

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Nov 2015

John: Jesus is the Christ

Lesson #8: Teaching at the Feast

- When have you been ridiculed, ostracized or perhaps avoided because of your faith? What did you do?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: This chapter centers around the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths), which occurred in October, six months after the Passover. These eight days commemorated the Israelites' wilderness wanderings (living in booths), and as the harvest festival that celebrated the goodness of God. It is one of the three feasts all male Jews were required to attend annually. Every morning a libation made in the Temple called to mind the water which Moses had brought forth from the rock. Water was brought from the Pool of Siloam in a golden pitcher and poured out amidst trumpets and shouts of joy from the multitudes. John is also beginning to explain the period of conflict between Jesus and the Jewish leaders.

Read John 7:14-36

Note: The rabbinic method of learning was by recitation of the opinions of the teachers of the law (their authorities). When one was sufficiently knowledgeable of past opinions (precedents), then one might dare to express one's own opinions on issues.¹

1. Jesus travels south (over 80 miles) from Galilee to Jerusalem for the Feast and begins teaching.
What are the various reactions and arguments people give to Him?
2. How does this compare with people's reactions to Jesus today?
3. What about Jesus' teaching provokes the response in verse 30?
4. How does Jesus respond to all the criticism?
5. What do we learn about Jesus' authority here?

Read John 7:37-52

6. Picture yourself in the excited crowd on the last day of the Feast. As the water is being poured out and the trumpets are blowing, Jesus shouts out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink." What would be your reaction?
7. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit?
8. How much of this do you think the people understood that day? What were their responses?
9. What might the guards have been feeling after they came back?
10. What justification do the Pharisees offer in refuting the guards? Nicodemus?
11. Why might Nicodemus be willing to take the risk of defending Jesus?

APPLICATION

- Is the flow of the Holy Spirit in your life lately a refreshing spring or a clogged faucet? Come to Jesus today and take a deeper drink of His life-giving Spirit?
- Are you facing ridicule or opposition for your faith from family or friends? How can you deal with it properly?

7:17 — "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority." The best way to understand the Word of God is to decide to obey it, whatever it says. We put ourselves in great spiritual danger by trying to understand the Bible without first committing to obey God (Luke 12:47, 48).²

¹ Borchert, G. L. (1996). *John 1-11* (Vol. 25A, p. 283). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

² Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Jn 7:17). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.