

- Blog survey – SNT Time
- Pray

Read 7:1-13

- First let me step back and take a really quick look at the big picture of this book the G. of John.
 - Up to this point it is figured that around 2.5 years have gone by.
 - ◊ This is figured out by counting how many times Jesus has gone to Jerusalem
 - ◊ Where it parallels the other Gospels
 - ◊ And that the rest of the book describes Jesus location and chronology more accurately than previous chapters, “some time later” as we saw several times before.
 - So the previous chapters have set up that Jesus is a deity, a human; the Christ
 - Chapter 7 is the hinging chapter that begins the last 6 months of Jesus ministry.
 - We get a few chapters of teachings.
 - Then Ch. 12 on is the passion week. Almost 10 chapters for one week. And we are on chapter 7 now and 2.5 years have gone by.
 - You may notice that the author and Jesus often say that his time has not yet come. This only happens one more time in Ch 8. Then His time is near, and Ch. 12...

Jn 7:1-5

After this Jesus traveled throughout Galilee. He stayed out of Judea because the Jewish leaders wanted to kill him. Now the Jewish feast of Tabernacles was near. So Jesus' brothers advised him, "Leave here and go to Judea so your disciples may see your miracles that you are performing. For no one who seeks to make a reputation for himself does anything in secret. If you are doing these things, show yourself to the world."
(For not even his own brothers believed in him.)

- The Jewish authorities were trying to kill Jesus because of what happened in Ch 5
 - ◊ Jesus comes into Jerusalem, passing the pool of Bethesda a crippled man.
 - ◊ Heals him; tells him to stand up pick up his mat and walk.
 - ◊ The man is questioned by the Jewish leaders, man doesn't know who healed him.
 - ◊ Jesus catches up with him at the temple and tells him to stop sinning
 - ◊ The man then realizes that it was Jesus and goes and tells the leaders.
 - ◊ The leaders challenge Jesus on the grounds of doing work on the Sabbath.

Joh 5:16 -19 Now because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began persecuting him. So he told them, "My Father is working until now, and I too am working." For this reason the Jewish leaders were trying even harder to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was also calling God his own Father, thus making himself equal with God.

19 So Jesus answered them, "I tell you the solemn truth, the Son can do nothing on his own initiative, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise

- ◊ I am going to come back to that statement in v. 19 when we get to vs.16-18.
- So anyway, Jesus brothers tell him to go to Judea because that was where the scholars were. It would be logical to go there if a teacher/Rabbi were trying to gain popularity.
- Jesus brothers.
 - ◊ Most commentaries say that they were trying to deceive Jesus.
 - That wouldn't surprise me, we see many places in the Bible where the younger brothers try and deceive the oldest sibling. Cane/Able, Jacob, Joseph.
 - I am not sure in this case, because deception would mean death and we don't have much evidence anywhere else that Jesus brothers were plotting His death.
 - Deceive Him or not they did not believe. So either they were trying to get rid of “smarty pants big brother” or they just didn't get it. Like those we talked about in ch6, the ones we met the morning after the feeding. (Remember the people in 6:30)
 - ◊ So in reading this I started asking who Jesus brothers were and did they end up believing?
 - Can anyone name two of Jesus siblings?
 - [James the Just](#), Joses, Simon, Jude and two unnamed sisters
 - James shows up later as a leader in the church and close relationship with Paul.

- Believe it or not there is a controversy over this. In the 2nd century a tradition appeared called Mary's perpetual virginity.
 - ◊ Many arguments about the real meaning behind the words "family" and "brothers".
 - ◊ But a passage in Josephus' *Jewish Antiquities* the Jewish historian describes James as "the brother of Jesus who is called Christ,".
 - ◊ And in 2002 a limestone ossuary (bone box) that was inscribed in Jesus' native language, Aramaic, with the words "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus." The box can be dated to first century Palestine.
 - ◊ The response from those who opposed the idea that Jesus had brothers; "Christian tradition and later infallibly affirmed by the Church--acknowledges that she[Mary] remained a virgin there afterwards. The great majority of Christians acknowledges this. Only the Protestant community dissents." Says it all.

But moving on...

Jn 7:6-9

Joh 7:6-9 Therefore Jesus told them, "The right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil. You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come." Having said this, he stayed in Galilee.

- Jesus says the "world", later on in John 12:31 he calls Satan, "ruler of this world."
 - ◊ This earth is for the most part "Outside the kingdom of heaven." It is the playground of Satan.
 - ◊ Does that mean God has no kingdom on earth? As Dallas Willard says, "God's own kingdom is the range of His effective will"
- The "world" actually CANNOT hate them, it wants to woo them.
- Jesus testifies that the world does evil. Josh and I talked a little about this last week, outside the will of God is evil. Period. That may be a bit hard to swallow at first, it was for me, but look into it a bit.

