

JOHN 7:1-31

REVIEW...

- **JOHN 6:1-29 - LOOKING FOR A KING...**
 - 5000 people came to hear Jesus - He asked how they were going to feed the people...
 - Jesus took the 5 loaves and 2 fish - gave thanks - and fed them all till they were stuffed!
 - The people wanted to make Jesus their King - but only because He fed them!
 - Jesus told them not to strive for food that perishes - instead eternal food...
- **JOHN 6:30-71 - THE RICE OF LIFE...**
 - The crowds wanted Jesus to feed them every day - like Moses gave Manna to Israel...
 - Jesus said - 'I am the bread from heaven' - anyone who eats with never be hungry!
 - But the people argued because Jesus said He came down from heaven...
 - They did not understand - they wanted the 'rice of this world' not the 'rice of heaven!'
 - Jesus taught them - His body is food / His blood is drink...
 - Speaking of the sacrifice He would have to give in order to save men from their sins...
 - After the teaching many of Jesus' disciples left Him - only the 12 remained...
 - He asked if they would leave as well - 'Go where - You have the word of eternal life!'

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - STANDING UP FOR JESUS... VS. 1-13 (4 THINGS)**
 - 1st - It was time for the Feast of Tabernacles... vs. 1-2
 - Part of the 3 fall festivals of Israel - Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur / Succoth...
 - It was a weeklong feast to give thanks for the fall grain and grape harvests...
 - It also commemorated the 40-year wilderness wandering of Israel...
 - Booths were constructed from palm branches as joyful reminders...
 - The temporary housing used by their forefathers during the Exodus...
 - A festival meant to show this is not our home - we are just passing through...
 - **Hebrews 11:13-16** - "[We are] strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a home... that is, a heavenly country."
 - If we think this is our home ~ that the 70+/- years we have is what matters...
 - We will miss the blessing of what God wants to do through/in our lives...
 - Joy comes when we realize this is not our home - that Heaven is our address!
 - 6 months had passed since the feeding of the 5000...
 - The events of **John 6** took place around the feast of Passover - March / April...
 - The feast of Tabernacles takes place in the month of October...
 - Jesus had spent much of that time 'hiding out' in the area of Lebanon...
 - Because healing the lame man on the Sabbath really upset the leaders - **John 5...**
 - Even now a year and a half later they were still looking to kill Him!
 - 2nd - