

JOHN

Chapter 7

Note from Kathy

Good morning my precious friend! I love getting together with you and digging into God's word. If we were across the table from one another right now, one of us would probably start the conversation with, "how are you today?" Did you know our heavenly Father is interested in the same thing? He is interested in you. He longs to have time with you and speak to you. He loves you!!! Now let's enjoy our time in His word.

Sukkot – Feast of Tabernacles

Sukkot, or the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles, is the third of the great festivals on which all males were required to make pilgrimages to the Temple at Jerusalem. The celebration of this festival begins on the fifteenth day of the seventh month (Tishri). Originally it lasted seven days. The celebration included a daily procession from the temple to the Pool of Siloam. There a priest drew water that was then returned and poured out as an offering at the altar, accompanied by a recitation of Isaiah 12:3. It was on the final day of this Feast that Jesus announced himself as the source of "living water."

Feast of Tabernacles - Sukkot



Observation

1. Where do we find Jesus as this chapter unfolds? What has he been doing?
2. Sadly, those who should have been the most protective of Jesus wanted him to go to Judea and perform miracles there. Why was it not a good idea for Jesus to go there?
3. What joyous occasion was about to be celebrated in Jerusalem? Was the festival the only reason his brothers wanted Jesus to go to Jerusalem with them?
4. What did his brothers not understand?

Sukkot – Feast of Tabernacles

The Feast of Tabernacles was agricultural in origin from the name the "Feast of Ingathering," and from Deuteronomy 16:13, "after that thou hast gathered in from thy thrashing-floor and from thy wine-press." It was more particularly a thanksgiving for the fruit harvest in Judges 9:27; but coming as it did at the completion of the entire harvest, it was considered a thanksgiving for the bounty of nature in the year that had passed.

John 7:25-27

"At this point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, 'Isn't this the man they are trying to kill?'²⁶ Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah?²⁷ But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from."

Job 5:2

"Resentment kills a fool and envy slays the simple."

Proverbs 27:4

"Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?"

5. Jesus did go to Jerusalem but not with his brothers. He went quietly into the city. According to verse 12, what were the crowds doing?
6. Halfway through the festival Jesus began to teach in the temple courts. Many people would have been gathered there. Jesus tells the crowd he had not come on his own. By whose authority did Jesus say he spoke?
7. Jesus said I did one miracle and you are amazed. Which miracle is he referring to?
8. Jesus pointed out the hypocrisy of the religious leaders who had no problem circumcising a young boy on the Sabbath. Yet, they claim Jesus was violating the Sabbath by healing a man. What does he plead with them to do?
9. It quickly became obvious to the crowd that this was Jesus teaching. Read John 7:25-27. To the crowd's surprise, what was not happening?
10. Once again, Jesus tells the people that he does not teach and speak on his own. Where does he say his authority comes? Read in your Bible verses 7:16-17, 7:28-29 and 7:33.
11. Verse 30 says they tried to seize Jesus, but no one laid a hand on him. What do you believe happened?
12. What kept the Pharisees from hearing the truth in Jesus' teachings? Read Job 5:2 and Proverbs 27:4.
13. What did Jesus do on the last day of the festival? What does he offer the crowd in verses 37-38?
14. Everyone has an opinion about Jesus. In verses 40-43, what was being said about Jesus that day? What questions arose?

15. Scripture says the people were divided that day. What did the chief priests and Pharisees do?
16. Even though the temple guards were sent to arrest Jesus, what report did they bring back?
17. One man speaks up in Jesus' defense. Who was it? _____
What question did he pose, and how did the chief priests and Pharisees respond to him?

Application

1. Just like Jesus' brothers, there will be those around us who think they know what is best for us. It is a wise person who listens to wise counsel, but in the end seeks the Father's will.

Pastor Andy Stanley recently preached a 3-part series on "Decisions." He said, "You rarely have to sell yourself on a good idea," which made me smile when I thought of the truth in his statement. He challenged us with Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" He said we are masters at self-deception. He encouraged us to ask ourselves a few questions before making a decision in order to make "better decisions with fewer regrets." He asked the question, "Am I being honest with myself...really?"

Read John 10:27. What trial are you struggling with, and whose will and counsel are you seeking? Have you asked God to speak to you through His word?

2. After a few days attending the Festival, Jesus taught in the courtyard outside the temple. As believers, we too are teaching every day. Think back over the past few days then jot down three lessons you have taught with your words and actions. If we are honest with ourselves they probably won't all be positive, life-giving lessons. An honest look will remind us to walk with care. Read Ephesians 5:15.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Jeremiah 17:9-10

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? ¹⁰I the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."

John 10:27

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

Ephesians 5:15

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as unwise but as wise."

John 7:37-38

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

Mark 8:29, Luke 9:20, Matthew 16:15

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Proverbs 24:19

"Do not fret because of evildoers or be envious of the wicked."

Things I have learned about Jesus in the gospel of John

3. There is no luke-warm, middle ground with Jesus. Everyone must decide if they love Him or reject Him? Postponing the decision is still rejection of the amazing gift of grace. In John 7:37-38 Jesus extended an invitation. Have you responded to His invitation? Are you being satisfied by his life giving water?
4. No one can come in contact with Jesus and not form an opinion. Some believe. Some are hostile, and some are confused. Jesus desires for us to answer the same question he asked of Peter, "Who do you say I am?" Who do you say Jesus is?
5. The religious leaders were frustrated at Jesus' teaching and hated him. What began as jealousy and envy grew into full-blown hatred. They wanted Jesus dead. God's plan could not be thwarted. However, God's timing would not be rushed. How could you apply this lesson about the inevitability of God's plans and God's timing to your daily life? Read Proverbs 24:19.
6. Although Nicodemus was not yet a follower of Christ, he was an honest man seeking truth. He took a risk and asked a question of his peers hoping they would reconsider their actions. Do you stand up for those who are being ganged up on? When was the last time you stood up to the crowd and took a stand for what was right?
7. Take a few minutes and in the blue column write a list of everything you have learned about Jesus so far in our study of John's gospel. I believe you will be amazed.
8. Now, find a way to work some of your answers to the previous question into conversations this week. If you ate dinner in a new restaurant and you thought it was wonderful, you would share it with everyone. Let's get in the habit of seasoning our conversations with truth about the One who loves us most. If you already do this, share with your group some of the ways you do this.
9. Jesus knew the purpose he came to fulfill. Likewise, each of us has a divine, God-given purpose. Have you ever thought that everything we do from the television we watch—to the music we listen to—to the books we read—to the friends we choose plays an important part in either enabling us to fulfill God's purpose or pull us away from God's plan for our lives. Living with eternal focus is a guarantee for fulfilling our purpose. As someone reminded me, "Focus Kathy, Focus!!!" Just thinking about that day makes me smile. What is your purpose? How do you seek God's will as you plan your day?