

# The Gospel of John

Lesson #67

The Journey

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## The Gospel of John

As chapter seven opens Jesus has adopted a mindset described by Isaiah when he wrote of Messiah, "therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame." He is looking at rough 6 months in front of him where he will endure the hatred of his enemies that will not let up until he cries out, "it is finished". Now closer to death than ever before he knows his death will be like no other before him for his death will include bearing the sin debt of all who would ever live. His death will be horrible, and his support will be scarce. Later it will be written, "who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross". As the chapter opens Jesus is facing down his own death and he will not waver, he will finish his course!

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## The Gospel of John

• There were three feasts that were mandatory for adult Jewish men to attend. All of Israel were invited, but it was mandatory for men. (Pilgrim Feasts)

- Passover - Spring
- Pentecost - Spring
- Tabernacles - Autumn

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### The Gospel of John

- As chapter 7 opens, it's time to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles so there is no doubt that Jesus will be there, and his enemies would have known as much as well.
- This feast always takes place in late September or early October on our calendars and is best known for commemorating the wilderness wanderings.
- It was those days when Israel was delivered out of Egypt and for the next two-years they got a refresher by God on what it was to be a Jew – followed by 38 years of camping.<sup>4</sup>

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### The Gospel of John

• Leviticus 23:33 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 34 "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the Lord. 35 On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. 36 For seven days you shall present food offerings to the Lord. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the Lord. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work....." 42 "All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, 43 that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God."<sup>5</sup>

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### The Gospel of John

- When we read about celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles, we should picture all the families of Israel sleeping in lean-tos and tents for a week.
- They were also commemorating the provisions of manna and quail God provided for 38 years in the desert.
- During the feast days they will eat much better and the kids will enjoy camping out - so they were to be days of joy in remembering who they are and what God provided.<sup>6</sup>

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**The Gospel of John**

- When we left chapter six, we saw this - John 6:66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.
- When it seemed like the “show” was dying down a bit Jesus introduced some harder teachings and as it turns out the crowd wanted a show more than they wanted him.
- It’s not the works of Jesus that turns people off, everyone seems to love “gentle Jesus” and his miracles – it’s his words that separate the true believer from the false.

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**The Gospel of John**

- When was the last time you saw opposition to Convoy of Hope, or Samaritan’s Purse – they bring food, medicine, and assorted tools and supplies.
- Jesus is “okay” with the masses until he speaks and then he is suddenly judgmental and narrow minded – he is offensive to them.
- Food and medicine are good, but the one who speaks the truth in love is often unwelcome.

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### The Gospel of John

- The “disciples” of John 6 never once ventured away when Jesus was doing miracles – it seems everyone likes miracles, but soon afterward they were offended by his words.
- You would think that his signs would have earned him a right to say anything and be heard, but it seems that was not the case.
- When the message called for a full commitment to Jesus the pretend disciples walked away from eating his flesh and drinking his blood.

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### The Gospel of John

- The verdict was in – nearly everyone loved Jesus as long as he was feeding and healing the crowds, but when he called for a full commitment, the crowds turned away.
- It is sort of like that today – so long as we tell people what they want to hear they seem quite comfortable to stay in the pews with us.
- But if you teach on sin, judgment, and repentance then the crowd will be considerably thinner.

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### The Gospel of John



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### The Gospel of John

In our text today we will see this statement by Jesus, "The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil." The Jewish leaders hated Jesus because he threatened their power, position, and wealth – eventually the people will hate him when his miracles cease. Give people good advice in an entertaining way with a religious flavor on it and they will sit and listen, but tell them they are "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" before the Lord of the universe to whom they will give an account and see how many stay.

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### The Gospel of John

- Despite the fact that our country was founded on Judeo Christian principles, the church of Jesus Christ is generally just tolerated in our day.
- Our leader is hated by many around us – when the name of Jesus becomes a Savior and not a cuss word, well it seems that is intolerable.
- That is what was happening in Judea the last time Jesus was there and now he's going back to fulfill his mission – at this point, we are roughly 6 months from the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

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### The Gospel of John

• John 7:1 After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. 2 Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. 3 So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. 4 For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." 5 For not even his brothers believed in him. 6 Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. 8 You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come." 9 After saying this, he remained in Galilee.

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### The Gospel of John

- John will now indicate by saying, “After this” that some unaccounted-for time has elapsed.
- “After this”, after the events of chapter 6, which records for us several of his best-known miracles – like the feeding of the 5,000 and his walk on the water.
- John 5:18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

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### The Gospel of John

- There is a gap of time of about 6 months between chapter 6 and chapter 7 that John does not record.
- We learn in chapter 7 that he has gone north to Galilee to do ministry and, from the other gospels we learn that we was doing extensive teaching and training of his disciples.
- We also learn why Jesus went north to Galilee – right from our text we learn “He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.”

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### The Gospel of John

- Some examples of Jesus’ works in Galilee after the John 6 events that John did not record.
  - Canaanite Woman’s Daughter Healed (dogs)
  - Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand
  - Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ
  - “Get behind me, Satan!”
  - The Temple Tax (fish)
  - The Parable of the Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Lost Son

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### The Gospel of John

Was Jesus afraid? Of course not. He did, however, want to avoid situations where attempts on his life would have been easy to carry out. In verse #6 we read, "My time has not yet come". Jesus' approach to life was not one of just letting things happen to him. He had a divine call, and the Father had a specific plan for his life. By the way, had he stayed in Judea his enemies could not have killed him before his time no matter how much they hated him or how cleverly they planned. He was indestructible until the Father called him home. The same is true of us.

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### The Gospel of John

Let's go a level deeper on "He was indestructible until the Father called him home. The same is true of us." Let us set aside our emotions and let all fearful thoughts drain from our souls as we rest in God's protection and provision for us. Jesus had a mission to fulfill, and the Father would not let anyone, or anything derail him. We too are on a mission for the Lord and if we believe we cannot be derailed then of all the people on the globe we should be the most relaxed of them all. We will live on this earth until God says, "our time has come" and nothing can change that. And when we know as we are known, we will also know we would not want to stay a second longer than his plan calls for.

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Questions?

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