

When You Go Against the Flow

John 7:1-19

After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. 2 Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. 3 His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

6 Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. 8 You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." 9 When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.

10 But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to 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 complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people." 13 However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

14 Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. 15 And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?"

16 Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. 17 If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. 18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. 19 Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?" NKJV

I. Jesus Chooses a Hard Way

1. After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him.
- B. Remember Jesus has not threatened anyone.
- C. He has not tried to kill any one.
- D. Instead He has gone about healing people and teaching the truth.
- E. But then teaching the truth has not always been popular.
 1. Of all the outrageous things you see on TV the pro-abortion and women's groups could not stand the 30 second spot about a woman who put her life on the line in order to give her child, living in her womb, a chance at life.

2. Why such a rage, because it goes against the mentality of our day that says damn anything that get in the way of your own happiness, even unborn children.
 3. Those same people who complained about the Tebow ad also complained that CBS did not air a homosexual internet dating site ad that displayed to homosexuals making out passionately on a park bench.
- F. The Jews and the world would have killed Jesus if only God would have let them.
- II. Even His brothers do not believe.
1. Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. 3 His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." 5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.
- B. Several months have transpired between chapters 6 & 7 of John.
1. This feast takes place in our late September early October.
 2. It was a feast to help the Jews understand that this world was not their home.
 3. We are almost within 6 months of His crucifixion now.
- C. His brothers challenge Him to go to Jerusalem and to show himself to the people.
1. This they say will bring more people into his church.
 2. But Jesus is not interested in building a earthly minded church but a spiritually minded church.
- D. For even His own family with the exception of His mother did not believe in Him.
- III. Jesus knows the results of all actions and He knows that once He goes to Judea that the clock will begin that counts down to His execution.
1. 6 Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.
- B. His time is not yet come.
1. Kind of interesting that John usually uses a different term.
 2. Usually he say HOUR instead to TIME.
 3. They are two different Greek words.
 4. One writer thinks that Jesus is contrasting His relationship to the world here as opposed to His unbelieving brothers.

5. There time is now for they are of the world and a part of the world system over which Satan has control.
6. Jesus is in the world but not a part of this world system and Satan has nothing in Him.

IV. Jesus will bide His time.

1. 8 You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." 9 When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.

B. Jesus will not be controlled by anyone other than the heavenly Father.

1. This is essentially the same temptation Satan brought to Jesus when he took Him to the pinnacle of the temple and suggested that if He would make a big show to the people that they would follow Him.

V. The World and Jesus don't get along

1. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.

B. I have often noticed how uncomfortable people get around me when they discover I am a pastor.

1. There is this animosity that the world has for the things of God.
2. They do not like anyone around them who is critical of their ways.

C. Can you imagine what it was like for the holy Son of God?

1. Not only was He opposed to their sinful ways, but He was holy, without sin.
2. The world condemns every Christian who does not live up to what they preach.
3. But they hate every Christian that does live up to what they preach.

D. The world does not hate its own, but those that belong to the King of Righteousness are hated because their very existence condemns their sinful ways.

VI. The people marvel that they do not see Jesus at the feasts.

1. 10 But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. 11 Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?"

B. Jesus goes up toward the middle or end of the feast as it lasted for a week.

C. He will go but in His own time.

- VII. He has caused a division among the people.
1. 12 And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people."
 - B. Jesus has been and will continue to be a divider of people.
 - C. That is why people say "Don't talk about politics or religion."
 1. The difference between politics and religion is that in religion there is a true way, but in politics they are all wrong.
 2. I have yet to hear a political pundit that has a thoroughly Biblical world view.
- VIII. The world would silence God if they could.
1. 13 However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.
 - B. There are a lot of places that if you take a non-politically correct view, you can lose your job. That's because they cannot beat you or put you into prison or kill you, yet.
 - C. Jesus was such a controversial person that the authorities had the people afraid to even talk about him.
- IX. Only those with a worldly education are considered educated.
1. 14 Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. 15 And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?"
 - B. He was not ignorant, but had as a man of flesh had committed much of Moses and the Psalms to memory if not much more.
 - C. Even the disciples were considered uneducated men, but later in Acts notice what the Jewish rulers said of them.
 1. Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. NKJV
- X. The Source of His Teaching
1. 16 Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.
 - B. People do not like the idea of an ultimate authority.
 - C. They want it all on the human level without a thus says the Lord.
- XI. The Source of Understanding

1. 17 If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.

XII. Man's knowledge is only self seeking

1. 18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory;

XIII. Jesus' Purpose is not His Own.

1. He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.

XIV. Hypocrites All

1. 19 Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?"

B. They prided themselves that Moses had spoken with God and received the law for the Jews.

C. Yet none of them kept the law.

Their greatest hypocrisy was wanting Him dead and setting plans in motion to do just that.

Later on in this passage Jesus will say, "If any man thirsts let him come to Me and drink."

Are you still in the world?

Does the world tantalize you with their merchandise.

But yet you are never satisfied.

Jesus is the only remedy for a thirsty soul.

If you will only come to Him today.

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