

John 7

1 Matthew 27:18 The religious leaders were envious of the crowds that listened intently to Jesus. He was not part of the way and order that they worked in.

2 – 4 Leviticus 23:34-43 This was a week long feast at harvest time. The people built shelters out of branches in which they lived to remind them of the wilderness journey.

His brothers encouraged him to go to Jerusalem where the religious powers were because they didn't believe He was for real. Perhaps they thought the powers that be would expose Him? Does this remind you of Joseph and his brothers? The brothers' way was the way of the world – to be seen.

5 See Mark 3:21 It is hard to imagine growing up with Jesus as your older brother and not believing in Him. Perhaps there was the feeling that Mom always loved Him best. Micah 7:5,6

6 – 7 13:1 Jesus knew when it was time. If He goes to Jerusalem, He must be very careful. The world hates the voice of conviction. They want to be left alone to do as they please. 3:19; Proverbs 9:7,8; Jeremiah 20:8 Often the clear proclamation of a word from the Lord will incur the insults of man.

8 –10 Jesus knew His brothers' hearts. He sent them but went later in secret. Isaiah 42:2-3 Jesus did not invite publicity because He knew it would shorten His ministry. Amos 5:13 There is a time not to reveal everything because of the evil in other's hearts.

11-13 He was the talk of the feast. People were taking sides, but none dared to speak out publicly for Him because of the animosity of the Jewish leaders.

14- 15 Matthew 7:28-29 We can learn from men, but real wisdom and authority comes from God. Mark 6:2

16 Revelation! God inspired –breathed- words, that is the secret to His powerful messages and wisdom. 12:49

17 How do you know if it is from God? Do it and you will know! Faith works! It is real. 8:31-32 Applying the truth of Jesus' words brings freedom from sin's captivity over our lives. Not that you are perfect, but its dominance ends.

18 What is the motivation, personal honor or to bring glory to God? If the heart motivation is the glory of God alone – there is nothing false about him. 8:49-50 1Peter 4:11

19 –20 Jesus interpretation of the Law includes the heart desire. Matthew 10:25
Servants of God are often misunderstood and accused of being the tool of Satan.

21-23 The issue was their anger over a Sabbath healing. Chapter 5? Jesus tried to give them an illustration that showed they were applying a double standard. The law does not call healing work. It was their legalistic approach that said keeping the rules is more important than doing God's will.

24 Some would say we are never to judge. Matthew 7:1 is their favorite passage. The point of that passage is that we will be judged by the same standard we use. We are to judge righteously – according to God's judgment. The religious leaders are judging Jesus' work of healing as sinful because it was done on the Sabbath. That is an unrighteous judgment. If you are going to judge, be sure it is by God's standards. 5:30