

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

JOHN 7:1 - 8:30

The Feast of Tabernacles was one of seven feasts God instituted for His people Israel to celebrate.

It occurred in the fall of the year, in the Jewish month of Tishri, corresponding with our September/October.

“**Tabernacles**” was the final feast on the yearly calendar and the most elaborate in its celebration. The Jews referred to it as simply, “**The Feast.**”

The Jewish historian, Josephus called the Feast of Tabernacles, “**the holiest and greatest of all the feasts.**”

The Feast was a combination of our *Thanksgiving*, *Independence Day*, and *New Years* all rolled into one.

The Feast went by several nicknames...

The **first** was “**Ingathering**” - Israel gave thanks for the incoming harvest... **Second**, was “**Sukkoth**” or “**Booths**” - during the feast, families lived in outside shelters to recall God's provision for Israel during the forty years they slept under the stars and traveled through the wilderness... And **third**, the Feast looked to the future - **a new day** when Messiah will come to fulfill His promises to Israel and reign over all the earth.

John 7 occurs at this Feast. Verses 1-10 take place prior to the Feast... Verses 11-36 in the midst of the Feast... And verses 37-52 on the last day of the Feast.

Chapter 7 reveals three attitudes toward Jesus - *of His siblings, of the celebrants, and of the Sanhedrin...*

Verse 1, “After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him.” Days earlier, in Jerusalem, Jesus healed the lame man by the pool of Bethesda.

And in doing so He violated Sabbath laws. *Right outside the Temple no less - right under the nose of the uppity, self-righteous priests* - Jesus attacked their legalism by claiming to be the Son of God. *From His perspective all He'd done was follow His Father's lead.*

His logic inflamed their fury. They grew bloodthirsty. Jesus retreated to Galilee until passions cooled down.

Verse 2, “Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand...” And this required all Jewish men 20 years old and older to travel to Jerusalem. If Jesus was to obey the Law... ready or not, He would have to go...

“His brothers (Mary's other boys) therefore said to Him, “Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing.”

And here they get a little sarcastic, “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.” For even His brothers did not believe in Him.”

According to Matthew 13:55, Mary and Joseph had other children - at least four boys and two girls. This means Jesus had half-brothers and half-sisters. He grew up in a blended family. He's lived those dynamics.

He and His siblings knew they didn't share the same father. *Could it be that Joseph's kids scoffed at Jesus?*

Did they doubt the idea of a virgin birth? Did they consider it a family fable... a scandal and a cover-up?

Or could it be they were just jealous? Jesus was sinless. I imagine the other kids got tired of hearing Mary say, "Why can't you be like your older brother?"

Living in the shadow of a successful sibling is tough enough, but imagine if your big brother was God.

Whatever their reasons Joseph's kids didn't believe Jesus was the Messiah until after His resurrection.

And here the brothers give Jesus some advice as if they're His publicity manager. If He wants the world to trust in Him, why not seek the largest stage possible?

Go to Jerusalem. The city will be crowded at the Feast. It's the perfect opportunity to prove Himself.

"Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready." Here's Jesus point, and it's an important point for us! Every opportunity doesn't constitute a calling from God. Just because it makes sense, doesn't mean it's God's will.

Jesus was prompted by *obedience* not just *opportunity*. He was working on heaven's timetable.

Which reminds me of the insurance agent who got a frantic call. A woman asked, *"Do you sell homeowner's insurance?"* The agent replied, *"Yes, I do."* She said, *"Can I buy a policy over the phone?"* The agent replied, *"No, I'll have to come out*

to your house and have you sign the paperwork." The lady shouted, "Well, you better hurry up because my house is on fire!"

It's been said, "Timing is everything." And that's certainly true with the plans and purposes of God.

I've heard it put, "There are three things a man can do without sensing he's wasting time: make war, court a woman, create art." I'd add a fourth, "wait on God."

Time spent waiting on God is never wasted. Jesus had what His bros lacked - a sense of God's timing.

Verse 7 continues Jesus' reply. "The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee. But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret." He went on a covert pilgrimage.

Verse 11, "Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?" 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." However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews." Even though Jesus avoided the limelight, He was still the hot topic!

Privately, folks debated His claims and deeds, even while the Jewish officials were publicly hostile to Him.

Verse 14, "Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught." Jesus sensed it was now the right

time. “And the Jews marveled, saying, “How does this Man know letters, having never studied?” It’s not that Jesus was ignorant of the Bible. His mind was steeped in the Scriptures. What the Jews note here is His lack of formal theological training.

Every rabbi studied in the Yeshiva. Then he served an apprenticeship under another rabbi, but Jesus was a rabbi with no rabbi. It’s been said of Him, “While the scribes and Pharisees taught *from authorities*, quoting all the famous rabbis, Jesus taught *with authority*.”

Jesus lacked the proper credentials in the eyes of the Jews, yet He taught with wisdom from heaven.

“Jesus answered them and said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.” The Father God was Jesus’ rabbi. He wasn’t *man-taught*, but *God-taught*.

“If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.” Here’s a truth we all need to grasp - it’s a *willing heart* not just an *inquisitive mind* that will ultimately know the Scriptures.

Jesus says, “*If anyone wants to do God’s will...*” The *desire to know* has to be coupled with the *desire to do!*

Verse 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.”

Every Bible teacher should ask Himself, “Do I *preach to be popular*, or am I *preaching to be faithful?*”

Jesus asks, “Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law?” Remember this exchange is in the Temple - it’s a packed house - all the Jewish hierarchy is on hand. They’ve been plotting Jesus’ assassination. Now he boldly exposes their hypocrisy.

He confronts them, “Why do you seek to kill Me?”

“The people answered and said, “You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?” The leaders had put out a hit on Jesus, but this was unknown to the rank-in-file Jew. The pilgrims were blind to the brewing scandal.

Verse 21, “Jesus answered and said to them, “I did one work, and you all marvel.” He’s talking about the healing of the lame man by the pool of Bethesda.

“Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath.” Jesus is about to point out the hypocrisy in how the Jews applied the Sabbath laws.

The Law commanded every Jewish male to be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. *And the rabbis were strict about the eighth day* - even if it meant performing the circumcision on the Sabbath. Thus, they allowed for some work to be done that day.

Jesus persists, “If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath?” Performing a circumcision was a trivial procedure compared to healing a man who had been crippled for 38 years!

Verse 24 “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.” The Jews were all about rules and rituals, *while ignoring what was just and right*. This is the problem with a legalist - he or she *majors on the minors, while they minor on the majors*.

It was July 4, 1776, when King George II of England logged the following entry into his Journal, “Nothing of importance happened today.” He didn't realize a revolution was born - a movement that would dismantle his empire. He misjudged the events in the Americas.

Researchers say 10,000 thoughts go through the human mind every day. We're constantly thinking, analyzing, critiquing, judging - yet be careful about drawing conclusions. *It's not always what it seems*.

There is always information we lack. Before we reach a conclusion about a person or situation we need heaven's perspective. And if God withholds His viewpoint; then we need to reserve our judgment too.

Verse 25, “Now some of them from Jerusalem said, “Is this not He whom they seek to kill? But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ?”

The Jews who knew of Jesus' opposition wondered if His opponents had changed their minds, and accepted Him as their Messiah. *But they share their reservations...* “However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from.” This was an unbiblical hurdle to their faith.

The rabbis erroneously taught that the Messiah would come suddenly and mysteriously. You couldn't trace His origins. *Yet everyone knew Jesus' family tree.*

Apparently, His genealogy was common knowledge. His brothers were local. His hometown was Nazareth.

Actually, the OT had spoken volumes concerning Messiah's lineage. The Scriptures had traced the Messiah back to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David.

Verse 28, "Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, "You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me."

The Jews had traced Jesus' origins to Nazareth.

But Jesus said that wasn't far enough. He came from heaven. Again, the idea that Jesus existed prior to His birth, and had been sent by God, was a claim to deity. Humans don't pre-exist. They begin when their born.

Here Jesus is throwing gas on the fire on those who opposed Him. The Jews distinguished themselves from the world's idolaters as the people who knew the one, true God. Jesus says, "*(Him) you do not know.*"

"Then they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come."

