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John 7 - Part I

Judge Righteous Judgment

John 7:1-5: *1. After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in [Judea], because the Jews sought to kill him. 2. Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. 3. His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judea, that thy disciples also may see the works that you do. 4. For there is no man that does any thing in secret, and he himself seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, shew thyself to the world. 5. For neither did his brethren believe in him. When John wrote After these things he did not include the things in Matthew, chapters 14-18; Mark 6-9 and Luke chapter 9, that Jesus did between John chapters 6 and 7. The reason the Jews sought to kill him is better noted in **Matthew 15:7-9, 21:** 7. Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, 8. This people draw nigh unto me with their mouth, and honors me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.... 21. Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Zidon.*

The statement “**If**, you do these things,” in verse 4, reveals that his own brothers and sisters likely had not witnessed the things they were hearing. Even in our day, when a person is somehow different from the crowd, others ridicule and make fun of them. Later on, at least some of his brethren believed. We know that James (Galatians 1:19) and Jude (Jude 1:1) were active as disciples of Jesus in teaching other Jews, and both of whom have books named after them,. It was James who presided over the meeting in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13). So likely, his others brothers and sisters came to follow Jesus too.

John 7:6-9: *6. Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready. 7. The world cannot hate you; but me it hates, because I testify [about] it, that the works thereof are evil. 8. Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come. 9. When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee. What did Jesus mean by the words, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready? He mentions this again, in connection with the Feast of Tabernacles, in verse 8 - for my time is not yet [fulfilled]. Tabernacles, the last feast of the year, was observed in the middle of the seventh month. It was another five months until Passover (the 3rd of his ministry) on which Jesus would give his life for the world. There was a specific time that he would go to the cross, but our time to take up the cross is always ready. The feasts are part of Jesus “drinking the wine new” (Matthew 26:29; 1Corinthians 5:7-8) with us as we keep them spiritually.*

Tabernacles is the last feast to be observed according to the law of Moses. It was one of the three of which all male Jews were required to attend at Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 16:16), and the only other one named in the four gospels. Passover (unleavened bread) is mentioned seven times, the last of which was the one on which Jesus died (John 13:1) - seven being the number for “fullness, or a fulfilling.” The five months between these feasts is seed planting time, and the period of time referred to as when the former rain falls, the latter rain falling to ripen the harvest, figuratively, a time of world harvest of God’s people: **Hosea 6:1-3:** *1. Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. 2. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. 3. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain (cp Deuteronomy 32:1-2) unto the earth. **Matthew 24:20:** *pray that your flight may not**

be in winter, nor on a sabbath (Young). Winter is the five months between the last and first feasts of the year. When the messengers of God sound the trumpets (Matthew 24:31), they will be gathering the harvest, not planting seed. *But woe to them that are with child, and to those nursing in those days!* (Matthew 24:19)! Woe to them because they have not given birth to the understanding of Jesus Christ, they are still on the milk of the word!

John 7:10-14: *10. But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. 11. Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he? 12. And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceives the people. 13. How be it no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews. 14. Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.* Why did Jesus not go to the feast until the middle of the week? Many teach that Jesus kept all the law according to the letter. But here, he demonstrated that keeping of the feasts were not to be observed literally. He did not kill himself as the Passover lamb, the people did. However, Paul interpreted it as a spiritual type, admonishing the Jews and us to not keep the Passover with the old leaven (old understanding, Matthew 16:12)), but with new leaven (1Corinthians 5:6-8).

Some believed Jesus was deceiving the people, while others believed that he was a good man and were receiving his teachings. Those who believed kept it quiet for fear of the Jews. I have known of two men in leadership positions who were seeing the light of truth, but were waiting until they retired from church work to speak up because they knew they would be fired. They knew this because there were those who did speak up and were fired. Others of the laity who spoke up were often ridiculed, and/or disfellowshipped from the church.

John 7:14-18: *14. Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. 15. And the Jews marveled, saying, How knows this man letters, having never learned? 16. Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. 17. If any man will do his will, he shall know [about] the doctrine, whether it be [from] God, or whether I speak [from] myself. 18. He that speaks [from] himself seeks his own glory: but he that seeks his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.* “How does this man know the scriptures, having never learned - or, not having been taught in seminary. Jesus used educated and less educated who were sincere. Among the disciples, it was the common men, James, John and Peter, who stood out as spiritual leaders. Today, people will listen if a pastor says it, and there is even more respect for Doctors of Theology. Hardly anyone will listen to one not trained in a seminary. Jesus, considered a common man, got his understanding from the Father, the only source of truth, which Jesus gives to those with ears to hear.

John 7:19-24: *19. Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keep the law? Why go ye about to kill me? 20. The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goes about to kill thee? 21. Jesus answered and said unto them, I have done one work, and ye all marvel. 22. 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. 23. 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? 24. Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.* The Jews, as do religious people today, were keeping the law according to their own opinions. When Jesus confronted them with the truth of their law breaking, *Why go ye about to kill me?*, they could not deny it. Instead of being honest, they answered his question with a question. Anyone sharing the truth with others will often experience the same thing. Those refusing to accept that they might be wrong will attempt to side-track you, or state their opinion without Biblical proof. Do not judge according to the appearance of the letter of the law, but judge according to the way God teaches you. **Romans 13:8:** *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loves another hath fulfilled the law.* Amen.