

# JESUS AT THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

**BIBLE TEXT** : John 7:1-53

LESSON 128 Senior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me, If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine" (John 7:16, 17).

## **BIBLE TEXT in King James Version**

### **John 7:1-53**

<sup>1</sup> After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.

<sup>2</sup> Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand.

<sup>3</sup> His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.

<sup>4</sup> For *there is* no man *that* doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.

<sup>5</sup> For neither did his brethren believe in him.

<sup>6</sup> Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready.

<sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

<sup>8</sup> Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come.

<sup>9</sup> When he had said these words unto them, he abode *still* in Galilee.

<sup>10</sup> But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.

<sup>11</sup> Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he?

<sup>12</sup> And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.

<sup>13</sup> Howbeit no man spake openly of

## **BIBLE REFERENCES:**

### **I Jesus in Galilee**

1 Jesus is in Galilee and the Feast of Tabernacles at Jerusalem is at hand, John 7:1, 2;

#### **Leviticus 23:34**

<sup>34</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the feast of tabernacles *for* seven days unto the LORD.

2 His unbelieving brethren urge him to go to the feast and openly show himself to the world, John 7:3-5;

#### **Matthew 12:46-50**

<sup>46</sup> While he yet talked to the people, behold, *his* mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

<sup>47</sup> Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

<sup>48</sup> But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

<sup>49</sup> And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

<sup>50</sup> For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

#### **Acts 1:14**

<sup>14</sup> These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

3 *Jesus* tells them the world does not hate them but hates Him, because He testifies that its works are evil, John 7:6, 7;

#### **John 3:19**

<sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

#### **John 15:19**

<sup>19</sup> If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

4 Jesus goes to the feast and teaches in the Temple. The people marvel at His teaching, John 7:8-15;

#### **Matthew 13:54**

<sup>54</sup> And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this *man* this wisdom, and *these* mighty works?

#### **Luke 4:22**

<sup>22</sup> And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

#### **Acts 2:7**

<sup>7</sup> And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

### **II. Doctrines of God**

1 The doctrine is His that sent Him, and if any man would do His will, they would know if the doctrine was of God or Himself, John 7:1518;

#### **John 3:11**

<sup>11</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do

him for fear of the Jews.

<sup>14</sup> Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.

<sup>15</sup> And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?

<sup>16</sup> Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

<sup>17</sup> If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of myself.

<sup>18</sup> He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

<sup>19</sup> Did not Moses give you the law, and *yet* none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?

<sup>20</sup> The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?

<sup>21</sup> Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel.

<sup>22</sup> Moses therefore gave unto you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man.

<sup>23</sup> If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?

<sup>24</sup> Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

<sup>25</sup> Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to kill?

<sup>26</sup> But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?

know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

**John 5:41**

<sup>41</sup> I receive not honour from men.

**John 8:28**

<sup>28</sup> Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am *he*, and *that* I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

**John 12:49**

<sup>49</sup> For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

2 The people are angry because He healed on the Sabbath Day. He explains how they circumcise on the Sabbath, that the Law of Moses be not broken, John 7:19-24;

**Deuteronomy 1:16**

<sup>16</sup> And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear *the causes* between your brethren, and judge righteously between *every* man and his brother, and the stranger *that is* with him.

**Proverbs 24:23**

<sup>23</sup> These *things* also *belong* to the wise. *It is* not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

**James 2:1**

<sup>1</sup> My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons.

### III Conspirators

1 The people say, "Is not this he, whom they seek to kill? . . . Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?" John 7:25-27;

**Matthew 13:55**

<sup>55</sup> Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

2 Jesus, teaching in the Temple, tells them that they know Him and know from whence He came, John 7:28, 29;

**John 5:43**

<sup>43</sup> I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

**John 8:42**

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

3 They sought to take Him, but could not, for His hour was not yet come, John 7:30;

**John 8:20**

<sup>20</sup> These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.

4 Many believed on Jesus and said, "When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?" But the chief priests and Pharisees send officers to take Him, John 7:31, 32

5 Jesus tells the people He will soon go away and they will seek Him and cannot find Him, John 7:33-36;

**John 8:21**

<sup>21</sup> Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.

**John 13:33**

<sup>33</sup> Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

**Hosea 4:6**

<sup>27</sup> Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is.

<sup>28</sup> Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.

<sup>29</sup> But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.

<sup>30</sup> Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.

<sup>31</sup> And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this *man* hath done?

<sup>32</sup> The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him.

<sup>33</sup> Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and *then* I go unto him that sent me.

<sup>34</sup> Ye shall seek me, and shall not find *me*: and where I am, *thither* ye cannot come.

<sup>35</sup> Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles?

<sup>36</sup> What *manner of* saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find *me*: and where I am, *thither* ye cannot come?

<sup>37</sup> In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

<sup>38</sup> He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

<sup>39</sup> (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him

<sup>6</sup> My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

#### IV The Last Day of the Feast

1 That last great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink," John 7:37-39;

##### John 6:35

<sup>35</sup> And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

##### Isaiah 55:1

<sup>1</sup> Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

##### Isaiah 12:3

<sup>3</sup> Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

##### Isaiah 44:3

<sup>3</sup> For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

##### Joel 2:28

<sup>28</sup> And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

##### Acts 2:17

<sup>17</sup> And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

##### Revelation 22:17

<sup>17</sup> And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

2 Many that heard Him believed He was the Christ; others said Christ cometh of the seed of David, so there was a division among them, John 7:40-43;

##### John 9:16

<sup>16</sup> Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

##### John 10:19

<sup>19</sup> There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.

3 No man laid hands on Him. The officers said, "Never man spake like this man," John 7:44-46

4 Nicodemus tells them that the Law does not judge a man before it hears him, John 7:47-53;

##### Deuteronomy 17:8-9

<sup>8</sup> If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, *being* matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the LORD thy God shall choose;

<sup>9</sup> And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and enquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment:

##### Deuteronomy 19:15

<sup>15</sup> One witness shall not rise up against a man for any

should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

<sup>40</sup> Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.

<sup>41</sup> Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?

<sup>42</sup> Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

<sup>43</sup> So there was a division among the people because of him.

<sup>44</sup> And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.

<sup>45</sup> Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?

<sup>46</sup> The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

<sup>47</sup> Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived?

<sup>48</sup> Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?

<sup>49</sup> But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.

<sup>50</sup> Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,)

<sup>51</sup> Doth our law judge *any* man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?

<sup>52</sup> They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

<sup>53</sup> And every man went unto his own house.

iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

### **NOTES:**

#### **The Feast of Tabernacles**

Jesus has been living in Galilee. The Feast of Tabernacles was at hand when all the Jewish men were to go to Jerusalem to fulfill the Law of God.

Despite all the miracles that Jesus had wrought, His own brothers were still in unbelief. They chided Him about going to Jerusalem to make Himself known to the world. If He really could work miracles, why not let the people see it? Evidently His brothers had not seen the great works Jesus had done in healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, bringing help to the weary, for they said, "If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world."

Jesus told His brothers: "My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready. The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil" (John 7:6, 7). The world loves its own, and if we go hand in hand with the world, we shall not meet with much opposition. But if we take issue with it and condemn the world for its sins, the world will hate us just as it hated Jesus and sought to kill Him.

#### **Whispering Campaign**

Jesus' brethren were going up to the feast, but Jesus Himself tarried behind in Galilee. It was generally known that the rulers sought to kill Jesus; and before He went up to the feast the people were asking the question, "Where is he?" They wondered whether He would come.

It seemed to be a whispering campaign. No one spoke openly about Him for fear of the Jews. Some said, "He is a good man." Others shook their heads and said, "He deceiveth the people."

#### **Knowledge Questioned**

About the middle of the feast we find Jesus in the Temple teaching the people. They marveled at what He was saying. They exclaimed, "How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?" Had they believed He was the Son of God they would have known that He not only knew letters but was the Creator of the letters in all languages. Jesus said to alp, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."

#### **Judging Righteous Judgment**

Jesus had, on the Sabbath Day, healed an impotent man at the pool of Bethesda, and that healing stirred the devil. The Pharisees said it was wrong to heal on the Sabbath Day, and the chief priests and rulers sought Him that they might put Him to death. Now we read that Jesus is in the Temple publicly denouncing their unjust judgment and telling them that they circumcise a child on the Sabbath Day, that the Law of Moses be not broken; and yet because He did good on the Sabbath Day and healed a man, they want to kill Him. He says, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."

