

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 13 Jesus
In Jerusalem for the Feast of the Tabernacles

Opening prayer: Lord, You bless those who trust you. May we increase our trust in You. Help us listen for ways to increase our trust and reliance on You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Today, we are going to follow the gospel story in John chapters 7 and 8 with two brief readings from Luke chapter 9.

Jesus' Brothers advise Him to Go to Judea

Read John 7:1-9

This keeping away or seclusion began at the Passover season, and led Jesus not only to keep away from Judea, but even to hover upon the outskirts of Galilee itself. John tells us that after his six months' retirement, Jesus prepared to appear once more in Judea. The Feast of Tabernacles began on the 15th day of the month Tisri, which is like our September-October, and comes six months after Passover. It was a joyous time celebrating harvest and somewhat like our Thanksgiving.

1. What was the attitude of the physical brethren of Jesus toward Him at this time? They wanted to keep Him safe from the Jewish authorities. But they still didn't believe in His work. Why did they encourage Him to go to the feast? They wanted His followers to see what He was doing. What was Jesus' response to them? It wasn't the right time for Him. The great manifestation of his cross and resurrection could not properly take place before the Passover, which was still six months distant. But his brothers, having no message and no manifestation, could show themselves at Jerusalem any time.

2. What reason did Jesus give for the fact that the world "hates" Him? He keeps telling the world that their ways are bad. He did go to the feast, but he did not go up to manifest himself, as his brothers asked. Six months later, at the Passover, he manifested himself by the triumphal entry somewhat as his brothers wished. Palm Sunday which we are celebrating today.

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The Private Journey to Jerusalem

Read Luke 9:51-56

3. When some Samaritans rejected Jesus, what did James and John suggest that Jesus do to them? They wanted Jesus to call down fire on them. What was Jesus' reply? He rebuked them and sent them to another village. Jesus did not join the caravans or pilgrim bands and He went directly through Samaria. He did not wish to overtax the fickle hospitality of the Samaritans by coming unannounced. But when he came as a Jew passing through to Jerusalem, and using their highway as a convenience, they rejected him. Refusing to receive a religious teacher was considered a rejection of his claim. This rejection caused the brothers to suggest that the example of Elijah be followed.

As to Sacrifice for Christ's service

The passage is one that we have read before in Matthew 8 in lesson 10 but the questions today focus on different points.

Read Luke 9:57-62

4. What was the response of Jesus to the one who said he would follow Him wherever He went? He told him that serving with him meant a great deal of personal sacrifice, and one didn't have a permanent home.
5. How did Jesus respond to the one who would follow Him but first wanted to bury his dead father? He said let the dead bury the dead. What did Jesus' answer mean? The teaching of the last incident is that at a command of Christ all conflicting obligations must be set aside.
6. Why is one having "put his hand to the plow" and then looks back not "fit for the kingdom of God?" When you begin to serve God, you can't look back to your former life with regrets.

In the Temple at the Feast of Tabernacles

Read John 7: 10-24

7. Why did the people at the feast not speak openly of Jesus? They were afraid of the Jewish authorities. What different views did they have of Him? Some thought that He was a good man. Others thought that He fooled people.

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They would not commit themselves upon a question so important until the Sanhedrin had given its decision. Fourfold goes on to say that though Jesus came secretly, He teaches openly in the temple thus fulfilling Malachi's prophecy in Malachi 3: 1 **I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.**

8. What answer did Jesus give those Jews who marveled at His teaching seeing that He knew "letters, having never studied?" He answered that His teaching came from God. They couldn't figure out his great knowledge since He had never been to school. By letters was meant the written law and the unwritten traditions which were taught in the great theological schools at Jerusalem. No one was expected to teach without having passed through such a course.

Read John 7: 25-31

9. Knowing that their leaders wanted to kill Him, what question did some of the Jews ask among themselves? Is He really the Messiah since the authorities aren't arresting Him.

10. After telling the people that they did not know the God who sent Him, what did Jesus say about His own knowledge of God? He spoke on His own authority but he wasn't trying to gain glory for Himself but for God. Those who bear their own message seek their own glory. Those who bear God's message seek God's glory, and such seeking destroys egotism.

11. Why did the Jews seek to "take" Jesus? Why were they unable to do it? He is telling them that they don't know where He is from. He is saying that He came from God. They can't seize Him because His time hadn't come. They understood his language as referring to God and were incensed that he should so openly declare them ignorant of God.

12. What was the question asked by the people who believed on Him? When the Messiah comes will He perform more miracles than this man? Their question was an argument in favor of the Messiahship of Jesus.

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Read John 7: 32-39

13. When the Pharisees sent officers to take Jesus, what did He tell them? He said that He would be with them only a little longer and then they wouldn't see Him. When the Sanhedrin heard the people expressing their faith in Jesus, they felt that it was time to take action. What questions did the Jews ask among themselves as a result of Jesus' statement? They started speculating as to where He would go.

Read John 7: 40-44

My Bible calls this passage division among the people. There were many speculations about Jesus. Notice how they are always trying to make Him fit their idea of the Messiah. This is something that we have to be very careful about. We don't want to try to fit God into our little box of incomplete understanding.

