

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## JOHN 7:1 - 8:30

It's been said, "Timing is everything."

This 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!"

As I said, "Timing is everything." And that's certainly true when it comes to 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, and create art." I'd add a fourth, "wait on God." Time spent waiting on God is never wasted. And Jesus showed a marvelous sense of God's timing...

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 had healed a lame man by the pool of Bethesda. And in doing so, had violated the Jewish Sabbath laws.

And in His defense, Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. From His perspective all He'd done was follow His Father in heaven's lead. And yet Jesus' logic inflamed the bloodthirsty fury of the Temple priests, thus He retreated to Galilee until passions had cooled.

Verse 2, “Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand...” And this required all Jewish men twenty 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 that dynamic!*

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 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 Yourself.*

“Then Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.” In other words, “timing is everything.” Here's a lesson we need to grasp, every opportunity doesn't constitute a calling from God. Just because it makes sense, doesn't mean it's God's will. Just because “we can” doesn't mean “we should.” Jesus was prompted by *obedience*, not just *opportunity*. He was working off heaven's timetable.

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. 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 tried to avoid the limelight, He was still the hot topic in Jerusalem! Publicly, Jewish officials were hostile to Jesus. While privately, folks were debating His claims.

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 was Jesus’ lack of formal theological training.

Every rabbi studied in a Yeshiva; then 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 answered them and said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.” Jesus wasn’t *man-taught*, but *God-taught*. The Father God was Jesus’ rabbi. He lacked the proper credentials in the eyes of the Jewish authorities, yet He taught with wisdom from heaven.

Verse 17, “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 need to grasp - it’s a *willing heart*, not just an *inquisitive mind* that ultimately discerns God’s ways.

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

For “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.” In other words, 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 happens in the Temple. *It’s the feast, which means a packed house* - all the Jewish hierarchy is on hand.

Now Jesus boldly exposes their hypocrisy. He said, “Why do you seek to kill Me? The people answered and said, “You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?” They think Jesus is crazy, even possessed. The religious leaders’ plot was unknown to the rank-in-file.

Verse 21, “Jesus answered and said to them, “I did one work, and you all marvel.” Jesus was 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 had applied the Sabbath.

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 their rules and rituals *while ignoring what was just and right*. This is the problem with a legalist - *they major 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 had started - a movement that would dismantle his empire. He misjudged events in America.

Often things are not what they seem. Be careful of making a judgment until all the crucial facts are in.

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?”

There were those from Jerusalem who wondered if His opponents' silence meant they had changed their minds and accepted Him as Messiah. *But they also had 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...

Some rabbis had erroneously taught that Messiah would come suddenly and mysteriously. You'd be unable to trace His origins. *Yet everyone knew Jesus' family tree*. 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 traced Messiah's ancestry back to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, even 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's not far enough. He was from heaven.*

Again, that Jesus existed prior to birth was a claim to His deity. Human life doesn't pre-exist. We begin at conception, but Jesus was sent by God from heaven.

Here Jesus is throwing gas on the fire of opposition. The Jews distinguished themselves from the world's idolaters as the people who knew the one, true God. But Jesus defies their claim, "*(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 mushroom into action, but God trumps 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." This time a warrant gets issued, but again an arrest never occurs. **Why? It was not God's time. Remember, timing is everything!**

“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*” were the Jews living outside of Israel. Here the Pharisees think Jesus is leaving the country.

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

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...” Recall, verse 2 tells us this was the Feast of Tabernacles. Even today this feast is packed full of symbolism. All week, the people sleep outside, *under booths or tabernacles or tents*, to commemorate how God provided for them as they roamed the wilderness.

This was the last day, “*the great day of the feast.*”

It was the closing ceremonies, and the best was saved for last. Here’s what would happen... The priests would lead a



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

*This ritual looked both backward and forward...* 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 promised 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.”** On that day *and today*, Jesus is the rock in our spiritual wilderness. From Him, the Holy Spirit flows. **And if we come to Jesus, and believe that He’s the answer; then the water of refreshment and spiritual vitality will bubble up in us and flow like a river.**

**Come to Jesus and like a waterfall - a rush of power, a spray of love will rise and influence folks around you.**

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 His death and resurrection, in **John 20, once they’d**

*believed 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 which predicted Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, but Jesus had been raised in the town of Nazareth.

"So there was a division among the people because of Him." This shows the superficiality of their research. If they'd only done a more thorough vetting and talked to His family, they would've known that though Jesus grew up in Galilee, He had been 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 a warrant. Now the priests want to know why an arrest hasn't been made.

And here's their answer, "The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" Even His critics realized Jesus was one-of-a-kind! Cops doing their job were forced to back off due to the gravitas Jesus possessed.

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." These religious rulers were snobs! They looked down their nose at common-folk, and felt superior to the masses. They even reassure themselves that none of their own had broken ranks and become His follower. *But that wasn't true...*

Recall the rabbi who came to Jesus in Chapter 3 and was told he needed to be born again? *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?"*

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

Here, Nicodemus goes to bat for Jesus. *This man deserves a fair trial - the right to speak for himself...*

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 - kept dogs under their front porch - drank moonshine - had tire swings in their yard - you know, **like folks today from Alabama.** They rationalized... *how can a prophet come from Galilee?* But here again, the Jews reveal their 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 - climbed the Mount of Olives - and camped for the night - probably in 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 is now over, and usually the pilgrims head home. But quite a crowd chose to spend an extra 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 as to 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.”

