

John 7:1-31 – Confusion About Jesus

John chapter six occurred in the spring around the time of Passover. John chapter seven occurs in the fall during the seventh month of the Jewish calendar. The first day of the month was the Feast of Trumpets now known as the Jewish New Year. Day seven was the Day of Atonement. Day fifteen began the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) which lasted for a week. Offerings were brought to Jerusalem from the peoples' fall harvest. It was also a time to remember that the people of Israel lived in tents after the exile and before they entered the Promised Land. This special time of year was the context of chapter seven. In this chapter we find many people who were very confused about who Jesus was, where he was going and where the Christ was from.

Read John 7:1-9.

In chapter five, Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath. The religious leaders condemned Jesus for telling the healed man to carry his mat on the Sabbath. When Jesus interacted with the religious leaders, they wanted to kill him because he made statements which indicated that he was equal with God. After that, Jesus focused on Galilee and stayed away from Judea and those who wanted to kill him. The Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) was near. What do you know about this feast? (Lev. 23, Deut. 16:13-17)

In John chapter two, Jesus went from Cana to Capernaum with his mother, his brother and his disciples. What did Jesus' brothers think about him? Did they believe in Jesus? What did his brothers want him to do and why? (7:3-5)

Why did the world accept Jesus' brothers? Why did the world hate Jesus? (7:6-7)

Why didn't Jesus go to the feast with his brothers? (7:8-9) How does John chapter six explain why the brothers of Jesus did not believe in him?

Read John 7:10-25.

Jesus was required by Old Testament law to go to the feast and so he left for the feast after everyone had already gone. The people were looking for Jesus at the feast. What were they saying about him? (7:10-13)

In the middle of the feast, Jesus began to teach in the temple. What was the crowd's reaction to his teaching? How did Jesus explain his impressive Biblical knowledge given that he didn't have "formal" training? How could someone tell if Jesus was speaking the truth? How do we know when someone is not speaking God's truth? (7:11-18)

Jesus no longer kept a low profile. He referenced the fact that the religious leaders wanted to kill him (back in chapter five). How did the people respond to Jesus when he brought this to their attention? (7:19-20)

Jesus compared and contrasted his healing of the sick man on the Sabbath with the religious leaders who circumcised on the Sabbath. What point was Jesus making? (7:21-24)

When Jesus reminded the people about this incident, how did some of the people of Jerusalem respond? (7:25)
Contrast this comment to what the people said when Jesus first reminded them of this event in verses 19-20. What does this teach us about making quick judgments without having all the facts?

Read John 7:26-31.

Talk about fickle! The people started out saying that Jesus had a demon. Now they were wondering if he was the Christ. Why did some people think he might be the Christ? (7:25-26)

How many incorrect statements did the people make in verse 27? Why were they incorrect?

Jesus said that he was sent by one who is true. The people did not know Jesus' Father and where Jesus came from. Why did some people try to seize Jesus? Why did some people think that he was the Christ? (7:30-31)