

St. John's Gospel

Session 12

Last week we dealt with the end of Ch. 6 and Jesus claim to be the living bread that came down from heaven, which if someone eats it, will give them the gift of eternal life.

The Jews challenge this and by the beginning of ch. 7, the Jews are seeking to kill Jesus.

Ch 7 begins with the Feast of Tabernacles being at hand. Jesus brothers encourage Jesus to leave Galilee to go to Jerusalem to the Festival, so that "the people can see the signs he does and believe in him".

Jesus says no to this, because "his time had not yet come" (7:6). Meaning of course, the hour of the crucifixion on the cross, the real reason he will be forever defined as the Messiah. Jesus will not miracles and signs be define him as the Messiah. It is his self-offering on the cross, the ultimate gift of love, and the resurrection that well define Jesus Messiahship.

So Jesus stays behind while his brothers go to the feast in Jerusalem. But in Vs 10, Jesus goes in secret. We ended with 7:12 when there is much division about Jesus. Some say he is a good man while others say he is leading the people astray. We pick it up with Vs. 14 (read 7:14-36)

Vs. 14 – The Feast was ½ over by the time Jesus gets there. He goes to the Temple to teach.

Vs. 15 – The Jews marvel about Jesus teaching and learning since he had no formal training under a Rabbi.

Vs. 16 – Jesus claims that his teaching is not his own, it comes from Him who sent me. Jesus is saying – I merely reflect my Father's teaching.

Vs. 17 – Anyone who does God's will – which means – whoever believes in me – will know my teaching reflects God's teaching.

Vs. 18 – I am not seeking my own glory – I am truthful because I am seeking God's glory.

Vs. 19 – Moses gave you the law – but none of you keep the law. This must have infuriated the Jews. Why are you seeking to kill me?

Vs. 20 – The Jews respond by saying to Jesus – you are demented. Nobody is trying to kill you.

Vs. 21-23 – Jesus says – you circumcise on the Sabbath, and I healed a man on the Sabbath. Are you angry at me for healing on the Sabbath?

Vs. 24 – Don judge by appearances. Judge me Rightly

Vs. 25-27 – The Jews in Jerusalem know that Jesus is indeed the one they are trying to kill. They marvel that he is teaching openly in the Temple and no one takes him by force. Could it be that the authorities, the Pharisees, determined Jesus actually is the Messiah by the signs he has done? We know where he comes from – he is Joe and Mary's boy.

Vs. 28 – Jesus mocks them - So you know me and you know where I come from? I have not come on my own, the One who sent me, you do not know.

Vs. 29 - I do know him, because He sent me.

Vs. 30 – The Jews try to arrest Jesus – to no avail, because John tells us, His hour has not yet come. John will repeat this phrase several times, both from Jesus lips (his words earlier to his brothers) and from his own interjection. John wants to point us always to the cross as the true sign of who Jesus is, the Messiah, the Son of God, the Saviour. John forces us to look at the cross. And in John that means pointing us to glory, not to the suffering of Jesus.

Jesus eludes being taken.

Vs. 31 - Not only did Jesus elude being taken, John tells us, that many of the authorities and Jews come to belief because of the signs he did.

Vs. 32 – The Pharisees overhear the discussion and send the Temple Guard to take Jesus

Vs. 33-34 – To no avail. Jesus says – “in a little while I will be going to my Father, the One who sent me. You will look for me, but you will not find me. Where I am , you cannot find me”

Vs 35-36 – The Jews are confused (typical way John depicts them). They just don’t get it. They are not in touch with what God is doing. How could they?

Vs. 37-52 (Read).

Vs. 37 – It is the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, the 7th day, the perfect Jewish number. Jesus again makes a bold claim about himself. He claims to be the “living water” If you drink of this water (believe in him) you will have eternal life.

One of the symbolic parts of the Feast of Tabernacles, was that on each one of the 7 days, a golden pitcher of water was filled at the Pool of Siloam, and taken to the Temple at Jerusalem as a reminder to the Jews of God’s provision of water during the wilderness wandering period. (Read Numbers 20:2-13). So Jesus – on the last day of the Feast says not only am I the bread of life, I am the water of life. Water is a great symbol for life, because all living things need water to live. Jesus is saying eternal life depends on the water only I can provide. I fulfill both of the sacred gifts God provided in the wilderness wandering period, bread (manna) and water (from the rock Moses struck).

Vs 38-39 – Jesus claims - if you believe in me “out of your heart will flow rivers of living waters”. Jesus is saying believe and you will have abundance of blessings in your heart.

Vs. 39 – Jesus reveals he is referring to the work of the Holy Spirit, which is not yet come. IT will not be sent until the Feast of Pentecost, 50 days after Easter. The Holy Spirit cannot be sent until Jesus has died and risen. The sending of the Holy Spirit will be the gift of God’s presence in the believer to “Lead us into all truth” concerning Jesus and who Jesus is. The Holy Spirit also has the purpose of “convicting me for my sins”, so that I can repent and receive the grace of God’s forgiveness and love.

Note that in Vs. 39 – John is referring to the crucifixion. But he does so by speaking of it as pure GLORY. John’s great gift to the Church is to portray salvation history as glory, not focusing us on Jesus obvious agony and suffering.

Vs. 40-41 – Some of the Jews think Jesus is a prophet – others say He is the Christ. Division reigns.

Vs, 41-42 – There is stated the prophesy that the Messiah would not come from Galilee, but from Bethlehem. Of course Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Vs. 43-44 – Some want to arrest Jesus. But no one laid hands on him. This is John's not so subtle way of saying Jesus is in charge of the drama that will soon unfold. No mob, no authorities, will take him by force. When Jesus is ready and his time has come, he will offer himself up.

Vs. 45 – The officers of the Temple court report back to the Pharisees. They ask them, why didn't you bring him to us?

Vs. 46 – They reply to the Pharisees – No man has ever spoken like this.

Vs. 47 – The Pharisees ask – probably sarcastically – Have you also been led astray?

Vs. 48 – They ask – have any of the Pharisees been led astray?

Vs. 49-51 - Nicodemus, the Pharisee who came to Jesus by night (ch 3) speaks up. He says: "Does our law judge a man until he has a hearing? This shows that in all likelihood, Nicodemus has come to believe in Jesus or he wouldn't risk defending Jesus right to a hearing.

Vs. 52 – The Pharisees stand pat. Rubbish they contend - Based on their belief that Jesus is from Galilee. They ask Nicodemus – "Are you from Galilee?" Search the Scriptures – no prophet will come from Galilee.