Their threats almost mushroomed into action. But apparently, the will of God trumped their anger.

"And many of the people believed in Him, and said, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this

Man has done?" The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him." Apparently, a warrant gets issued, but an arrest never occurs. Once again, it was not God's time.

"Then Jesus said to them, "I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him who sent Me.

You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come." Then the Jews said among themselves, "Where does He intend to go that we shall not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks?"

The "*Dispersion*" or "*Diaspora*" was the Hebrew population living outside Israel. The Pharisees thought Jesus was speaking of going to expatriated Hebrews.

They continue, "What is this thing that He said, 'You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come'?" Jesus **was** going abroad, but a little further than anybody thought. He'd been sent from heaven and would return to heaven. Jesus was headed where the Pharisees would never follow.

How sobering to compare Jesus' *promise to these Jews* with His *promise to His disciples*. In John 14:3 He says to His men, "I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." But to unbelievers He says, "*Where I am you cannot come.*"

Verse 37, “On the last day, that great day of the feast...” At any Olympics the biggest event is always the closing ceremonies, and so it was with the Feast of Tabernacles. The last day was the big day - “*the great day of the feast.*” It was time for the closing ceremony.

The priest would lead a procession from the Temple to the pool of Siloam, south of Jerusalem. There they would draw water and fill their golden vessels. Then they would return to the Temple by way of the water gate - circle the altar - then poured out their pitchers.

Their ritual looked both backwards and forwards...

It reminded Israel of the miracle God worked in the wilderness when He brought water from the rock.

But it also looked forward to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the people of God in the latter days.

And it was immediately after the ceremonial water had been poured out that Jesus offered to make **their ritual a reality.** *The Apostle John tells us in verse 37...*

“Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” Today, Jesus is the rock in our spiritual wilderness. From Him the Holy Spirit flows.

If we come to Jesus, open our hearts, and believe in Him - the water of spiritual vitality and refreshment will bubble up within us and flow like a mighty river.

One of the most awesome sights I've ever seen is Niagara Falls. The river plummets 176 feet into the river below. Over 100,000 cubic feet per second of water flows over the edge of the falls and crashes onto the rocks below. The spray creates a mist that rises hundreds of feet upwards and can be seen miles away.

When we come to Jesus and drink the living water He creates in us *a rush of power - a spray of love* that influences us and people around us. **Our life is a mist others can see, and a river from which they can drink.**

Verse 39, **“But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”** It was after Jesus’ death and resurrection that the Holy Spirit was poured out on His followers. In John 20, after they’d believe in the risen Christ, Jesus breathed on them and said, **“Receive the Holy Spirit.”**

Verse 40, **“Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.”**

Others said, “This is the Christ.” Or Messiah. “But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?” Apparently, the crowd knew Micah 5:2 that predicted Messiah would be born in Bethlehem of Judea. But Jesus had been raised in the town of Nazareth - a small, insignificant village in Galilee.

“So there was a division among the people because of Him.” This shows the superficiality of their research.

If they’d only done a little serious vetting - just talked to one of His brother - they would've known that though Jesus grew up in Galilee, He’d was born in Bethlehem.

“Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why have you not brought Him?” These were the Temple police who in verse 32 were issued the warrant. Now the priests want to know why an arrest hasn’t been made.

And here was their answer, “The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!” It was obvious to even His critics that Jesus was more than a mere man!

These were Temple cops just doing their job, but they backed off due to the authority Jesus exuded.

Verse 47, “Then the Pharisees answered them, “Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him?” But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.” The Pharisees and chief priests were snobs! They looked down their nose at the common-folk. These aristocrats felt spiritually-superior to the ignorant masses. Here, they even reassure themselves that none of their own have broken ranks and become a follower of Jesus. *But that wasn’t true...*

Remember the rabbi that Jesus instructed in Chapter 3, a man named Nicodemus? *And speaking of him...*

Verse 50, “Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?” Nic pushes to secure for Jesus a fair trial.

According to John 19:38, Nicodemus and another Jewish leader - Joseph of Arimathea - were both disciples of Jesus. John says of Joseph, “but secretly, for fear of the Jews.” This was also true of Nicodemus.