Jn 7:8-13

Joh 7:8-13 You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come." Having said this, he stayed in Galilee. However, after his brothers had left for the Feast, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. Now at the Feast the Jews were watching for him and asking, "Where is that man?" Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others replied, "No, he deceives the people." But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the Jews.

- At first glance I said, "Now wait a minute Jesus just said (v.8) He was not going to the feast, Then when His brothers leave (v.10) Jesus goes."
 - ◊ So what is going on here is if Jesus goes with His family it will be obvious who He is. So he goes alone.
- **Set up the link to Jn 7:40**

Read 7:14-24

Jn 7:14-16

Joh 7:14-16 Not until halfway through the Feast did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. The Jews were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having studied?" Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me.

- Jesus finds himself teaching at the temple again. It's like he just can't stay away.
 - ◊ This seems familiar to me. Luke 2:41-52

Luk 2:41-47 Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers ...

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And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

- ◇ Jesus was 12 and was asking questions of the teachers and they were amazed. Here we find Jesus again teaching at the temple, this time as a Rabbi, and the Jews were amazed again.
- ◇ End of Luke ch 2 it says, "He grew in wisdom and stature" He grew in wisdom...without formal training. He wasn't being trained as a scholar, or Rabbi. He had the trade as a laborer.
- Jesus teaching is from His father. He read the Torah of course but his insight came from God.
 - ◇ We have the same access to wisdom, even more so. We have not just the Torah and prophets, but all the N.T. mentors...and...access to the Holy Spirit.
 - ◇ Now granted Jesus has a bit more insight than us, being God and all. But some times I wonder...if we don't have access to the same insight and depth that Jesus did when he was on earth.

Jn 7:16-18

Joh 7:16-18 Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him

- ◇ Remember 5:19

19 So Jesus answered them, "I tell you the solemn truth, the Son can do nothing on his own initiative, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise

- I think this is the "**gem**" of this chapter, not the main theme, ties into the main theme.
- This statement is a really good description of building trust in God.
- If anyone chooses to do God's will... he will find out...Jesus is of truth, there is nothing false about Him.
- Many of you remember a bit of my testimony, let me pick it up when I entered church on my wives request. I went reluctantly and very, very judgmental.
 - ◇ I went and observed Gods will being taught through Joe Wittwer
 - ◇ That and, God brought some new friends into my life through a life group Mara signed us up for.
 - ◇ I was not committed to Christ nor did I believed in Him much at all.
- I slowly **choose** to do take some of the advice and to do Gods will here and there.
 - ◇ So God revealed Himself a little more to me; He showed me a little more truth.
 - ◇ Well that didn't hurt so bad so I take another step into Gods will.
- Follow Gods will and there will be proof for there is nothing false about Him.
- Discerning Gods will is our primary function!
- That is the "gem" in this chapter, because it should be our only real concern while we toil amongst these strange species we call...human.

Jn 7:19-24

Joh 7:19-24 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"
"You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill you?"
Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all astonished. Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a child on the Sabbath. Now if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath?
Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."

- At first this seems a sudden transition. But really look at the progression.
 - ◊ Wow your smart. Who are you to be so smart.
 - ◊ I am smart because I listen to God.
 - ◊ If you choose to listen to God you'd get smart to.
 - ◊ But your not listening to God, your trying to kill me, unjustly. You're Hippocrates.
- Obviously the audience didn't catch this, they act like he is crazy talking to himself or a demon.
- "Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment."
 - ◊ Doesn't this relate well to the series of people we've met in the last few chapters.
 - ◊ Jesus has taught us about breaking through bearriers of prejudice and self.

Jn 7:25-32

Joh 7:25-32 At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Christ? But we know where this man is from; when the Christ comes, no one will know where he is from."

Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, but I know him because I am from him and he sent me." At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come. Still, many in the crowd put their faith in him. They said, "When the Christ comes, will he do more miraculous signs than this man?" The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

- Then some realize who he is.
- "No one will know where he is from" What? They should know that the messiah will come from Bethlehem. Because of the prophecy from Micah

Mic 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times "

- ◊ The origin of the Messiah as a mystery comes from the Talmud. Rabbi Zera taught a little riddle: "Three come unawares: Messiah, a found article, and a scorpion."
- ◊ Apparently OT prophetic passages like Daniel 9:25 and Malachi 3:1 were interpreted by some authors of the Torah as indicating a sudden appearance of Messiah.