And to me that statement is misleading... Yes, this 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 setup. This woman had been *trapped* in order to *spring a trap* on Jesus.

Imagine this scene... Jesus is teaching in the Temple when angry, growling voices are *getting closer...*

Suddenly, the crowd parts like the Red Sea and up stomps uppity Pharisees dragging a frightened, nearly naked woman. They sling her at Jesus like a queasy new dad might toss a smelly diaper into the trash.

They're spewing accusations, spitting out judgments, poking their fingers at her like they're thrusting swords.

*And the woman... what a sight!* She's lying on the cold floor in a fetal position. Tears have cut trenches in her heavy make-up. At a distance, she looks pretty but up-close, this woman is worn and haggard. She's been used and abused - objectified by men and scorned by so-called ladies. Years of abuse has ruined her body, *and worse, it's hardened and embittered her soul.*

She probably hated everybody. Especially the self-righteous Pharisees who are barking 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.** On the one hand, if He turns her loose, it's a flagrant disregard for the Law. He'd be soft on sin.

On the other hand, if He picks up a rock to stone her He's destroyed His reputation as a friend of sinners and a man of mercy... Either way, the Jewish leaders believe they've finally 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 did not 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." *And what a scene this was!*

When she was thrown at Jesus' feet there was hate in her eyes. She hated the hypocritical Pharisees. She probably

hated men in general. All her life they'd peeled her like an orange - sucked out her sweetness - then thrown away the skin... yet Jesus 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 knows He's pure, but she senses He cares. For the first time in her life, she's found a man who cares about her as a person, not an object. She's felt the lust of men, *but this feels like love*. This is new. She's actually tasting 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.”

The irony is there was only one person in the crowd that day who had never sinned. Only one man qualified to cast a stone - yet He chose not to. Instead, Jesus chose to forgive this woman rather than condemn her.

The Pharisaical solution for sin was to destroy the sinner. Jesus also hated sin, *but He loved sinners*. The Pharisee's remedy for sin was a stone, but Jesus' solution for sin 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 in need of forgiveness, but when the stones are in our hands. If Jesus can forgive this woman with the sordid reputation, *why can't you forgive your guilty party?*



Notice, He said to the woman, *“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”* And I'm sure she obeyed. This encounter marked her turning point. Love disarms a cynical attitude and breaks open a padlocked heart.

Jesus restored to this woman her value and virtue.

When a person gets used you cheapen their value. But save them and it adds value to their life. You upgrade their worth. Jesus gave this woman a new life.

I'm certain she became a-most-devoted follower.

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

Giant candelabras were erected in the courts of the Temple reminding Israel of the fire by night - God's presence that led the people through the wilderness.

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.

Priests climbed ladders to refill the oil. Worn-out priestly garments were used as wicks. Light from the lamps lit up Jerusalem. The city glowed at the Feast.

Each night during **“The Feast of Tabernacles”** folks would gather in the Temple courtyard, waving torches and dancing to music. It was an all-night celebration.

But the day after the lights were snuffed out. It was probably as the Levites disassembled the special Menorahs, and cleaned up from the night before, that Jesus stood in the

Temple and uttered a declaration. *It was another example of His impeccable timing...*

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 morning. Jesus may've pointed to the rising sun, brighter than the ritual menorahs, and declared, "*(Like the sun) I am the light of the world.*" Psalm 84:11 and Malachi 4:2 presented the sun as Old Testament idioms for Yahweh. Jesus is again claiming to be God.

And those who follow Him will not walk in darkness.

I use to tell my teenagers, "*Nothing good happens after midnight!*" Evildoers seek the cover of darkness. It's safer in the light of day. And this is especially true spiritually. Living in the Lord's light is great protection.

Verse 13, "The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true." In a Jewish court, it took two or three witnesses for a claim to be credible. 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 there's *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?” And trust me they said it with a sneer. They’re asking, “Who’s your daddy?”* The Jews had researched Jesus’ background and had scoffed at His virgin birth.

*“Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.”* People 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 my dad was that good-looking,* but if that’s what folks say, so be it.

Yet 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.”* Again, John is clear, God’s timing alone 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. So the Jews said, “Will He kill Himself, because He says, ‘Where I go you cannot come’?”* Note, they accuse Him of threatening suicide.

In Judaism, the lowest level of Hades was reserved for folks who took their life. The Jews are assigning Jesus the worst damnation, *but they missed their own verdict. “If you don’t follow Jesus, you’ll 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. 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.” Again, Jesus is from above.

And He’s returning from where He came. If you want to go with Him you have to believe He is the Messiah.

If you don’t believe, it won’t matter how religious you are, or moral, or kind, etc... 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. 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 taught throughout the OT wherever God the Father speaks to God the Son, but the Jews missed the reference.

Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man (He’s now 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 will see why the Father sent His Son. It will all become 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.” Jesus is sinless. He always pleased His Father.

And this makes us appreciate Him all the more...

Imagine, what it took for Jesus to actually say, *“I always do those things that please (the Father).”* His **tongue** never wagged a complaint or a slander. His **mouth** never uttered a trivial word. His **ear** heard every divine whisper spoken in His direction. His **heart** was never distracted from the Father’s will. His **mind** never entertained a stray or sinful thought. What an example!

That’s why verse 30 is no surprise, *“As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.”* As the Temple police said earlier, *“No man ever spoke like this Man!”*