Nicodemus goes to bat for justice - *Jesus deserves to speak for himself*. But he stops tragically short of expressing his personal faith in Jesus as His Messiah.

Verse 52, “They answered and said to him, “Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee.” The Pharisees try to justify their rejection of Jesus with their prejudice toward Galileans.

Jews from Jerusalem assumed that backwoods Galileans *married their cousins - and kept dogs under their front porch - and drank moonshine - and had tire swings in their yard - you know, like folks in Alabama.*

They rationalized... how can a prophet come from Galilee? Galilee produces bumpkins - not men of God.

But here the Jews reveal their own ignorance of the Scriptures. 2 Kings 14:25 lists Jonah’s hometown as “Gath Hopher.” It was a village three miles northeast of Nazareth. **Jonah was Galilean!** Remember too, where Jesus made His headquarters in Galilee? It was “Capernaum” or “Kafar Nahum” - which means “village of Nahum.” Apparently, **Nahum** too was a Galilean.

Chapter 7 ends and chapter 8 begins, “**And everyone went to his own house. But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.**” Jesus exited the Temple - crossed the Kidron Valley - then climbed the Mount of Olives. It could be Jesus and His men camped for the night. Perhaps He had a favorite camp site, a garden called Gethsemane.

“**Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.**” The Feast of Tabernacles was now officially over, and usually the pilgrims to the feast headed home. But apparently quite a crowd decided to hang out and spend another day with Jesus...

Verse 3, “**Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery.**” Now before we read the following story we first need to address a problem.

There is a controversy whether the story of the woman taken in adultery actually belongs in the Bible.

If you’re reading the NIV or one of the other modern translations there is a preface to Chapter 8 that reads, “**The earliest and most reliable manuscripts and other ancient witnesses do not have John 7:53 - 8:11.**”

To me that statement is misleading... Yes, the account is omitted in some Greek manuscripts. But the story *is* in other very old manuscripts, **and** it gets referred to by many of the early church fathers. A man named Papias mentions this story as early as 100 AD.

St. Augustine explained why this passage was left out of some of the biblical manuscripts. He said a few copyists

feared that Jesus' kindness toward an immoral woman could be misconstrued as condoning adultery.

The copyists feared folks would stumble over grace.

I like scholar FB Meyer's comment on John 8:1-11, "There is no possibility of accounting for its existence except that the incident really took place. It reveals in our Savior's character a wisdom so profound, a tenderness to sinners so delicate, a hatred of sin so intense, an insight into human hearts so searching that it's impossible to suppose that the mind of man could've conceived it, or the hand of man could've invented it." I agree. To me, there's no doubt this wonderful account of forgiveness belongs in our Bibles.

Verse 3, "Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act."

It makes you wonder how they caught her "*in the very act*" - and where was the man? *The last time I checked it took two people to commit adultery.*

Deuteronomy 22:22 is clear, "If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, *then both of them shall die...*" The fact that the man is conspicuously missing concludes that this was a set up. The woman had been *trapped* in order to *spring a trap* on Jesus.

Jesus had been teaching in the Temple when angry, growling voices were heard. *They were getting closer.*

The crowd parts like the Red Sea and up stomps a troop of bloodthirsty Pharisees dragging a frightened, semi-naked

woman. They sling her at Jesus like a queasy new dad tossing a smelly diaper into the trash.

They spew accusations - spit out judgments - poke their fingers at her like they were thrusting swords.

And the woman... what a sight! She's lying on the cold floor in the fetal position. Tears have cut trenches in her heavy make-up. At a distance she looks pretty, but up-close this woman looks worn and haggard.

She's been used and abused - objectified by men and treated like a commodity... Actress Mae West once said, "I've been in more laps than a napkin." This woman could have said the same. Years of abuse had ruined her body, *and worse, it had hardened and embittered her soul.* She probably hated everybody.

Especially the self-righteous Pharisees who were shouting at Jesus. "Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him."

If Jesus had just turned this woman loose, it would have been viewed as a flagrant disregard for the Law. People would've accuse Jesus of being soft on sin.

