

Lesson #8

John 7

***"Men Maddeningly Missing the Moving Mark"***

**Cast:** Narrator  
Jesus' brothers  
Jesus  
Pharisees  
Crowds  
Temple Police  
Nicodemus

**NARRATOR:** After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the religious leaders sought to kill Him. <sup>2</sup> Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.

**JESUS' BROTHERS:** <sup>3</sup> "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. <sup>4</sup> 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."

**NARRATOR:** <sup>5</sup> For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

**JESUS:** "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. <sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup> You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come."

**NARRATOR:** <sup>9</sup> When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee. <sup>10</sup> But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. <sup>11</sup> Then the religious leaders sought Him at the feast.

**PHARISEES:** "Where is He?"

**NARRATOR:** <sup>12</sup> And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him.

**CROWDS:** "He is good"

**PHARISEES:** "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people."

**NARRATOR:** <sup>13</sup> However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews. <sup>14</sup> Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. <sup>15</sup> And the religious leaders marveled, saying,

**PHARISEES:** “How does this Man know letters, having never studied?”

**JESUS:** <sup>16</sup> “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?”

**CROWDS:** “You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?”

**JESUS:** <sup>21</sup> “I did one work, and you all marvel. <sup>22</sup> Moses therefore gave you circumcision (*not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers*), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup> 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? <sup>24</sup> Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

**CROWDS:** <sup>25</sup> “Is this not He whom they seek to kill? <sup>26</sup> But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is <sup>[d]</sup>truly the Messiah? <sup>27</sup> However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one knows where He is from.”

**JESUS:** <sup>28</sup> “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. <sup>29</sup> But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me.”

**NARRATOR:** <sup>30</sup> Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. <sup>31</sup> And many of the people believed in Him.

**CROWDS:** “When the Messiah comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?”

**NARRATOR:** <sup>32</sup> The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take (arrest) Him.

**JESUS** <sup>33</sup> “I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him who sent Me. <sup>34</sup> You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come.”

**PHARISEES:** <sup>35</sup> “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? <sup>36</sup> What is this thing that He said, ‘You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come’?”

**NARRATOR:** <sup>37</sup> On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out,

**JESUS:** “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

**NARRATOR:** <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those <sup>[g]</sup>believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

**CROWD:** <sup>40</sup> “Truly this is the Prophet.” <sup>41</sup> and, “This is the Messiah” and, “Will the Messiah come out of Galilee? <sup>42</sup> and, “Has not the Scripture said that the Messiah comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?”

**NARRATOR:** <sup>43</sup> So there was a division among the people because of Him. <sup>44</sup> Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him. <sup>45</sup> Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them,

**PHARISEES:** “Why have you not brought Him?”

**TEMPLE POLICE:** <sup>46</sup> “No man ever spoke like this Man!”

**PHARISEES:** <sup>47</sup> “Are you also deceived? <sup>48</sup> Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? <sup>49</sup> But this crowd, that does not know the law, is accursed.”

**NICODEMUS:** <sup>50-51</sup> “Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?”

**PHARISEES:** <sup>52</sup> “Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee.”

**NARRATOR:** <sup>53</sup> And everyone went to his own house.