

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN SESSION 9

Review: Last week we went through the last half of chapter 6. Jesus was explaining to the crowd that he had previously fed the day before, that he was the Bread of Life that came down from heaven. He told them that he was the way to eternal life, through eating his flesh and drinking his blood. They did not understand that this was a spiritual message and choked on it. They got upset and frustrated and went back to walk with him no more. Jesus asked the twelve if they also would go away. Peter answered for the group saying that they all believed and were sure that he was the Son of God and had the words of eternal life. Jesus revealed that there was a devil among them referring to Judas though they did not know it.

John 7:1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him. *What this means is that Jesus chose not to walk openly in Judaea because the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem were planning to kill him.*

John 7:2 Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. *The feast of Tabernacles is one of three feasts that require the males of Israel to be present in Jerusalem. John's gospel focuses of Jesus's time in Jerusalem instead of his ministry in Galilee. So much of the gospel speaks of the feasts that drew Jesus to Jerusalem and what he did while he was there.*

John 7:3-5 His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For *there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. For neither did his brethren believe in him. The "brethren" here mentioned is the literal brothers of Jesus. They were urging him to leave Galilee and go to Judaea to showcase his works to a larger audience. The text explicitly states that his brothers did not believe in him, indicating that their advice was based on misunderstanding his mission. Christ was in line with the will of his Father and speaking spiritual truth instead of seeking fame.*

John 7:6-9 Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come. When he had said these words unto them, he abode *still* in Galilee. *He is saying that he operates strictly according to God's divine timetable, rather than seeking worldly popularity or avoiding danger. He distinguishes his ministry from his sacrifice. His*

brothers could go at any time but Jesus had to be careful because there were people plotting against him. Because they were planning to destroy him, his movements had to be strategic.

John 7:10-13 But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he? 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. Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews. *Jesus kept the law by being present at the feast, but he did it secretly because of the eyes of the religious leaders. Even people in Jerusalem that were not against Jesus were afraid to speak of him openly because he had become public enemy number 1 to the elders.*

John 7:14-15 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? *The tabernacle feast is week-long. Jesus shifts here from coming up secretly to going to the temple publicly to teach. This shows us that it was not about him being afraid but being in line with the Father's will. His teaching was with authority and profound wisdom causing the people to wonder because he had no traditional training.*

John 7:16-19 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of myself. 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. Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me? *Jesus quickly attributed everything about his teaching to his Father. A soft and willing heart towards God leads to truth. Obedience precedes understanding while disobedience causes spiritual blindness. Jesus explains that his teachings came from God, not himself. True messengers seek the glory of Him that sent them, not personal fame or power. He confronts their self-righteousness and hypocrisy by exposing the fact that none of them keep the law they claim to defend. The fact that they were plotting his death makes them guilty of breaking the 6th commandment "Thou shalt not kill".*

John 7:20 The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee? *The people respond with "You're crazy (delusional)". The religious leaders in Jerusalem were the ones plotting against Jesus but the feast brought in many that weren't from Jerusalem so they were ignorant of their plans.*

John 7:21 Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel. *Jesus is referring to healing the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda on the sabbath day (John 5).*

John 7:22-24 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. If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day? Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment. *He challenges the religious leaders for their hypocrisy and poor judgment regarding sabbath laws. A Jewish son must be circumcised on the 8th day. He pointed out that they would carry out that ceremony on the sabbath (which partially wounds the child) but be angry with him for completely healing a man on the sabbath. He instructs them that righteous judgment takes in the spirit and intent of the law over rigid, hypocritical rule keeping.*

John 7:25-27 Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill? But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ? Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is. *Some in the crowd knew that the local authorities were actively seeking to kill Jesus, yet they saw him teaching publicly at the temple during the feast and no one is stopping him. So they are confused and are now wondering if the reason is because the rulers now believe that he is the Christ. Then the strife starts in the crowd "When Christ truly comes, no one will know where he came from. But we know where this man came from."*

