

Thank you for lifting Lyn in prayer as she recovers from knee surgery.

PRAY

We are continuing today in working our way through the Gospel of John.

John's gospel is the **only gospel record of this moment** in Jesus ministry.

In John's recollection of the events in Jesus ministry, he is picking highlights of what took place in the year of opposition: that final year that leads up to the last week —that began with His Triumphal Entry, and concluded with the Crucifixion, Burial, and Resurrection.

I find it interesting that in John's recounting of events he does not tell stories. The other gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke all include the parables of Jesus, but John does not recount any of the parables.

In fact it's interesting to note that John's gospel records much about Jesus ministry in Judea and Jerusalem, that the other three gospels omit, and reveals more fully the mystery of Jesus personhood.

John does **focus on the miracles**, the healing Christ, intervening in the lives of people.

John doesn't appear to be interested in the second year of Jesus ministry: the year of popularity. He introduced us to Jesus as He began His ministry that first year, then skips over the second year and focuses on the opposition that Jesus faced in that final year of his ministry. John picks out highlights in that final year which is what we're looking at in this second half of chapter 7.

FEAST TIME

It is early October, harvesting is in full swing: wheat, barley, grapes and olives, it is time to celebrate. With his disciples, Jesus has traveled over 50 miles from Galilee to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. By now his teaching has created quite a stir among the religious leaders throughout Israel. You could say, His reputation precedes Him.

Jesus has chosen to quietly enter into Jerusalem during the seven day Feast of Tabernacles. He waited until about the 4th day of the feast to enter into the Temple and begin teaching. Pastor shared with us last week that Jesus exposed the hypocrisy of the religious leaders with the healing of the lame man on the Sabbath at the pool of Bethesda.

STAND & READ—Could This Be the Christ?

John 7:25 Now some of them from Jerusalem said, "Is this not He whom they seek to kill? 26 But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is [d]truly the Christ? 27 However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from."

28 Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, "You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. 29[e] But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me."

30 Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. 31 And many of the people believed in Him, and said, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this *Man* has done?"

PLEASE BE SEATED

My first thought:

Be Careful of assuming that you know something when you don't know the facts. They should have been asking, "If you are the Christ, then....?" What did the Prophets say about the Messiah? Matthew in his gospel records that the Messiah would first be a descendant of Abraham Micah(5:1-5) said the Messiah would come from Bethlehem. Matthew 2:14 quotes Hosea 11:1, that "Out of Egypt I called my son." Remember the flight in the night that Joseph and Mary made to escape the wrath of Herod.

Stop and think for a moment, a Pharisee named Saul, later figured it out when he considered the Scriptures, Galatians 3 Paul rehearses the fact that Messiah, The Christ would be the seed of Abraham.

Remember that in John 7:7 Jesus said, The world cannot hate you, **but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.** Keep in mind, the religious leaders were not happy when Jesus drove the animals out of the Temple, overturned the money changers tables and said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" (John 2:14-16) In his conversation with Nicodemus He said that judgment has come, John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Watch out for those ministries that preach a 'Positive Gospel', and fail to proclaim that all people are separated from God and are depraved, sinful and inherently selfish and in

need of a Savior. So many began to quibble about minor details rather than confronting their sin and accepting the Love of God.

Those who received the truth of Christ as Messiah found life welling up within their souls.

Remain Seated as I READ——Jesus and the Religious Leaders.

32The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him. **33**Then Jesus said [f]to them, “**I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him who sent Me. 34You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come.**” **35**Then the Jews said among themselves, “Where does He intend to go that we shall not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? **36**What is this thing that He said, ‘**You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come**’?”

400 years have passed in Israel with no prophetic word from the Lord. People have dispersed throughout the known world of that time. They have synagogues and have developed communities and have walked in darkness with no hope. John the Baptist and then Jesus have ignited a fire of faith and renewal in the hearts of the people and fear in the heart of the religious leaders.

A new thought: IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE MESSAGE, SHOOT THE MESSENGER !

Now it is the 8th day of the Feast of Tabernacles, A day of Sacred Assembly

A tradition provides a springboard for Jesus to introduce a dynamic truth.

Water has been poured from possibly a golden pitcher into a silver bowl each of the seven days of the feast, but not on the eighth day. Water has been a significant focus that Jesus chooses to capitalize on.

At the conclusion of the week, John starts in verses 37 to 44 covering the sacred assembly that follows the feast of tabernacles. It is a day of convocation, rest and offering of sacrifices. The Old Testament reference to the sacred assembly is Leviticus 23 verse 36 *For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. **On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation**, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it.* Numbers chapter 29 verses 35 to 38 **35**‘**On the eighth day you shall have a sacred[a] assembly. You shall do no customary work. 36**You shall present a burnt offering, an offering made by fire as a sweet aroma to the Lord: one bull, one ram, seven lambs in their

first year without blemish, **37**and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bull, for the ram, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance; **38**also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering..

READ——The Promise of the Holy Spirit. IS ANYONE THIRSTY? COME!!!!

37On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “**If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**”

Another rendering of this would read: “**If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me. And let him drink, who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.,**

THIRST COME DRINK BELIEVE

OUT OF THE HEART—— NOT THE MIND,

SHALL FLOW OUT—— IF NOT YOU WILL BECOME A DEAD SEA

OUT OF THE HEART THE MOUTH SPEAKS,

GUARD YOUR HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE.

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

THE SPIRIT COMES IN TO FLOW OUT

Scripture !

Jesus lifted an HIGHER AUTHORITY, greater than that of the religious leaders, The very Word of His Father! **Scripture is the the supreme authority for Christians**, for God alone has the right to determine our standards of conduct. To say that any person, institution, creed or church possesses equal or higher authority than God’s inspired revelation is tantamount to idolatry.

39But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The indwelling Spirit is the most wonderful Gift in the life of the Believer. First in the work of Regeneration, a life turned around, what was broken is now whole. But then it is the Spirit dwelling in the Temple flowing out to all the world around us.

Consider: We met the Samaritan Woman at the well in Chapter 4, when the Light burst forth in her heart, she could not contain it, but wanted to shout it from the roof top!

John is picking up on the message of John the Baptist in John 1:**32**And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. **33**I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, **this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.**' **34**And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

Believe:

Jn 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

13 ...born of God.

John never uses the noun **belief** yet he uses the verb **believe** 98 times in his gospel.

As explained in previous services, **'Believe'** is an ongoing action in the heart of the Believer, always expanding, always developing. Believe: is to adhere to (like glue); to trust in; to rely on.

READ——Who Is He?

40Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." **41**Others said, "This is the Christ."But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? **42**Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" **43**So there was a division among the people because of Him. **44**Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

READ——Rejected by the Authorities

45Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?"

CONSIDER: These officers have listened intently, watched those listening, they are confused, WHY such hatred? I wonder what was going through Nicodemus's thoughts as he heard the report of the officers?

46The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"**47**Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? **48**Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? **49**But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."**50**Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, **51**"Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?"**52**They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

DANGER: LEST WE REJECT HIM ALSO

Just like the religious leaders in Jesus day, we are capable of finding all kinds of excuses why we shouldn't accept Jesus and yield to His Salvation.

Are you willing to open your heart to the Savior? BELIEVE

Are you willing to yield to the Holy Spirit? RECEIVE

(Incomplete thought) The Gospels record seven incidents of Sabbath healing:

Simon Peter's mother-in-law(Mk 1:29), A man with a withered hand in the synagogue (Mk 3:1-6), A man born blind in Jerusalem(John 9:1-16), A crippled woman in a synagogue 9Lk 13:10-17), the man at the Pool of Bethesda(John 5:1-9)