your loudest voice! Break forth and sing! Rejoice! Rejoice
Praise, praise to You our God and King, with all our hearts and strength we bring!

Now let the whole creation 'round burst into song with joyous sound!
Jesus will come to judge the earth; let all proclaim His matchless worth!

The Gospel of John: John 7.25-36

Questions for reflection or discussion

1. What do we learn from John 7.25-36 about Jesus and time? What does this suggest about how we should use the time allotted to us?
2. What do we mean by saying that Jesus lived toward two horizons? What are the implications and applications of this for us?
3. What kind of responses should we expect as we “stir up the air” with the Name of Jesus? How should we respond to each?
4. What can you do to bring Jesus more consistently into the purview of the people in your Personal Mission Field?
5. What’s the most important lesson you’ve learned from John 7.25-36? How are you putting that lesson to work in your walk with and work for the Lord?

Items for prayer:

The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Our goal is to promote revival, renewal, and awakening, following the teaching of Scripture and the example and heritage of our forebears in the faith.

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We hope you found this study helpful. If so, please consider making a gift to The Fellowship. You can contribute to our ministry by using the donate button at the website, or by sending your gift to The Fellowship of Ailbe, 19 Tyler Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452.

Thank you.