John 7:28-29 Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me. *Jesus raises his voice here out of frustration with their unbelief. He says "You may know me and where I came from (on earth) but you don't know the One that sent me. He is the One that I truly came from"*

John 7:30-32 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come. 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? The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him. *A crowd of people is like a large body of water, if the wind blows on it enough it creates big waves. This crowd was starting to get like a wavy sea, some were believing, some were questioning, and some were accusing him of insanity. But as the believers in the crowd start to become vocal, the Pharisees went into action. "Hey we've got to shut this down" so they sent officers to arrest him.*

John 7:33-36 Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and *then* I go unto him that sent me. Ye shall seek me, and shall not find *me*: and where I am, *thither* ye cannot come. Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles? What *manner of saying* is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find *me*: and where I am, *thither* ye cannot come? *Jesus announces the impending end of his ministry, hinting at his death, resurrection and ascension. He tells them that he is going back to him (Father) that sent him. He plainly tells them that they will seek him but not be able to find him, and that where he will be (heaven) they cannot come. So, the Jews start reasoning through this literally – “Where’s he gonna go that we won’t be able to find him?” “Will he go to the Gentiles and teach them?” They didn’t understand that he was telling them that because of their unbelief, they would be kept out of heaven.*

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) *Each morning during the feast week, a priest would carry a golden pitcher to draw water from the Pool of Siloam and bring it to the temple through the Water Gate, accompanied by joyous music, Levite singing and trumpet blasts. The water was poured into a silver bowl on the altar simultaneously with wine from another bowl. This was done as a both a prayer for rain and to symbolize the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The last day of the feast was the “Great Day” or the climax of the ceremony. It was no coincidence that Jesus cried out at this exact moment and declared that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit came from believing on him! The scripture is clear to point out that no one received the Holy Spirit as an indwelling Comforter until after the resurrection of Jesus.*

John 7:40-44 Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? So there was a division among the people because of him. And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him. *Here again we see the crowd divided over believing in Christ. Some rightly pointed out that Christ would have to come from Bethlehem, which we know he did. But because of the plot of Herod to destroy Jesus as a child, they went to Egypt for a few years and returned. When they did, they settled in Nazareth. So even though he’s called Jesus of Nazareth, he was born in Bethlehem just like the prophets foretold.*

John 7:45-46 Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man spake like this man. *The arresting party that was sent to arrest Jesus was amazed by his speech and came back mesmerized.*

John 7:47-49 Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived? Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed. *The Pharisees criticize the officers and insult them for impression of Jesus. Now the law clearly states that you are to love your neighbor as yourself. These Pharisees see the people they live among as cattle less than them and they are envious at all the attention Jesus is getting.*

John 7:50-53 Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) Doth our law judge *any* man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth? They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet. And every man went unto his own house. *They had flippantly said “Have any of the rulers of the Pharisees believed on him?” But Nicodemus was one of them and he had a personal conversation with him that was still much on his mind. He defends Jesus to them by stating they should investigate his teachings and his works before declaring him a deceiver. But they turn quickly on him “Are you from Galilee?” that was meant to be a put down. Galilee was seen as the “wrong side of the tracks”. They were prejudiced and assumed that if God was going to do anything that it would come from among them. They also were wrong, Jonah came from that region as well as Hosea and possible Elijah.*

Tonight’s application: Jesus cried “if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink”. He was teaching that the Holy Spirit is what satisfies the thirst of mankind. Sin was the death of the human spirit, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit is the answer to that problem. **Titus 3:5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Jesus Christ is the access point for the Holy Spirit (the water flowing from the rock in the wilderness, the well of living water). When Christians fellowship with Christ, worship and obey him...the Holy Spirit fills the soul through your spirit. Just as Christ is the Bread of Life, the Holy Spirit is the Living Water that satisfies the hunger and thirst of every human being.