

I. John 7:1-53 – Increasing Opposition

A. John 7:1-9 – Family antagonism

1. John 7:1 – *After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee, for He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him* . Judging from the details given by the other Gospel writers, six months may have passed between John 6 and 7. There is definitely a **shift** in the Lord’s ministry between these two chapters.
 - a. From here forward, we notice at least three **changes** in Jesus’ ministry.
 - 1) Jesus no longer **publicly** presented Himself as the Messiah.
 - 2) Jesus’ ministry became more **private**.
 - 3) Jesus focused His **teaching** more on His twelve disciples.
 - b. There was a substantial upsurge in **hostility** towards Jesus in the following areas:
 - 1) Jesus’ popularity **declined**.
 - 2) The religious leaders **openly** challenged Jesus’ and His teaching.
 - 3) Many of His disciples **stopped** following Him.
 - 4) Jesus no longer concealed the fact that one of His disciples would **betray** Him.
 - 5) The religious leadership began a constant search for an opportunity to **kill** Jesus.
2. John 7:2 – *Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near* . John often mentioned the various Jewish feasts that affected Jesus’ ministry, as seen in John 2, 5, 6 and 7. These major public events with their large **crowds** made Jesus’ able to appear in public in Jerusalem without a likelihood of arrest.
3. John 7:3-5 – Jesus’ brothers **mocked** Him because they did not believe in Him.
 - a. John 7:3 – *Therefore His brothers said to Him, “Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing.”* Jesus never took **orders** from anyone but God. This passage provides a good example for us. Like Jesus, we too need to please God rather than people. Proverbs 3:5-6, Acts 5:29, Galatians 1:10
 - b. John 7:4 – *“ For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.”* His brothers were only interested in **fame**. They likely thought He was just a small-town country prophet who did not have the wisdom to promote Himself. They tried to stimulate Him to action.
 - c. John 7:5 – *“For not even His brothers were believing in Him.”* At this time in Jesus’ life and ministry His half-brothers were not believers. It was not until after Christ died and rose again that **James** and Jude, became believers. Matthew 13:55-56; Mark 3:31-32, 6:3; Galatians 1:19; 1 Corinthians 9:5
4. John 7:6 – *So Jesus said to them, “My time is not yet here, but your time is always opportune* . Jesus pointed out that He operated on a different **timetable** and program than theirs. Jesus said that it was not time for Him to go to the feast but for them virtually any opportunity was good. As nonbelievers they were impatient, but Jesus was not.
5. John 7:7 – *“ The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are **evil** .”* Jesus’ continued to explain to His brothers why He would not simply do things on a whim. Nearly everywhere Jesus went, He caused conflicts and hostility. His presence exposed the world’s folly and awkwardly put light on the world’s need for salvation.
6. John 7:8-9 – *“ Go up to the feast yourselves; I do not go up to this feast because My time has not yet fully come.” Having said these things to them, He stayed in Galilee.* This verse has caused some people to have difficulty. They feel that **Jesus** was somehow disingenuous.
 - a. A literal reading of this verse adapted from the YLT could be translated: *“[You all], go [yourselves] up to this feast; I do not yet go up to this feast, because my time [has] not yet been fulfilled .”* He was not denying that He would ever go up to the feast, but instead that He would go at the God **ordained** time.
 - b. We know that Jesus **knew** He would eventually go to the feast, but not according to the arrogant agenda of His unbelieving brothers. Christ was following His Father’s precise orders and plans and therefore He wisely dismissed them and their fleshly agenda.

B. John 7:10-39 – Confrontation at the Feast of Booths

1. John 7:10-11 – *But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publicly, but as if, in secret. So the Jews were seeking Him at the feast and were saying, “Where is He?”* Jesus went to the

