

“A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN” SERIES

#13: “Jesus at the Feast of Booths, Part 2”

SCRIPTURE: John 7:25-52

INTRO:

Jesus is still in Jerusalem, where He went secretly and taught in the temple. The Jews who heard Him didn't suspect that He was the man the authorities were seeking, and they *“marveled”* that He could expound on theological subjects in spite of never having studied at one of their schools.

FINALLY, SOME OF THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM FIGURED OUT THAT HE WAS THE MAN THE AUTHORITIES SOUGHT.

Since He was speaking so openly, yet he hadn't been arrested, their first thought was that the authorities knew that He was indeed the Messiah, so they allowed Him to speak.

Their second thought, however, was that He couldn't be the Messiah, because they knew where He came from, and that when the Messiah came, nobody would know where He came from.

So, Jesus said, *“You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. ²⁹ I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me.”*

Then John wrote: *³⁰ So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. ³¹ Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, “When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?”* This tells us that God was in control. He wasn't “micro-managing,” but He was controlling the situation to the extent that He didn't allow Jesus to be prematurely arrested, tried, and executed.

You know, I suspect that this is how God controls the events of our world. He doesn't control every move or every decision of every person, but He maintains control over the world in such a way that His will is carried out according to His schedule.

And note that these Jewish people – people who knew the prophecies concerning the Christ – were most interested in the miracles that He performed. The ideas of forgiveness of sins and eternal life never seemed to cross their minds.

How is that any different than us today? Do we not see that people are more concerned about the miracles of healing today than they are about spiritual things such as faith to move mountains and life abundantly?

Yet, many believed that He was indeed the Christ.

THEN THE PHARISEES SENT THE TEMPLE GUARDS TO ARREST JESUS.

When they heard the people talking, they decided to send the guards to arrest Him. Upon learning of their plans, Jesus made a puzzling comment. He said, *"I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. ³⁴ You will seek me, and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come."* The Jews didn't understand this. They wondered where He could go that they couldn't find Him. They said things like, *"Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks?"* This *"Dispersion among the Greeks"* is a reference to Jews who are scattered among Gentiles in various other places in the world.

We learn in verse 45 that Jesus wasn't arrested at this time, to the chagrin of the chief priests and Pharisees.

ON THE LAST DAY OF THE FEAST OF BOOTHS, JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT.

In verse 38 He says, *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" John explains, "Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."*

We know from the Book of Acts, chapter two, that the Holy Spirit arrived on the day of Pentecost after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus and was given to 3,000 believers who repented and were baptized.

AT THIS POINT THERE WAS DIVISION AMONG THE PEOPLE AS TO WHO JESUS REALLY WAS.

Some said, *"This really is the Prophet"* referring to the writings of Moses. Others said, *"This is the Christ,"* the promised Messiah. Still others said, *"Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ come from the offspring of David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"*

They apparently have no idea that Jesus was born in Bethlehem and that He was of the lineage of David! So, they dispute the identity of Jesus to the extent that the temple guards decide not to arrest Him, which really ticks the

chief priests and Pharisees. “Why didn’t you take Him into custody?” they asked. The guards said, **“No one ever spoke like this man!”** The Pharisees replied, **“Have you also been deceived? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.”**

And look who speaks up at this point! Verse 50 and 51: **“Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, ‘Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?’”**

Verse 52: **“Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.”**

The Pharisees weren’t impressed with the guards’ report, nor with Nicodemus’ comment nor with the crowd’s opinion. As far as they were concerned, Jesus was a dumb uneducated Galilean who was leading the masses astray.

Nicodemus revealed his bravery in speaking up for Jesus to his arrogant cohorts who had sworn to have Jesus killed. However, when his fellow Pharisees connected him to thinking like Galilean rabble, he said no more.

Have you ever defended Jesus or your fellow Christians only to have your friends put you down for it? Did you speak out strong, or did you just go silent like Nicodemus?

IN CLOSING...

One of the most respected and oldest copies of the gospel of John has the definite article “the” with the word for “prophet” in verse 52. This makes it read, **“*the prophet.*”** In other words, the Pharisees said, **“*Search and see that the prophet does not arise from Galilee.*”** This presents us with a whole different view of the Pharisees. It would show that they realized that there were prophets from Galilee, like Jonah and possibly Hosea and Nahum.

Next, Jesus teaches that He is **“*the light of the world.*”**