

Doubting Because It is Different

In this Series...

1. We will be reminded that many people believe in the person of Jesus Christ, yet they reject His teaching.

“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.” - John 6:63

2. We will see that there are many reasons why people doubt, and hopefully understand our doubts better.

The Timing of this Story

“After this, Jesus went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to take His life.” - John 7:1

What had happened between chapters 6 and 7?

• Healings and Miracles

“Great crowds came to Him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at His feet; and He healed them.” - Matthew 15:30

• Teaching the Twelve — “Who do you say I am?” - Discipleship -

• The Transfiguration — Preparing for His death

Jesus had not been to Jerusalem for a year, but the Jews still wanted to kill Him. Jesus avoids Judea until the time is right.

“As the time approached for Him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.” - Luke 9:51

The Trip to Jerusalem (*The Feast of Tabernacles*)

“But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, ³Jesus’ brothers said to Him, “You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. ⁴No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” ⁵For even His own brothers did not believe in Him. ⁶Therefore Jesus told them, “The right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right. ⁷The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil. ⁸You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come.” ⁹Having said this, He stayed in Galilee. ¹⁰However, after His brothers had left for the Feast, He went also, not publicly, but in secret.” - John 7:2-10

This holiday (feast) is celebrated annually in the seventh month (October). It was one of the seven holidays that God had designed.

Jesus’ four brothers urge Him to come to this celebration in Jerusalem.

Why?

Because the brothers of Jesus did not believe His amazing claims, Jesus would not allow them to set His agenda.

Jesus stated two principles about non-believers:

- *“Anytime is right”* — meaning that God has no plan for those who do not come to Him.
- *“The world cannot hate you”* — meaning that if you fit into the world’s philosophy, no one will bother you.

After His brothers leave for Jerusalem, Jesus secretly follows.

The Teaching at the Feast

“Now at the Feast the Jews were watching for Him and asking, “Where is that man?” ¹²Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about Him. Some said, “He is a good man.” Others replied, “No, He deceives the people.” ¹³But no one would say anything publicly about Him for fear of the Jews. ¹⁴Not until halfway through the Feast did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. ¹⁵The Jews were amazed and asked, “How did this man get such learning without having studied?” ¹⁶Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from Him who sent me. ¹⁷If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. ¹⁸He who speaks on his own does so to gain honour for himself, but he who works for the honour of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. ¹⁹Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?” ²⁰“You are demon-possessed,” the crowd answered. “Who is trying to kill you?” ²¹Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all astonished. ²²Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a child on the Sabbath. ²³Now if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath? ²⁴Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.” - John 7:11-24

Jesus was the centre of attention even though He was absent.

(“Where is that man?” and widespread whispering about Him.)

Just like today, there were a variety of opinions about Jesus.

Jesus went to the temple and taught. Many were amazed at His knowledge since He didn’t have “a rabbi”.

Jesus gave three responses:

- My teaching comes from God Himself.
- You “Moses-followers” are hypocrites. (murder)
- You need to live differently:
 - Take another look at how you practice the law (*circumcision/healing*).
 - Take another look at how you judge the Christ.

Ask yourself:

- Do I judge others based on my understanding of “the rules”?
- Do I need to take another look at my hypocrisy?

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- The _____ — Preparing for His death

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