

Jesus Speaking at the Feast of Tabernacles

(John chapter 7)



Some background to John Chapter 7

Feast of Tabernacles: It was **Israel's Thanksgiving**. The Feast of Tabernacles was a reminder of when God delivered Israel, through Moses, out of slavery in Egypt and their time in the wilderness or desert. The Israelites lived in tabernacles or booths on their 40-year journey to the Promised Land. This was a joyful, weeklong celebration in September when families camped out in temporary shelters to remember God's faithfulness to Israel in the wilderness on the way from Egypt to Canaan under Moses. The Hebrews called it the festival of booths (*Sukkoth*), because for the full week that it lasted people lived in makeshift booths of branches and leaves (cf. [Leviticus 23:40-43](#)); town-dwellers erected them in their courtyards or on their flat housetops.

Jesus brothers: Did Jesus have half-brothers through His mother Mary? Yes! Their names were James, Joses, Judas (aka Jude), Simon (See Matthew 12:46, 13:55; Mark 3:31, 6:31; Luke 8:19-20)

Nicodemus: a believing Pharisee and Sanhedrin (John 3:1-21, 7:50-52, 19:38-40)

OUTLINE:

(Verses 1-2) **Jesus is in Galilee as the Feast of Tabernacles approaches.**

(3-5) **The unbelief and opposition of the brothers of Jesus against Him.**

(6-9) **Jesus responds to His brothers.**

(10-13) **Jesus goes up to Jerusalem, where many secretly discuss Him.**

(14-18) **The religious leaders object that Jesus isn't educated.**

Jesus didn't claim to be self-taught; He claimed to be God-taught, practically inviting His listeners to examine His teachings according to the Scriptures.

Jesus gave us two measures of a true teacher: 1) Does the teaching come from God? That is, is it according to the revealed Word of God? 2) Does the work give glory to God?

(19-24) The people object that Jesus is crazy, and has a demon.

Jesus had just stated that He was absolutely sinless and true, always seeking the glory of God in heaven ([John 7:18](#)). In contrast to Jesus, the religious leaders did not keep the law. They had the law (**Did not Moses give you the law i.e. circumcision**), but did not keep it.

(25-29) The people of Jerusalem object that Jesus could not be the Messiah because they know where He came from.

Some people may have thought Jesus was born (came from) Nazareth versus Bethlehem. But the main point was that Jesus came from Heaven and was sent by God the Father.

(30-36) The officers try to arrest Jesus as many believe in Him.

One key point: “**When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than this Man has done?**” It is fair to ask, who has done more than Jesus?

If Jesus isn't the Messiah, then when Messiah comes, will he...

- Do more miracles than Jesus?
- Teach with more insight and authority than Jesus?
- Love more remarkably than Jesus?
- Suffer with more courage than Jesus?
- Atoned for more sinners than Jesus?
- Raise from the dead with more triumph than Jesus?
- Ascend to heaven in greater glory than Jesus?
- Present a greater Gospel than Jesus?
- Change more lives than Jesus?
- Free more addictions than Jesus?
- Comfort more grief-stricken hearts than Jesus?
- Heal more broken hearts than Jesus?
- Restore more marriages than Jesus?
- Gain more followers than Jesus?

(37-39) The great invitation: If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

The celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles emphasized how God provided water to Israel in the wilderness on their way to Canaan. Jesus boldly called people to *Himself* to drink and satisfy their deepest thirst, their spiritual thirst.

(40-43) Jesus brings division among the crowd.

Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Some rejected Jesus because they were ignorant, not knowing the truth about Him. These ones did not know that Jesus was really born in Bethlehem, even though they knew the prophecies about Jesus being born in **Bethlehem**.

(44-49) The failure of an attempted arrest of Jesus.

(50-52) Nicodemus stands up for Jesus.