



Lesson 40 – At The Feast of Tabernacles

Based on John 7:1-15, 37-39.

- 1) What event immediately preceded what we are about to study today?
John 6:52-54 The Jews therefore _____ among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the _____ of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my _____, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.
- 2) What was the effect of those words?
John 6:66-68 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked _____ with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the _____ of eternal life.
- 3) What effect did all this have on Jesus and the Disciples?
John 7:1 After these things Jesus walked in _____: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.
- 4) What time of year was it?
John 7:2 Now the Jews' feast of _____ was at hand.

Three times a year the Jews were required to assemble at Jerusalem for religious purposes. Enshrouded in the pillar of cloud, Israel's invisible Leader had given the directions in regard to these gatherings. During the captivity of the Jews, they could not be observed; but when the people were restored to their own land, the observance of these memorials was once more begun. It was God's design that these anniversaries should call Him to the minds of the people.

This feast was not only the harvest thanksgiving, but the memorial of God's protecting care over Israel in the wilderness. In commemoration of their tent life, the Israelites during the feast dwelt in booths or tabernacles of green boughs. These were erected in the streets, in the courts of the temple, or on the housetops. The hills and valleys surrounding Jerusalem were also dotted with these leafy dwellings and seemed to be alive with people.

- 5) What Psalm was sung during this time?
Psalms 106:1-2 Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy _____ for ever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his _____?

With sacred song and thanksgiving, the worshipers celebrated this occasion. A little before the feast was the Day of Atonement, when, after confession of their sins, the people were declared to be at peace with Heaven. Thus the way was prepared for the rejoicing of the feast.

The temple was the center of the universal joy. Here was the pomp of the sacrificial ceremonies. Here, ranged on either side of the white marble steps of the sacred building, the choir of Levites led the song service. The multitude of worshipers, waving their branches of palm and myrtle, took up the strain, and echoed the chorus; and again, the melody was caught up by voices near and afar off, till the encircling hills were vocal with praise.

- 6) What was sung zealously on the final day of the Feast?
Psalms 122:2 Our feet shall stand within thy _____, O Jerusalem.



At the first dawn of day on that day, the priests sounded a long, shrill blast upon their silver trumpets, and the answering trumpets, and the glad shouts of the people from their booths, echoing over hill and valley, welcomed the festal day. Then the priest dipped from the flowing waters of the Kedron a flagon of water, and, lifting it on high, while the trumpets were sounding, he ascended the broad steps of the temple, keeping time with the music with slow and measured tread.

He bore the flagon to the altar, which occupied a central position in the court of the priests. Here were two silver basins, with a priest standing at each one. The flagon of water was poured into one, and a flagon of wine into the other; and the contents of both flowed into a pipe which communicated with the Kedron and was conducted to the Dead Sea. This display of the consecrated water represented the fountain that at the command of God had gushed from the rock to quench the thirst of the children of Israel.

7) What did the people declare as this was happening?

Isaiah 12:2-3 Behold, God is my _____; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the _____ of salvation.

8) Was Jesus eager to join with the crowd in Jerusalem?

John 7:3-5 His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into _____, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. _____ thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. For neither did his brethren believe in him.

The "if" expressed doubt and unbelief. They attributed cowardice and weakness to Him.

9) What did he tell His brothers?

John 7:6-9 Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready. The world cannot _____ you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are _____. Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my _____ is not yet full come. When he had said these words unto them, he abode still in Galilee.

Since the healing at Bethesda He had not attended the national gatherings. To avoid useless conflict with the leaders at Jerusalem, He had restricted His labors to Galilee. His apparent neglect of the great religious assemblies, and the enmity manifested toward Him by the priests and rabbis, were a cause of perplexity to the people about Him, and even to His own disciples and His kindred.

He was not to be presumptuous, not to rush into danger, not to hasten a crisis. Each event in His work had its appointed hour. He must wait patiently. He knew that He was to receive the world's hatred; He knew that His work would result in His death; but to prematurely expose Himself would not be the will of His Father.

10) How well know was Jesus at this point?

John 7:11 Then the Jews _____ him at the feast, and said, Where is he?

11) Did Jesus go to Jerusalem?

John 7:10 But when his brethren were gone up, then _____ he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in _____.



He had chosen an unfrequented route by which to go, in order to avoid the travelers who were making their way to the city from all quarters. Had He joined any of the caravans that went up to the feast, public attention would have been attracted to Him on His entrance into the city, and a popular demonstration in His favor would have aroused the authorities against Him. It was to avoid this that He chose to make the journey alone.

12) What did Jesus do when He got there?

John 7:14 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the _____, and taught.

In the midst of the feast, when the excitement concerning Him was at its height, He entered the court of the temple in the presence of the multitude. Because of His absence from the feast, it had been urged that He dared not place Himself in the power of the priests and rulers. All were surprised at His presence. Every voice was hushed. All wondered at the dignity and courage of His bearing in the midst of powerful enemies who were thirsting for His life.

13) What was the general consensus about Jesus' preaching?

Luke 4:32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with _____.

14) What did the religious folks question?

John 7:15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never _____?

15) How did Jesus respond?

John 7:16-17 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is _____, but his that sent me. If any man will do _____, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

No one was regarded as qualified to be a religious teacher unless he had studied in the rabbinical schools, and both Jesus and John the Baptist had been represented as ignorant because they had not received this training.

16) What was stirring in the crowd?

John 7:25-26 Then said some of them of Jerusalem, Is not this he, whom they seek to _____? But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very _____?

As Jesus spoke in the temple court, the people were held spellbound. The very men who were the most violent against Him felt themselves powerless to do Him harm. For the time, all other interests were forgotten.

17) What did Jesus boldly declare in the Temple?

John 7:28-29 Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both _____ me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. But I know _____: for I am from him, and he hath sent me.

18) What did Jesus declare at the time the priests were pouring the flagons of water and the wine on the last day of the Temple services?

John 7:37-38 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man _____, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow _____ of living water.



The condition of the people made this appeal very forcible. They had been engaged in a continued scene of pomp and festivity, their eyes had been dazzled with light and color, and their ears regaled with the richest music; but there had been nothing in all this round of ceremonies to meet the wants of the spirit, nothing to satisfy the thirst of the soul for that which perishes not. Jesus invited them to come and drink of the fountain of life, of that which would be in them a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life.

19) How did the Chief priests and the Pharisees react?

John 7:44-46 And some of them would have taken him; but no man _____ on him. Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man _____ like this man.

20) What was promised to our generation through John?

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of _____ freely.

The cry of Christ to the thirsty soul is still going forth, and it appeals to us with even greater power than to those who heard it in the temple on that last day of the feast. The fountain is open for all. The weary and exhausted ones are offered the refreshing draught of eternal life.

Can you see how God's timing is perfect?

Are you interested in having true wisdom?

When is the time to follow Him patiently?