



John

Lesson 7 Chapter 7

In Chapter 6 it was Passover time in Jerusalem which began on the fourteenth of April (Abib-first month of the Hebrew calendar) and lasted for 7 days called the days of Unleavened Bread. Now in Chapter 7 the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths was about to be celebrated. This holiday runs from the fifteenth to the twenty-first of October (Tishri-seventh month of the Hebrew calendar). Jesus has had several confrontations with the Jewish religious leaders. Many of them John doesn't mention, but they are recorded by the other gospel writers, The tension had escalated, and they sought to kill Him because of His healing on the Sabbath and His controversial statements in

the Bread of Life discourse (5:18; 7:1). Because of this, after the confrontation in Chapter 5, Jesus withdrew from Jerusalem back to Galilee to continue His ministry. He also taught and ministered in various other regions on the fringes of Judea. The other gospel writers give much information on his ministry during this time. He has been away from Jerusalem for around seven months focusing mostly on teaching and training His disciples. Now in Chapter 7, the disciples are preparing to return to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles which was one of the required attendance feasts.

READ CHAPTER 7

1. *Read Leviticus 23:34-44, Deuteronomy 16:13-17, Nehemiah 8:13-15, and Zechariah 14:16-19. What were the three required feasts for Jews to go to Jerusalem? What were some of the specific things they were to do on the Tabernacles?*



On the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles, the high priest with a procession of priests and thousands of worshippers, descended from the Temple Mount to pause briefly at the Pool of Siloam. A pitcher was filled with water, and the procession returned to the Temple Mount by another route. Here in the ceremony the high priest poured the pitcher of water onto the altar. Israel's rains stop in March and don't return for almost seven months. If God doesn't provide early rains in October or November, there will be no spring crop and famine would occur. This ceremony was intended to invoke God's blessing on the nation by providing the life-giving water. ~Christcenteredmail.com

2. *What was Jesus' brothers' reasoning for wanting Him to go Jerusalem? Vs. 3-5*



According to *Mathew 13:55*, Jesus' brothers were James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. James is spoken of several times in the New Testament. Historically it is believed that he understood Jesus to be the Messiah after the resurrection, and he went on to become the shepherd of the church in Jerusalem. He was an authoritative voice in the Council of Jerusalem in *Acts 15*, and he went on to write the *Epistle of James*. The historian Josephus, places James' death during a time of transition between two Roman governors signifying a probable date of 62 AD. Tradition states he was stoned to death after being thrown off the Temple. Little is known about the other brothers.

3. *What does Jesus say is the reason He wasn't going up to Jerusalem with them? 7:6-8*

4. *Most families traveled in caravans with many groups which made them very noticeable when they got into Jerusalem. Read *Luke 2:44*. How might this have been why Jesus didn't want to travel with them but went up later in secret?*

5. *What were the contrasting statements that people were making about Jesus? *John 7:11-13*. In what ways can you see these attitudes in people today?*

6. *The religious leaders were astounded by Jesus' ability to teach. They assumed that unless one had been taught in rabbinical schools he could have no understanding of God or the Scriptures. According to verses 13-18, what was the difference between their teaching and His?*

7. *What question does Jesus ask the Jews, and what is their response? Vs. 19-20 How does vs. 25 counter that?*

8. *Jesus makes a profound statement in verse 24. What is that statement, what is He referring to when He says it, and what do you think it means? Vs. 21-23*

9. *When Jesus once again claimed that He was from God, why didn't they arrest and kill Him then? Vs. 28-30*

10. *How would Jesus' action in vs. 37-39 correlate with the information after question 1 of this lesson?*

11. *In vs. 32 the religious leader sent officers to arrest Jesus because of how the people were talking about Him. Why was He not taken into custody? Vs. 45-46*

12. *What did the people say in vs. 27, and how does this differ from verses 40-42? What does this tell you about the differences in understanding about the Messiah? What was the result of all this confusion? Vs. 43*

13. *When the Pharisees meet to discuss the situation, how did Nicodemus try to defend Jesus? Vs. 47-51*

14. *How are the Pharisees misinformed about where Jesus came from? See also vs. 42*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
