

John 7

Some Facts

"Feast of Booths/ Feast of Tabernacles/ Feast of Ingathering"

Also known as the "Feast of Tabernacles", it was also call Feast of Booths because during this period (Fall-month of Sept-Oct) Jews are commanded to dwell in a small booth for the eight days of the Feast (Leviticus 23:33-43). Jewish families build these makeshift huts on their patios and balconies, and decorate them with colourful fruit, ribbons and pictures. These flimsy booths are a reminder to Israel that they once dwelled in temporary shelters during the forty years in the Wilderness, totally dependent on the Lord. God is faithful and He continues to provide all we need to walk upright before Him still today.

The Feast of Tabernacles was also called the "Feast of Ingathering" (Exodus 23:16) because it took place at the end of the harvest. So just as the land was full of food, the people were to remember that it is God who gave them food for forty years in the desert, and it is God who still gives them their food. Since the Feast of Tabernacles is about 6 months after the Feast of Passover, about six months had elapsed since John chapter 6.

John 7:53 to John 8:11 is either set off in brackets or is in a footnote

The reason for this is that most New Testament scholars do not think it was part of the Gospel of John when it was first written, but was added centuries later.

The unbelief of Jesus' brothers

James – Brother of Jesus, author for one of the book in New Testament, was call unbeliever, why?

He wanted Jesus to be Popular, to go the path of fame to seek glory from people. Jesus's path was not that but to eventually be put on a cross in a humiliated way.

The unbelief of the Jewish leaders

The Pharisees feel their position are threaten - Everyone Else Is Wrong,

1. The empty-handed officers were accused of being been Deceived vv47-48
2. The crowd were accused of Does not know the law and Accursed vv49
3. Nicodemus one of the Pharisees gives a word of caution were accused of being Bias

John means for us to see that in fact the tables are totally turned. All of these indictments are going to show the Pharisees themselves to be the really deceived, does not know the law, cursed, and biased ones.

Bread of Life and Living Water

To appreciate Jesus' claim here, we need to note the setting. During the Feast of Tabernacles the Israelites lived in booths to remind them of God's care for them in the wilderness, when He provided manna and water from the rock. The feast also looked forward to the final harvest and ingathering of the nations during Messiah's kingdom.

During Jesus' time, the feast was also characterized by a daily procession led by a priest carrying a golden pitcher of water drawn from the Pool of Siloam. The water was poured out at the base of the altar at the same time that another priest would pour out a pitcher of wine on the other side of the altar, which pointed to the future outpouring of the Holy Spirit as predicted by Isaiah

John wants us to see that Jesus Himself is the fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles. In 1:14 he told us that (literally), "the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us." Paul tells us that Jesus is the rock that supplied Israel with water in the barren desert (1 Cor. 10:4). He is also the bread of life, the fulfilment of the manna that sustained Israel in the wilderness (John 6). So now, on the last day of this feast, Jesus stood and cried out, or shouted in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' In other words, He fulfils all that the feast symbolized.

1. THE BREAD OF LIFE (Jesus' claim demands a response)

- a) What does Jesus mean by being the bread of life?
- b) How have you fed on the "bread of life" this week?

2. RIVERS OF LIVING WATER - For You and from You (John 7:28-39.)

- a) What is this living water? _____
- b) What is the condition/requirement to receive this living water?
- c) To what extent does "rivers of living water flowing from your innermost being" describe you?

The rivers flow out of us to others who are thirsty. The world is a barren desert, and people are dying of thirst. You and I are to be the rivers of living water that these dying people need. As they see Christ in us (the fruit of the Spirit) and want what we have, we can tell them how they can come to Jesus and drink. Lost people desperately need what only we who have believed can give them.

3. THE COMMON ROOT OF UNBELIEF IN THE BROTHERS OF JESUS AND THE JEWISH CROWD

For the brothers, the miracles of Jesus can get them human praise. For the crowds, the miracles of Jesus threaten their human praise.

John Piper: “Pride is the rejection of grace. Faith is being glad in the God of grace.”

a) How are we to examine ourselves to ensure we are walking with God? how should we pray for ourselves and for those we love?

4. IS JESUS THE CHRIST?

There are three groups described here, all of which to one degree or another have wrong views of Jesus: His brothers, the Jewish leaders, and the multitude at the feast.

a) Who is Jesus to you?

b) Someone tells you, “I believe that Jesus was a very good man, but I don’t believe He is God.” How would you reply?

PRAYER:

What should you do in response to Jesus’ promise? First, honestly assess the degree to which “rivers of living water flowing from your innermost being” describes you. If it doesn’t describe you at all, then come to Jesus and drink! (you must thirst for it) If you have to admit that it’s more like a trickle, then make it your priority to be satisfied daily with the riches of Christ. Walk in the Spirit and ask Him to fill you.