

(1) After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. So His brothers said to Him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works You are doing. For no one works in secret if He seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." For not even His brothers believed in Him.

(6) Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify about it that its works are evil. You go up to the Feast. I am not going up to this Feast, for my time has not yet fully come." After saying this, He remained in Galilee.

(10) But after His brothers had gone up to the Feast, then He also went up, not publicly but in private. The Jews were looking for Him at the Feast, and saying, "Where is He?" And there was much muttering about Him among the people. While some said, "He is a good man," other said, "No, He is leading the people astray." Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of Him.

(14) About the middle of the Feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when He has never studied?" So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether I am speaking on My own authority. The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of Him who sent Him is true, and in Him there is no falsehood.

(19) "Has not Moses given you the Law? Yet none of you keeps the Law. Why do you seek to kill Me?" The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill You?" Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the Law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with Me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

Think on these things:

- 1) John 6:4 indicated Jesus' 2nd Passover Feast as a rabbi was at hand. After this passed, He returned north to feed the 5000+, then shared difficult teachings in Capernaum (remember, many disciples left Him). John 7:2 says it's now time for the Feast of Booths, six months later from Passover. From John 7:1, in what region of the country does Jesus spend time? Why?

Where? **Jesus went about in Galilee.**

Why? **He would not stay in Judea because Jewish authorities sought to kill Him.**

- 2) This passage says Jesus' "brothers (and sisters)" came to Him, urging Him to go to the Feast. How many (half) brothers and sisters did Jesus have (the children of Joseph & Mary)? Consider Matthew 13:53-58. (Other references: 1 Corinthians 9:3-6; Galatians 1:18-19; Jude 1:1.)

Brothers listed? **(4) James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas**

Sisters? **Plural (2+), but unknown beyond that** At Least? **Counting Jesus, 7(+) children**

- 3) Reading John 7:3-9, how would you describe Jesus' relationship with these half-siblings while He was in public ministry? Why was it that their "time is always here" (vs. 6-7)?

Relationship? **At least very strained with Jesus in public ministry. They were sarcastic toward Him, telling Him, "You don't do things secretly if you want to be a public figure!" V.5 clearly says that they didn't believe in Him (and His claim to be God's Son...?).**

Their time is always here? **At this time, they are unbelieving, unsaved, unregenerated people like most everyone else in the world --- doing evil that Jesus came to testify against.**

- 4) Jesus talks about "My time" (v.6), one of many such references in the Gospels. Consider these references: Matthew 26:17-19 and 43-46; John 12:27-33; 13:1; 17:1). When was "His time (or hour)?" What was it all about?

When? **Jesus announced that His "hour" came during the prayer time in the Garden of Gethsemane on the eve of Passover, when He was finally arrested and brought to trial.**

What about? **Jesus' hour, His time, was all about His sacrificial death on the cross to redeem mankind from the penalty and power of sin.**

- 5) V.13 says people refused to speak openly about Jesus out of fear of the Jewish leadership. What two opinions of Jesus were circulating at the time of the Feast of Booths (v.12)?

#1? **He (Jesus) is a good man.**

#2? **No, He (Jesus) is leading the people astray.**

- 6) How would you answer the crowd's question in v.15? Whose message was Jesus bringing (v.16)?

Answer? **Jesus had the typical Jewish male upbringing in the synagogue, but not an apprenticeship with any Jewish scholar. His knowledge and insight into scripture amazed people who did not yet know about the work of the Holy Spirit or the fact that Jesus was the "Word that became flesh." (You want the class to grasp that He's explaining the words "He" originally gave through the prophets across all the years.)**

Whose message? **His message was that of the Father, the One who sent Him.**

- 7) If you love God the Father and live to do His Will in your life, what does Jesus say you will know about Him (Jesus, vs.17-18)?

We will know if Jesus' teachings are truly from God the Father and without any falsehoods.

- 8) Essentially from verses 19-24, Jesus points out that even though Moses brought God's Law to the Jews, they weren't keeping it. They also had no problem circumcising male children on Sabbath. Therefore, Jesus challenges them for opposing Him because He healed a man on Sabbath. What does He tell them they need to do (v.24)?

Make a fair (right) judgment. Don't jump to apparent conclusions on the surface of things, but consider and weigh the evidence before them.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: