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Recap

- Towards the end of John 6, Jesus reveals Himself as the Bread of Life. We see the first of Jesus’ “I am” statements: *“I am the Bread of Life.”*
- We people complaining that Jesus was speaking a hard saying, but Peter knew that Jesus had the words of life.
- Jesus’ brothers were pushing Him to show Himself at the Feast of Tabernacles. However, Jesus wouldn’t move outside the Father’s timing.
- People are debating whether Jesus is a good man, but no one can openly speak in His favor anymore.

The Teacher Who Never Studied (John 7:14-15)

14 Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. 15 And the Jews marveled, saying, “How does this Man know letters, having never studied?”

- After resisting His brothers’ pressure, Jesus goes up in the middle of the feast.
- Tabernacles lasts for a week and in many ways, it was the most important feast.
- Tabernacles looks in all directions, perhaps especially to the future. Tabernacles celebrates the completion of the harvest season. During this feast, the people live

in temporary shelters or booths with roofs made of branches.

- Tabernacles anticipates the Kingdom of God on Earth, when all the Gentile nations will worship God together with Israel: *And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.* (Zech. 14:16-19)
- Jesus begins teaching in the Temple area, where there was much physical space.
- The people can tell that Jesus is not part of a recognized school of rabbis. They can tell that He has amazing teaching ability, but they don't know who He is.

Seeking The Father's Glory (John 7:16-19)

16 Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. 17 If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. 18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. 19 Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?"

- If you want the proof of His doctrine, begin to do it and you'll see that it's true!

- Jesus is different from other teachers in that His motives are completely pure. People who speak out of their own authority are seeking to glorify themselves.

Righteous Judgment (John 7:20-24)

20 The people answered and said, "You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?" 21 Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one work, and you all marvel. 22 Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. 23 If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? 24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

- He refers to the miracle He did at the Pool of Bethesda. Then He reminds them that God had commanded people to circumcise their male children on the 8th day, and that they circumcise a boy on the Sabbath to uphold that commandment.
- God told Samuel that man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. How are we then to we judge righteously? Jesus and His Apostles teach us to look at the fruit of a situation or the fruit of someone’s life: *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.... A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.”* (See: Matt. 7:15-20)
- *Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.... In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.* (1 John 3:7, 10)

- When Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath, the leaders failed to apply the appropriate standards to the situation. They missed what God was doing.

Where Is The Christ From? (John 7:25-27)

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 truly the Christ? 27 However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from.”

- Some people from Jerusalem must have seen Him cleansing the Temple area.
- They have concluded (how?) that Jesus doesn’t meet the qualifications!

Severe Disagreement (John 7:28-31)

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 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?”

- He’s not referring to His birth in Bethlehem.
- At this point, they made some kind of move to arrest Him, although we aren’t told what exactly. His hour had not yet come, so, He was not taken.

Jesus Says He Will Leave (John 7:32-36)

32 The 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 to them, “I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him who sent Me. 34 You 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?’”

- The Dispersion or Diaspora is a term used to refer to Jews living outside Israel. They wonder if He will teach Gentiles in Greek-speaking lands. This is a good clue that they knew He was sympathetic to Gentiles (also that He spoke Greek).

Rivers Of Living Water (John 7:37-39)

37 On 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. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39 But 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 last day of the feast was the highlight, one of the greatest experiences you could have as a Jewish person. Ceremonies centered around the harvest, and around the idea of God giving His people the victory over all their enemies, and being at rest after God saves them from all their oppressors.

- This feast is destined to be celebrated by all the nations in the age to come (*Olam Haba*). As Christians, we usually call it the Millennial Kingdom.
- Jerusalem itself will be renamed to Yahweh-Shammah, “Yahweh is there.”
- The priest circled the altar on each day of the feast. On the seventh and final day, however, he circled the altar seven times, just as was done at Jericho. This is a picture of the kingdoms of the world collapsing and being conquered by Christ.
- In addition to that, 70 bulls were sacrificed during the Feast. This is a picture of an offering being made for all the Gentile nations. (See Genesis Ch. 10)
- The people presented themselves to the Lord holding fruit branches.
- Wine was poured on the altar, picturing the Blood of Christ.
- The main event was the ceremony of the pouring out of water, symbolic of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which the Jews expected in the age to come. The whole feast was sometimes called the *House of Outpouring*. This connects to many prophetic pictures of the end times outpouring.
- On the last, great day of the Feast, after the water was poured out, the people recited Psalm 118: *22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. 23 This was the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. 25 Save now, I pray, O LORD [Hosanna!]; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD. 27 God is the LORD, and He has given us light; bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar. 28 You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You. 29 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.*

After the water was poured out, what must have happened next?

The Giving Of The Spirit

...Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But 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. (John 7:37 ff.)

- First, Jesus makes the offer to come to Him as the source of living water. Jesus had told the Samaritan woman (John 4:14): *... the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.*
- He claims to be the one who pours out the Holy Spirit! But if coming to Jesus results in a fountain of water springing up within you, notice that this seems to be an additional experience those who *do* believe. Out of such a person's innermost being will flow rivers of living water.
- Having a river inside you is different from having a well inside you! The world doesn't receive the Spirit in this way, but believers do.
- But the Spirit was not yet given because Jesus wasn't yet glorified. Only when He returned to His Father could He pour out the Spirit: *"...being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."* (Acts 2:33)
- John the Spirit *was not yet* (not yet present).
- This is an invitation Jesus still gives today: *Come to Me and drink*, says Jesus. Once you drink, you'll have a river of His empowering Presence within you!
