

New Testament Church
The Book of John #13 – John 7:1-24 – Righteous Judgment
April 19, 2026 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I The Gospel of John - Why expository preaching and why the Book of John at this time?

- A. Expository preaching brings depth, continuity and helps a congregation study together
 - 1. John reveals Christ as God – (eagle) - “behold your God” (Is. 40:9)
 - 2. The gospels reveal the “four faces” of Christ – king, servant, man, eagle
- B. John, author of John, 1st, 2nd, 3rd John and Revelation was a disciple of John the Baptist
 - 1. One of the sons of Zebedee (Salome his mother), a fisherman with Simon & Andrew
 - 2. ***John began as a critic but learned the balance of truth, grace and love...***
- C. One of the themes in John are the various **signs** that indicate critical aspects of Christ
 - 1. The **first SIGN** was water into wine (John 2) – there is New Life in Christ
 - 2. The **second SIGN** was healing the Nobleman’s son (John 4) – faith in Christ’s Word
 - 3. The **third SIGN** was healing the cripple (John 5) – Christ’s undeserving Grace
 - 4. The **fourth SIGN** feeding the 5,000 (John 6) – Christ is the bread of life
 - 5. The **fifth SIGN** of walking on water (John 6) – Transcendence of Bread
- D. Another theme are the various **I AM** statements by Jesus – **1st – I am the Bread of Life**

II Righteous Judgment – John 7:1-24 – Learning to discern correctly (John 7:24)

- A. v. 1-9 – Discerning the **time and season** “opportune moment” (v. 6) for open declaration of Truth
 - 1. The events here take place *six months after* the events in John 6 at the Feast of Tabernacles.
 - 2. The Feast of Tabernacles was near (September-October)
 - a. This is the third major Old Testament feast – of booths (*succoth*) or ingathering
 - b. Tabernacles followed the yearly designated Day of Atonement
 - c. The Booths of branches and leaves to give shade reminded them of the Exodus wandering
 - d. It was festival limited to covenanted people where they sang psalms together
 - e. Jesus did not attend openly since sowing had to occur before spiritual harvesting
 - 3. Jesus’ brothers (*James, Joseph, Simon, Judas*) tell him “go reveal yourself to your disciples”
 - a. If you think you are the Messiah, why not be open about it? Why are you hiding?
 - b. A motive for bigger crowds, more important people, finances, or an evil motive here?
 - c. But Jesus was to *advance the Kingdom*, not just His own anointing or identity (cautious)
 - d. Jesus told them “the world does not hate you, but it hates me” – a timing of confrontation
 - e. Jesus said “don’t publish this” or “it is not my time” – see Mt. 7:6 (pearls before swine)
 - 4. **It is not about advancing numbers but rather strategically advancing His Kingdom**
- B. v. 10-24 – **Righteous judgment** is not merely by appearance, but in depth of service
 - 1. After his brothers left for the feast, Jesus went up secretly, but Jewish leaders looked for Him
 - 2. Some thought he was “a good man” and others a “deceiver” *but most feared the leaders...*
 - 3. In the middle of the eight day festival, Jesus taught openly (to avoid a secret arrest)
 - a. “How does He know so much when not having any formal schooling?” (heart informs mind)
 - b. Jesus replied “My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me” – revelation from the Father
 - c. Truth is embraced when the motive is pure and sincere “to do God’s Will” and not for show
 - 4. **One’s motive must be to do God’s Will and seek His Glory and not your own**
 - a. Man’s reason, with no moral premise, worships mankind as if he has not fallen into sin
 - b. The Jews declare they follow Moses’ law, but that very law exposes their false motives
 - c. Jewish leaders allowed circumcision on the Sabbath (8th day), but not miracles (Bethesda)!
 - d. The flesh either judges by regulation, or not at all, *but we are to judge properly* (Mt. 7:1-2)
 - e. How do you discern motives in another? *Humility* is the primary mark in a pure motive
 - f. People can fake true service for a time, *but are we serving regardless of who is watching?*
Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment (v. 24)