

JOHN 7-8

June 3, 2012

Today we discuss **chapters 7 and 8** of the Gospel of John.

7:1 In **verse 1 of chapter 7** we are given the locations of what is going to take place. Judea is the region around Jerusalem and the Dead Sea; it is very rough desert. Galilee is the area west and north of the Sea of Galilee; it is very fertile and green.

7:2 **Verse 2** tells us about the “Feast of Booths”. It was a celebration to remind Israel what God had done for them bringing them out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. See **Leviticus 23:34-44**. [³³ And the Lord said to Moses, ³⁴ “Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. Begin celebrating the Festival of Shelters on the fifteenth day of the appointed month—five days after the Day of Atonement. This festival to the Lord will last for seven days. ³⁵ On the first day of the festival you must proclaim an official day for holy assembly, when you do no ordinary work. ³⁶ For seven days you must present special gifts to the Lord. The eighth day is another holy day on which you present your special gifts to the Lord. This will be a solemn occasion, and no ordinary work may be done that day. ³⁷ (“These are the Lord’s appointed festivals. Celebrate them each year as official days for holy assembly by presenting special gifts to the Lord—burnt offerings, grain offerings, sacrifices, and liquid offerings—each on its proper day. ³⁸ These festivals must be observed in addition to the Lord’s regular Sabbath days, and the offerings are in addition to your personal gifts, the offerings you give to fulfill your vows, and the voluntary offerings you present to the Lord.) ³⁹ “Remember that this seven-day festival to the Lord—the Festival of Shelters—begins on the fifteenth day of the appointed month, after you have harvested all the produce of the land. The first day and the eighth day of the festival will be days of complete rest. ⁴⁰ On the first day gather branches from magnificent trees, palm fronds, boughs from leafy trees, and willows that grow by the streams. Then celebrate with joy before the Lord your God for seven days. ⁴¹ You must observe this festival to the Lord for seven days every year. This is a permanent law for you, and it must be observed in the appointed month from generation to generation. ⁴² For seven days you must live outside in little shelters. All native-born Israelites must live in shelters. ⁴³ This will remind each new generation of Israelites that I made their ancestors live in shelters when I rescued them from the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” ⁴⁴ So Moses gave the Israelites these instructions regarding the annual festivals of the Lord.] **NLT**

7:6 In **verse 6** Jesus talks about His “time”. Is God more interested in time or in timing? Explain.

- Time doesn’t matter much to God; a thousand years is like a day to Him (**2 Peter 3:8**). God doesn’t dwell in time; time dwells in Him. God is *very* interested in timing. See **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 & 8:5** and **Galatians 4:4**. See **John 7:30**. [³⁰ Then the leaders tried to arrest him; but no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come.] **NLT**

How might it change our lives if we were less interested in time and more interested in timing?

- We want it now; God has much to teach us in waiting and sometimes He accomplished more when He waits (Jesus could have healed Lazarus; instead He waited and raised Him from the dead.).

7:7,8 Look at **7 and 8**: why are the lives of the righteous so disturbing to people who are unrighteous?

- The righteous life brings conviction to others; they see in the good person what they should and could be...and they don’t like the reminder. See **John 3:19**. [¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.] **NLT**

7:10 In **verse 10**, how do you explain Jesus saying that He would not go to the Feast and then going?

- Jesus had submitted Himself to some restrictions as a man. **Read Philippians 2:6-8 and Matthew 24:35-36.** Jesus was simply doing what the Father told Him to do when the Father told Him to do it (John 5:19,30; 6:38; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10).

What do we learn about following the Lord from these verses.

- We must stay close to God. He usually just gives us enough direction to take the next step. “His way is in the sea” (Psalm 77:19) means that there are no footsteps left on the beach that we can follow. You have to stay close to Him to know where He is going.

7:17 Verse 17 teaches us the number one principle in knowing God’s will for our lives; what is it?

- If you want to know God’s will, you must be willing to do it before He tells you what to do (see John 8:43,47). You have more faith in His wisdom and goodness than you do your own ability to reason and manage your life.