On the other hand, if Jesus picks up a rock to stone this woman He's destroyed His reputation as a friend of sinners and a man of mercy... Either way the Jewish leaders think they've out foxed Jesus. *They got Him!...*

“But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.” It wasn’t just what He wrote that was significant. It’s **what He didn’t hear** - their accusations and condemnation.

And Jesus is still deaf to the railings and judgments people hurl at sinners like us, when we trust in Him.

The Pharisees were snarling, demanding an answer, but Jesus just ignored them. He bends down, and starts doodling in the dirt. What He wrote we don't know, but the word translated “*wrote*” is the Greek word “*katagrapho*” which means “*to write against.*”

Jesus wasn’t listing positive attributes. Most likely, He was writing accusations against the Jewish leaders.

Verse 7, “So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.”

One Greek manuscript in which this story does appear adds a footnote. It says Jesus wrote in the dirt the sins of each accuser. Perhaps, He started writing the names of the Pharisees’ girlfriends and prostitutes.

“Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last.” The rocks that had been held in tightly drawn fists started dropping one at a time.

The men holding them had decided to head home.

Then, “Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.” What a scene this was!

When she was thrown at Jesus' feet there was hate in her eyes. She hated the hypocritical Pharisees. She hated men in general. All her life men had peeled her like an orange - sucked out her sweetness - then thrown away the skin... yet this Man was different!

She'd heard of Jesus - *by this point who hadn't?*

But she would've never believed a man so holy, could be so merciful. She's standing there looking right at Him. She knows He's pure and righteous, and she senses that He really does care about her. For the first time in her life she's found a man who cares about her as a person, rather than treat her like an object.

She's felt the lust of men, *but this feels like love*. This is a new experience. She's tasting of forgiveness.

“When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

It's ironic there was only one person in the crowd that day who never sinned. Only one person qualified to cast a stone - yet He chose not to. Instead Jesus chose to forgive this woman rather than condemn her.

The Pharisaical remedy for sin was to destroy the sinner. Jesus also hated sin, *but He loved the sinner...*

The sin solution for the Pharisee was a stone, but the Jesus' solution was a stick of wood - the cross.

And let me make one more point...

Let's make sure we remember this story not only when we're the woman in need of forgiveness, but when we're the ones with the stone in our hands.

If Jesus can forgive this woman with the sordid reputation, why can't you forgive your guilty party?

And then Jesus said to the woman, *“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”* And I'm sure she obeyed. This moment marked a turning point in her life.

Love disarms a cynical attitude and breaks open a padlocked heart. Jesus restored to this woman her value and virtue. Use someone - take from them - and you cheapen them. But save someone - and you add value to their life - you upgrade their sense of worth.

What Jesus did was give this woman a new life. I'm sure she became one of His most devoted followers.

Remember all this happened on the heels of the Feast of Tabernacles, and one of the foremost features of this Feast were the lights that decorated the Temple.

Giant candelabras were set up in the Temple to remind the people of the fire by night - the presence of God that led the people through the wilderness.

And these menorahs were enormous. Their bases were 100 feet high. The trunk of the menorah split into four branches, each with large cups at the top for oil.

Young priests would climb ladders to refill the oil. They used the worn-out garments of the priests as wicks. The light from

these lamps was so bright that all Jerusalem glowed in the dark during the Feast.

Each night during “**Tabernacles**” the people gathered in the Temple courtyard. Men waved torches. Folks danced to music. It was an all-night celebration.

But on the day after the Feast, the lights were snuffed out. And it was probably as the Levites were disassembling the special Feast-day Menorahs, and cleaning up the debris from the night before, that Jesus stood up in the Temple and made a declaration...

Verse 12, “**Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."**

It was in the morning. Perhaps the sun was rising above the eastern wall of the Temple. Jesus may've pointed to the sunrise and declared, “***I am the light of the world.***” Jesus is brighter than the ritual menorahs.

Psalms 84:11 and Malachi 4:2 depicted the sun as an OT idiom for Yahweh. Here again, Jesus is claiming to be God. Think of it, it was actually Jesus who hovered over the camp of Israel and led them through the wilderness. Jesus is the light of Israel *and of the world*.