Read John 7: 45-52

14. When the officers were questioned as to why that they had not brought Jesus to the chief priests and Pharisees, what was their response? Nobody has ever talked the way this man does. If we may trust the later Jewish accounts, it was the custom during the first seven days for the priests and people in joyful procession to go to the pool of Siloam with a golden pitcher and bring water thence to pour out before the altar, in commemoration of the water which Moses brought from the rock and which typified the Christ. Jesus is probably referring to this custom and draws a contrast between the earthly water and the spiritual water just like He told the Samaritan woman. These officers were temple police or Levites, under direction of the chief priests. The words suggest that the Sanhedrin was assembled and waiting for the return of the officers.

15. Who was Nicodemus? He was one of the Pharisees but earlier he had visited with Jesus. What did he ask of the Pharisees? He pointed out that a man can not be condemned without a trial. He tells them they were breaking the very law which they are supposed to up hold. What was their reply? Are you from Galilee too? Galileans who formed the main body of Jesus' disciples, thus separating him from the true Jews. No prophet but Jonah was from Galilee. Confused by the question of Nicodemus, the assembly broke up and each man went home

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The Story of the Adulteress

Read John 8:1-11

16. Briefly summarize this event. The leaders saw this as an opportunity to trap Jesus. They didn't have to bring the woman or give all the details this just shows their coarse brutality. Why did Jesus not condemn her? None of her accusers stayed around to accuse her. He knew their thoughts too. He knew they were trying to trap Him. But if he ordered her to be put to death, he would be assuming authority which belonged only to the Roman rulers. The witnesses were to cast the first stone under the law. The one who executed the law must be free from the same crime, lest by stoning the woman he condemns himself as worthy of a like death. Was He condoning sin? Explain. He was granting forgiveness. He wasn't condoning her conduct. He told her not to sin again. Jesus did not come as an earthly judge; neither did he come to condemn, but to save. The narrative shows how Jesus could deal with malice and impurity in a manner so full of delicacy and dignity as to demonstrate the divine wisdom which dwelt within him.

Messianic Claims Met by an Attempt to Stone Jesus

Read John 8: 12-20

17. After telling the Pharisees that He was the light of the world, what did Jesus say in reference to those who follow Him? That his followers would not walk in darkness.

18. Briefly summarize Jesus' explanation that the testimony that He gave of Himself was true. How could it be the testimony of "two men." He is briefly answering their earlier question about the Messiah can't come from Galilee. He is telling them that they don't know where He came from nor where He is going. The testimony is true because He is one witness and God the Father is the other.

Read John 8: 21-30

19. What did Jesus say was needed if one were not going to die in his sins? Why? They needed to believe that He was God. So, they could have forgiveness of sins. Seeking their Messiah as an earthly and not as a spiritual deliverer, they

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would not find him, and hence would die unforgiven, and therefore could not come to eternal life since the unforgiven cannot enter there.

20. When did Jesus say the Jews would "know" who He was? He said when He was lifted up, referring to His crucifixion. The Jews would crucify him; but when their rage had accomplished his death and spent itself, they would look back upon his life—especially the closing scenes of it—and see that his soul contained no bitterness toward them, that what he had said was true, and was spoken at the dictation of his Father. There were a lot of Jews at Pentecost.

Read John 8: 31-47

21. Who, at first, did the Jews claim as their father? Abraham. Who did Jesus say their father was? Why? He said that the devil was their father because they didn't believe Jesus. Slaves have no permanent relationship to a house, and may be changed at will. God was about to dismiss the Jews as unfaithful slaves. Sons, on the contrary, have a permanent relationship to the house, and if a son take one into fraternal adoption, he communicates to such a one his own perpetuity. Seeing that he was distinguishing between his parentage and their parentage, they reassert for themselves the fatherhood of Abraham. Jesus here asserts that true descent is spiritual. Their works show that they aren't Abraham's descendants. Minds filled with ideas of the devil find it difficult to comprehend the thoughts of God, no matter how plainly expressed. By your hatred of the truth and your desire to commit murder, which are notable lusts of the devil, you show that you are spiritually derived from him.

Read John 8: 48-59

22. Why did the Jews say that Jesus had a demon? What did they ask in reference to Abraham? He had told them that they didn't listen to God's words. When Jesus said that His followers wouldn't die, they cited that Abraham died, was Jesus claiming to be greater than Abraham. Sin is bondage, and its wages is death. The fleshly body of the Christian dies, but the spirit within him does not. His eternal life begins in this world.

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23. What according to Jesus, is His relationship to Abraham? What is meant by the phrase "I AM?" He said that Abraham rejoiced at His coming. I AM denoting what God told Moses His name was. "My day" means the manifestation of Messiah. Abraham saw it by faith in the promised seed.

24. Upon hearing the above teaching, what did the Jews do? What did Jesus do in response? They tried to stone Him. Jesus hid and left the temple.

Closing prayer: Lord help us listen and comprehend what You want us to do in Your service. Amen.

Next Sunday will be from Luke 10: 1-24 and John 9:1-10:21

John 7:1-9	Luke 9:51-56	John 8:1-11
John 7: 10-24	Luke 9:57-62	John 8:12-20
John 7: 25-31		John 8: 21-30
John 7: 32-39		John 8: 31-47
John 7: 40-44		John 8: 48-59
John 7: 45-52		