Mal 3:1 "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

- ◊ I have not traced this prophecy to its end so I am not sure what Malachi is referring to, it may be the 2nd coming.
- ◊ This is obviously not a universal view as Herod, at the coming of the Magi in Matthew 2, knew that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem.
- Can you see the danger of false teaching. It may seem small and insignificant in 1830 can mis-guide over 12,000,000 in less than 200 years. As we are warned by James

Jas 3:1 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

- Jesus reply really rubs salt in the irritation of these leaders. (re-read above)
 - ◊ Ya you know where I grew up, but you don't really know...
 - ◊ God sent me, and you won't know that because you don't really know God.
- So with this "They" try and grab Him but no one laid a hand on Him
 - ◊ I so would like to know how that takes place...forcefield, slips into the crowd...
- Then He shows up again and keeps on teaching...

Jn 7:33-35

Joh 7:33-35 Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time, and then I go to the one who sent me. You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come." The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks?"

- I really like what Albert Barnes says about this scripture:
- That this isn't just to the individuals it is a warning to the nation of Israel.
 - ◊ They will continue to seek the Messiah , the redeemer.
 - ◊ He will not come, they will seek in vain.
 - ◊ Where the Messiah is (in heaven) the nation of Israel has lost their opportunity for a redeemer.

Jn 7:36-39

Joh 7:36-9 What did he mean when he said, 'You will look for me, but you will not find me,' and 'Where I am, you cannot come?'" On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

- Feast of the Tabernacles
 - ◊ This holiday has a dual significance: historical and agricultural.
 - ◊ Agricultural in that it is a celebration of the fall harvest
 - ◊ Historically remembers the journey from Egypt to Canaan and thanks God for the provisions in the Dessert and now the productivity of Canaan
 - ◊ There were sacrifices and several symbolic rituals through out the week.
- Last day of the feast, cisterns of water were poured over the alters and the water ran down the road.
 - ◊ This was a ritual representing Moses striking the rock and water coming forth. This happened both in the beginning of the journey and just before they were to enter the promise land.
 - ◊ What a perfect setting for Jesus to make the analogy to living water again.
- Repeats the first few verses of Isa 55 – If yo are unfamiliar with this chapter I suggest you go and read it. It is really wonderful. If know this chapter I suggest you re-read it.
 - ◊ You can really see what Jesus meant by, "My teaching is not my own. It is from the one who sent me"
 - ◊ He knew His fathers word. He knew the meaning and purpose behind it.
- We see that John writes with hind sight about the Holy Spirit being "given" until Jesus becomes glorified on the cross, and resurrection.
 - ◊ Now this is a very interesting statement that Jesus glorification is on the cross.
 - ◊ It is a real event of shame. Shame and honor is one of the biggest motivating figures in the middle eastern culture.
 - ◊ But God does his trick of reversal, His wonderful irony and turns the most devastating and shameful event into the most glorifying in history.

Jn 7:40-44

Joh 7:40-44 On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet." Others said, "He is the Christ." Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee? Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

- The main theme. Link back to Jn 7:12 (read it)
 - ◊ From the day of Jesus to now there has always been those who question and will not commit.
- These people in Jesus time have so much evidence.
 - ◊ Jn the Baptizer.
 - ◊ Prophesy after prophesy being fulfilled. (if they know Gods word)
 - ◊ Signs and wonders
 - ◊ Jesus teaching Teaching

- They still question his origin, which they don't even have right.
 - ◇ Relate to last weeks discussion – Getting held up on the small details that are not understood instead of trusting and being taught. Thinking...
 - ◇ God keeps these points, that He is from the house of David and that He was born in Bethlehem, to blind those that lack true love for God.

Mar 4:10-12 When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, " 'they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!' [1]" ISA 6:9

- Why would God hide these things from people?
 - ◇ This actually relates to the “gem” of this chapter. “If anyone chooses to do Gods will...”
 - ◇ God sets it up like this so those who are not willing to do Gods will “may see but not perceive” Can “hear it but not understand”
 - ◇ We will see some of these people in the next section here; (v.52)
- And there again no one laid a hand on Him.

Jn 7:45-52

Joh 7:45-52 Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?" "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards declared. "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted. "Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law--there is a curse on them." Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, "Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee."

- So the temple guards return with the idea that Jesus was a prophet. There was obvious evidence.
- And what do the leaders do? They ridiculed guards for believing – peer pressure
- They even ridiculed Nicodemus for questioning there ethics in breaking the law to have Jesus killed.
- For told in Isa 49:7

Conclusion

- There is enough evidence. Jesus is there
- But there are a lot of excuses.
- This parallels with believers also and our willingness to follow His will.
- Choose Gods will...see that the teaching is of truth.
- This includes Sins of Omission.
 - ◇ Meaning Sins of not acting on what God prompts you to do.
 - ◇ Sins aren't just doing things God doesn't want you to do.
 - ◇ I believe it can go so far as not seeking Gods will.