

Easter Series 2020 #1 – March 1
The Way of Jesus
John 7

I. Background.

A. Feast of Tabernacles AD 30.

1. Third (and most popular) of the three great annual feasts.
 - a) Sukkot. 5 days after Yom Kippur. Sept/Oct (Tisri).

II. Jesus Christ transcends all human thought—especially religious thought. Five things in John 7

A. His Plan. *He had his own schedule from the Father.* 1-13

1. His brothers do Worldthink and tell him to go to the Feast and do some magic...but they don't get it...
2. He tells his brothers they can go, but he needs to wait. 1-9
 - a) *It is not time for the Triumphal Entry yet.*
3. But then he goes up later.
 - a) The timing of the Cross is Passover, perfect fulfillment.
4. *There is a timing (Kairos) in this (and everything spiritual).*

B. His Teaching. 14-24. *He taught about God and the kingdom of God, with such profound impact that even his enemies were stunned and amazed. How?*

1. It comes directly from God the Father. 16
 - a) Not on his own authority = he's not making this up in his own head.
 - (1) There are hundreds of self-promoting religious teachers today.
2. It is self-authenticating to anybody who really wants God's will. 17-18
 - a) *And you manifestly do not want God's will because in God's Law, which Moses gave you, you are told not to kill innocent people—yet you're trying to kill me—and manipulating the Torah to do it!!*
 - b) *If you don't get what I'm saying, you don't belong to God!?! What a stunning statement!*
3. It points up the hypocrisy of religion (legalism). 19-24
 - a) I did a godly miracle (recently here in Jerusalem) and you're trying to kill me?
 - (1) The miracle was in Jn.5:1-15. Healing the man at Bethesda Pool and then telling him to pick up his mat and walk—on Sabbath.
 - (2) Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. Matt.12:1-8; Mk.2:23-28; Lk.6:1-5
 - b) You Jews are breaking the Law because you're trying to kill an innocent man (Me) for doing a good thing.
 - (1) 6th commandment, against murder, Ex.20:13
 - c) *Nit-picking legalism creates all sorts of this religious hypocrisy, see Matt.23. Obsessing on micro-ethical things and overlooking real evil.*

C. His Mission. 25-36. *The Cross: He came from God and was returning to God.*

1. A rhetorical question: You think you know where I'm from? 25-31.
 - a) *I come Directly from God the Father, sent by Him Personally.*
2. A cryptic prediction—The Cross is His Mission. 32-36.
 - a) *I'm going where you cannot follow or find me.*
 - b) A reference to his journey into death and out the other side. 17:5

D. His Promise. 37-39. *The water of eternal life.* (Jn.4:10)

1. On the last great day, at the Water Ceremony.
2. Holy Spirit presence was a messianic promise.
3. Based on sheer faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Saving Lord.

E. His Wisdom. 40-52. *He lets the people be divided over his identity.*

1. Why? *Because he wants people to think!*
2. Unbelief rationalizes itself (plausible but false reasons).
 - a) The Pharisees use (misuse) the Bible to disprove Jesus (Jn.5:37-40)
3. *There is still a division among humanity over who Jesus is—and destiny rest on the decision.*

III. The Father sent the Son and the Son sends us. Jn.20:19-23

- A. The “sent one” is Jesus’s self-designation in John’s gospel.
 - 1. 6:37-40; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10, 24
- B. The “One who sent Me” is his designation for God the Father
- C. *Sending is a major emphasis in Gospel Life*

IV. Three things to note from John 7 about being on mission.

- A. If we are waiting for it to be easy, we will never do it.
 - 1. *Controversy and opposition are normal when the gospel is heard in any meaningful way.*
 - 2. *The sin matrix of unbelief varies depending on what part of the world you are in, but the gospel is always resisted in one way or another.*
 - a) Religions don’t like it because if Jesus is true, then they are not.
 - (1) Violent opposition from Theravada Buddhists, Radical Hinduism, Radical Islam, Liberal Christianity and all other religions...
 - (2) Pluralism (the fantasy religion of western atheism) is not true.
 - b) Philosophies don’t like it because it puts most of them out of work.
 - (1) Philosophy is a human attempt to deal with death without assuming that God exists (paraphrase of Luc Ferry, Atheist Philosopher)
 - (2) Jesus is obviously not “secular” and the gospel is an entire worldview, which means it is philosophical in the deepest metaphysical sense (ontology, epistemology)
- B. If we are *relying* on humans to accomplish it, we will be disappointed. 37-39
 - 1. *God uses redeemed humans always, but the work is supernatural to the core.*
 - a) *Missionaries are the voice of Christ. Eph.2:17*
 - b) The life flows into us so that it can flow out of us and into others.
 - c) The Spirit of Jesus is the one who calls, sends, anoints, converts, forms the Church...everything. Matt.28:20b (Lk.24:49; Acts 1:8; 2, 10, 13:1-3; 16:9; 18:9-10)
 - 2. God is always at work before we get on the scene. Acts 18:9-10.
 - 3. If we don’t trust the Spirit to do this, we will become angry, depressed.
- C. But if we hear the call and trust the power of God in the gospel, He will accomplish the mission through us. Matt.28:20b. *Look! I am with you all the way*
 - 1. The gospel is the power of God for salvation for all human beings. Rom.1:26-27
 - 2. This is why the Lord sends us to those who have not heard that Jesus is the Risen, Sovereign, Forgiving Lord.