### **Commotion**

There was a stir and commotion among the people. Some were saying, "When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?" and, "Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?" Others were saying, "When Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is." The people were divided in their opinion of Him. When the chief priests and Pharisees heard the murmurings of the people they sent officers to take Him.

### **Sought but Not Found**

Jesus told the people plainly that He would be with them only a little while and that they would seek Him and could not find Him. Many people seek Jesus too late. Some wait until the close of life's day and then try to find Him. "Because I have called, and ye refused . I also will laugh at your calamity. . . Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me" (Proverbs 1:24-28)

One day Jesus told the people to seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness. If we do that, we will never lose Him. He will not get very far away from us.

### **The Last Great Day of the Feast**

The last day of the feast had come. It was called the great day of the feast. Like most celebrations, this last day was a high day in their solemnities. We can picture the great throngs of people that had gathered from all over Judea and nearby places to attend this Feast of Tabernacles. Then we can picture Jesus in the midst crying out, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." What a thrill those words must have sent through every thirsty soul that day! Could it be that this Galilean could give them something that would satisfy their famishing souls? He seemed so positive about it. Even the officers said, "Never man spake like this man." No doubt these officers were stern, hardhearted men, as some officers are, yet there was something so wonderful about the words that fell from the lips of Jesus that they could not go up and lay hands on Him to arrest Him.

### **The Universal Call**

What an opportune time to proclaim the Gospel invitation! Not only the people of Jerusalem were hearing the call, but from all over Judea and Galilee and other regions they had gathered there for the feast. Almost 2000 years have elapsed since Jesus gave that universal call, but it is still ringing out over the world today, and wherever there is a thirsty soul he can come to Jesus and drink. He was ever ready to preach to the many or few as the need arose. In our lesson today He was preaching to the multitudes. But He was just as willing to tell it to the woman at Jacob's well. He said to her, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14). Her soul was thirsty and she drank.

### **The Results of Believing**

What the Lord wanted to plant in the hearts of the people on that last great day of the feast was the fact that He was the Son of God. It seemed hard for people to believe He was the

Christ, the Messiah, that was to come. He grew up among them. They knew Him as the carpenter's son. Some thought that when Christ came they would not know whence He came. Some recognized the miracles and said, "When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?" Jesus knew their thoughts and He said unto them, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." If they would only believe, the Spirit of God would witness with their spirit that they were beholding the Christ.

The Prophet Isaiah, many years before, had caught the vision, and he too cried out: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isaiah 55:1). So freely has God given this wonderful Gospel to this world that it can be obtained without one cent. Faith is the requisite. Faith will bring this priceless treasure into the heart.

### **The Baptism of the Holy Ghost**

On this last day of the feast Jesus spoke of more than the universal call to repentance. The Spirit of God, likened to Living Water, does come in when we are saved; and a greater measure of this Spirit is felt at sanctification. But Jesus was on this occasion speaking of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, who was not yet given. Jesus had promised that when He went away He would send the Comforter, who would abide with His people and be in them.

Jesus said, "Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." The man or woman who wants to be an effectual witness for God must have an overflowing amount of the Spirit in his life so that it may flow out as a river and bring life to the spiritually dead. Jesus told His disciples shortly before His ascension, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). How necessary it is to be baptized with the Holy Ghost in order to have the power to be witnesses for Christ!

The promise to send the Comforter was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost when the 120 were gathered, "with one accord," in the upper room, praising God. They were filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke in other tongues, "as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4). Peter arose that day and proclaimed that the prophecy of Joel had been fulfilled before their eyes: "It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy" (Acts 2:17, 18).

Peter added: "The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:39). God is still pouring out of His Spirit and baptizing the truly sanctified today, enduing them with power to be witnesses for Him.

### **QUESTIONS**

- 1 What was the Feast of Tabernacles?
- 2 Where, and at what time of year was it held?
  - 3 Why did the Pharisees and chief priests want to put Him to death?
- 4 What was the opinion of the people about Jesus?
- 5 Why did not the officers arrest Him?
- 6 What did Jesus' brethren think about Him?
- 7 Give the substance of the message Jesus preached on the last great day of the feast.