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- feast in **secret**. He did this so that the devious Jewish leaders would not find Him until the right time.
2. John 7:12 – *There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, “He is a good man”; others were saying, “No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray.”* The Feast of Booths anticipated the Messianic Kingdom. Each year during this season, the national anticipation of **Messiah** was at a heightened pitch. Malachi 3:1
 3. John 7:13 – *Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews.* Some secretly praised Jesus, while others alleged that He was a fraud. The general populace was divided about who Jesus was, but since the religious leaders had publicly denounced Jesus, everyone feared to **talk** about Him openly.
 4. John 7:14-15 – *But when it was now the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. The Jews then were astonished, saying, “How has this man become learned, having never been educated?”* Near the middle of the week, Jesus suddenly began to teach publicly. He spoke so profoundly that He **shocked** the religious establishment.
 5. John 7:16 – *So Jesus answered them and said, “My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me .”* Jesus was transmitting God the Father’s message. Since He was teaching God’s words, His message came from a source infinitely **superior** to that of the religious leaders. There was nothing subjective about His message. His words and explanations were from above.
 6. John 7:17-19 – At this feast, Jesus challenged the unbelief and downright rejection of His message by the religious **elite**.
 - a. John 7:17 – *“If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.”* Jesus said that if anyone was willing to do God’s will (*believe in the name of Jesus Christ*, 1 John 3:23), that person would **discern** the true source of His teachings.
 - b. John 7:18 – *“He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”* Jesus gave the people a **lesson** on discernment.
 - 1) If a person speaks their own thoughts, it’s because they are promoting **self**. In that case, don’t trust the message.
 - 2) But if a person seeks to glorify the one who sent him, that person’s message is trustworthy. Jesus claimed to be that person. They could trust His teaching because He was being faithful to preach the **Father’s** message.
 - c. John 7:19 – *“ Did not Moses give you the Law, and yet none of you carries out the Law? Why do you seek to kill Me? ”* Jesus knew that not one of the religious leaders fully kept the Law. If they were honest, they’d admit they deserved death. So why did they seek to kill the man who had never once broken even one Law. **Hypocrites!** Luke 23:41
 7. John 7:20 – *The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who seeks to kill You?”* Since murder is a violation of the Law, they quickly tried to deny their plans to kill Jesus. In their extreme reaction, they accused Him of **demon** possession. In arrogant denial they said, “What in the world makes you think someone’s trying to kill you.” Matthew 12:24, John 7:25-26
 8. John 7:21 – *Jesus answered them, “I did one deed, and you all marvel.”* The deed Jesus referred to here seems to be the **healing** of the man at the Pool of Bethesda (see verse 23), which Jesus did on a Sabbath day. John 5:1-17
 9. John 7:22 – *“ For this reason Moses has given you circumcision (not because it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man.”* Jesus continued His chain of **thought** concerning the Law that He started in verse 19.
 - a. The Jews persecuted Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. According to their laws, it was forbidden to **heal** someone on the Sabbath.
 - b. However, according to the Mosaic Law every baby boy was to be circumcised on the eighth day. If that happened to be a Sabbath, the Jews had no problem performing the **surgery**, on that day.
 10. John 7:23 – *“If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the Law of Moses will not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made an entire man well on the Sabbath?”* Jesus showed the Jews the **inconsistency** of their reasoning.
 - a. In keeping with the Abrahamic covenant, they permitted the **work** of surgery to be done on the Sabbath.
 - b. But, although all religious Jews understood that the entire Law was summed up in two commands: to **love** your neighbor as yourself and to love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind; they persecuted Jesus for lovingly healing a man on the Sabbath. Matthew 22:34-40, John 5:9, Galatians 5:14