7:24 What is the problem with judging by “appearance”, mentioned in verse 24?

- Things are not always the way they seem to be. **See Isaiah 55:6-9;** [6 Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. 7 Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously. 8 “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. 9 For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.] **1 Samuel 16:7.** [7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”] See what was said about Jesus hundreds of years before His birth in **Isaiah 11:1-3.** [1 Out of the stump of David’s family will grow a shoot—yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root. 2 And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3 He will delight in obeying the Lord. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay.] NLT

7:37-38 What is the living water Jesus is talking about in verses 37 and 38?

- He would give them life by His Spirit living in them (7:39). **See John 1:4; 5:26,40; 10:10; & 20:31.**

7:39 In verse 39, how was the presence of the Holy Spirit different at that point in history from today?

- Prior to Pentecost (Acts 2), the Holy Spirit came upon people but did not indwell them as He did after Pentecost and does today (1 Corinthians 6:19). Jesus talks about the role of the Holy Spirit in **John 14-16.**

8:1-11 In chapter 8 verses 1 to 11 we have the story of the woman caught in the act of adultery.8:3-6 In verses 3 to 6, the religious leaders bring an adulterous woman to Jesus. They could have stoned her based upon Old Testament law. Why do you think that they instead brought her to Jesus?

- They knew that Jesus loved sinners and was given to grace (and not just the Law as they were); **see John 1:14.** They saw this as another chance to get Him to condemn Him for breaking one of their laws.

8:6-8 In verses 6 to 8 Jesus wrote something on the ground. What do you think He wrote? and why?

- He likely wrote down the sins of the men who had brought the woman. These men found out that He knew what they had done in secret and that He could have exposed them.

8:9 Verse 9 tells us that the older ones left first. Why do you think it happened that way?

- Maybe Jesus wrote down their sins first. Maybe they were more aware of their sin and more afraid of others finding out.

8:11 What is the significance of Jesus telling her to sin no more in verse 11?

- Grace and forgiveness is *not* a license to sin. See Psalm 130:4. [But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you.] NLT

8:12 Look at verse 12. What is this “light” that we walk in?

- Being “the truth” (John 14:6), Jesus Himself is this light. His Word, the Bible is also our light. See Psalm 119:105 and 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

8:24,28 Notice in verses 24 and 28 that the pronoun *He* is in italics. This means that it does not appear in the original text but was inserted to read as we would speak today. What is Jesus really saying here?

- He is saying that He is the “I AM” of the burning bush; He is God. See this again in 8:56-59.

8:28 Verse 28 tells us that Jesus does and says whatever the Father tells Him; He does nothing on His own initiative. What does this tell us about His relationship with the Father?

- He is in *complete* submission to the Father. And He never complains about being in submission.

What does submission mean and not mean?

- See what you get. Submission has nothing to do with personal worth or being *less* than another person. Jesus was equal with the Father (John 10:30) but in complete submission.

8:31-36 According to verses 31 to 36, what is the key to real moral and emotional freedom?

- Knowing the truth can set you free. You have to live in God’s Word to know the truth. You must believe the truth for it to become a reality in your life. We behave what we actually believe. Jesus did what He did because He knew what He knew.

8:41 Look at **verse 41**. The religious leaders had apparently conducted a background check and discovered that Joseph was not the real father of Jesus. In **verse 48** they think that his earthly father was not a Jew but a Gentile (making Him a Samaritan).

8:44 Notice verse 44. You will often hear it said that we are all “God’s children.” Is this true?

- No. We are all created by God but we only become His children through the new birth (see John 1:12 & Romans 8:14,16).

8:51 If we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8,9), then why does Jesus say what He does in verse 51?

- Keeping God’s Word (**obedience**) is the evidence of a converted heart. Again, we behave what we believe.

8:56 Verse 56 tells us that Abraham saw Jesus. When did he “see” Jesus?

- Jesus appeared in the Old Testament as THE angel of the Lord. We know that Abraham saw THE angel of the Lord before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18) and on the mountain when Abraham was sacrificing Isaac (Genesis 22).