Just as our solar system has but one sun likewise the universe has been one God - one source of heat, and energy, and light, and life, and warmth.

If the sun were ever to burn out life could no longer exist. Likewise apart from Jesus human beings fail to truly experience what life was really meant to be.

The Seattle Zoo has an exhibit known as the **Nocturnal House**. Even during the day the zoologists keep the house dark and display the exhibits under black lights. They showcase the various animals that come out only at night. They have vampire bats that suck on bottles of blood. Strange animals come out in the nighttime and strange actions go on in the dark.

As I use to tell my kids, “**Nothing good happens after midnight!**” It’s much safer to live in the light of day.

And this is especially true spiritually. Live under the influence of Jesus and He drives out the dark, and sends the *evil* critters scurrying for their holes.

Verse 13, “**The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true."**

The Jews said it was by the mouth of two or three witnesses that every word should be established. In a Jewish court a single accusation could never convict.

But Jesus fired back, “**It is also written in your law** (note, He knew their Law better than they did) **that the testimony of two men is true. I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.**” If you need two witnesses to believe in Me, how about *God the Father* and *God the Son!*

Remember at the end of Chapter 5 Jesus presented six witnesses that testified of His deity - **Himself, John the**

Baptist, His miracles, His Father in heaven, the Scriptures, and even Moses. *Jesus only needed two!*

Verse 19 “Then they said to Him, “Where is Your Father?” You can bet they said it with a sneer. In other words they’re asking Jesus, “Who’s your daddy?”

Apparently, the Jews had researched Jesus’ background, and scoffed at the idea of His virgin birth.

“Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.” Folks who know both me and my dad say we look so much alike they have no doubt that I’m his son. *Of course, I’ve never thought dad was that good-looking, but if that’s what people say, so be it.*

But this was definitely the case with Jesus and His Father. *If the Jews had truly known God, after they took one look at Jesus they would’ve been convinced of the resemblance. Jesus and the Father were one.*

Verse 20, “These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.” Once again, John makes clear God’s timing will dictate Jesus’ destiny.

“Then Jesus said to them again, “I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come.” Those who don’t follow Jesus, won’t follow Him to heaven. And those who follow Him now won’t stop at death. We’ll follow Him into eternity.

“So the Jews said, “Will He kill Himself, because He says, ‘Where I go you cannot come’?” When Jesus spoke of His

death, those listening tried to accuse Him of threatening suicide. In Judaism the lowest levels of Hades were reserved for folks who took their own life.

The Jews were so determined to assign Jesus the worst possible damnation, they missed the one verdict they really should've heard, "*You... will die in your sin.*"

Verse 23 "*And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."* Jesus was a genuine alien - a real extraterrestrial. He came to earth from heaven above.

His wisdom was heavenly. His mind was divine. He had God's love and nature. Jesus was from a different dimension. Neither His origination nor His destination was here below. He came from God and would return.

Jesus continues, "*Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.*" Here it is from Jesus' own mouth - the penalty for not believing in Him, is death - *physical death, but most importantly, spiritual death.*

It doesn't matter how moral, or religious, or spiritual, or benevolent, or kind, or good you are... If you don't believe that Jesus "*is He*" you'll die in your sins.

"Then they said to Him, "Who are You?" And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning." His message hadn't changed.

I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things

which I heard from Him.” They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father.”

The doctrine of the Trinity is found in the OT, but as is the case today, most Jews missed it. They didn't understand that God the Son spoke of God the Father.

Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man (He's talking of His crucifixion), then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.”

At the cross the world sees why the Father sent His Son. It all becomes clear when Jesus is lifted up.

“And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.” Here's why we know Jesus lived a sinless life. He tells us here in all He did He pleased His Father.

And this makes you appreciate our Lord all the more... Imagine, what it took for Jesus to actually say, *“I always do those things that please (the Father).”*

He trained and tamed His tongue. He never uttered a trivial word. His ear heard every divine whisper spoken in His direction. His heart was never distracted. It was always in sync with the Father's heart. His mind never entertained a stray or sinful thought. What an example!

And that's why verse 30 is no surprise, “As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.” As the Jewish cops said earlier, *“No man ever spoke like this Man!”*