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11. John 7:24 – “*Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment .*” Jesus exposed their hypocrisy and **biased** judgments. It is unjust to draw conclusions based on outward appearances rather than on facts. Romans 2:1-3
12. John 7:25-27 – The crowd wanted a verdict from the religious leaders. If Jesus was a deceiver, they wanted their rulers to objectively reject Him; however, if He was Messiah, they wanted them to openly **accept** Him.
- a. John 7:25 – *So some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, “Is this not the man whom they are seeking to kill?”* The crowd knew who Jesus claimed to be. They **knew** the religious leaders wanted to kill Him. Some of the people did not believe Jesus was the Messiah, but many in the crowd did believe in Him as we will see in verse 31.
- b. John 7:26 – *“Look, He is speaking publicly, and they are saying nothing to Him. The rulers do not really know that this is the Christ, do they?”* The people noticed the contradiction of the religious leaders. Jesus was right there in the open. Why did they not arrest Him? Were they **unsure** about whether He was the Messiah or not?
- c. John 7:27 – *“However, we know where this man is from; but whenever the Christ may come, no one knows where He is from.”* The Jews seemed to have the **notion** that no one would know from where the Messiah had come. They reasoned that since they knew Jesus came from Nazareth, He could not be the Messiah.
- 1) Jesus had deliberately and openly proclaimed that heaven was His place of **origin**. These people clearly did not believe what He declared. John 3:13, 4:34, 6:29, 33, 38
 - 2) And, contrary to popular opinion, Old Testament prophecies did give indications as to Jesus’ **human** origin.
 - a) From Matthew 2:1, 5 and 7, which quoted the Old Testament passage of Micah 5:2, they could know that the Messiah would be **born** in Bethlehem. Matthew 2:16, Luke 2:4
 - b) Although Hosea 11:1 was not a prophecy, Matthew quoted it in Matthew 2:15, to show a parallel between Israel’s exodus from **Egypt** and Jesus’ return from Egypt after His parents fled there to protect Him from Herod. Exodus 4:22, Numbers 24:8-9, Matthew 2:13-15
 - c) We know from Matthew 2:23 that Jesus was going to be called a Nazarene, a term that would become a disrespectful **label** and a criticism He’d endure throughout His earthly ministry. Isaiah 53:3, Luke 1:26, 2:39; John 1:45-46; Mark 1:24; John 18:5-7, 19:19
13. John 7:28-29 – Raising His voice, Jesus loudly reaffirmed His **origin**.
- a. John 7:28 – *Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, “You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know.”* The problem was not that they did not know who Jesus was or where He was from, the problem was they did not **believe** Jesus’s statements.
- 1) The Jews **knew** Jesus’ human origin and they had heard His claim to also have a divine and eternal origin. John 3:13, 4:34, 6:29, 33, 38
 - 2) Jesus clarified that He had not come on His own; He was sent by God the Father, who is **true**. God the Father is faithful and true, but by rejecting Jesus, they proved they did not know the Father. Psalm 33:4, Daniel 4:37
- b. John 7:29 – *“I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me .”* Jesus passionately and decisively assured the religious leaders and the unreliable crowd that even though they did not know the Father, He did. Jesus came from the Father. He came to earth to **represent** God to man.
14. John 7:30 – *So they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come .* Jesus’ declaration made the religious leaders angry. But they were powerless to touch Jesus until the **time** was right by God’s calendar and design.
15. John 7:31 – *But many of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, “When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than those which this man has, will He?”* Based on His claims and on His sign miracles, many in the crowd reasoned correctly that Jesus was the Messiah. Those who believed in Christ were instantaneously **saved**.
16. John 7:32 – *The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him.* Jealous and unbelieving, the Pharisees tried to put a **stop** to the crowd’s acceptance of Jesus. They sent officers to arrest Jesus, but because of Roman law, they had to be careful not to cause a public commotion or riot.
17. John 7:33-34 – Jesus responded to their attempts to entrap Him by using true, but baffling statements, about His upcoming return to **heaven**. John 13:33, 16:7

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- a. John 7:33 – *Therefore Jesus said, “For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me . The Pharisees could not arrest Jesus until God allow it to happen. God was in **control** of all the events of Jesus’ life. At exactly the right time, He would return to the Father who sent Him, and no one could stop that from happening. Acts 2:23, 4:28*
- b. John 7:34 – “ *You will seek Me and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come .” Only those who believe in Jesus and who have received God’s righteousness will **go** to heaven. You cannot make it to heaven based on your own righteousness. Jesus wanted them to understand this truth. Isaiah 64:6, John 16:8-11, Romans 10:1-4, Galatians 2:16*
18. John 7:35-36 – Because they did not believe, the religious leaders were **blind** to the truth.
- a. John 7:35 – *The Jews then said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we will not find Him? He is not intending to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, is He? Because the Jewish leadership did not understand spiritual truth; they thought Jesus was talking about traveling to an **earthly** destination.*
- b. John 7:36 – “*What is this statement that He said, ‘You will seek Me, and will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come’?” They heard what Jesus said and repeated His exact words, but they had no idea what He meant. Was Jesus going to escape or try to hide from them? Their spiritual dullness was evident. 1 Corinthians 2:14*
19. John 7:37 – *Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. On the final day of this festival, Jesus made a loud public call to salvation. Jesus invited Israel to come to Him and drink. This was an invitation to believe in Him. Jesus had come to seek and save that which was **lost**.*
20. John 7:38 – “*He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” During the feast, Jesus emphatically proclaimed that if anyone would believe in Him, they would be the recipient of an internal **fountain** of living water. Their thirst would be quenched. They would be saved eternally.*
21. John 7:39 – *But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. After Jesus ascended to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to live in all believers. The instant someone believes in Christ the Holy Spirit come to live **inside** of them. John 14:16-17, Acts 1:4-9, Ephesians 1:13-14*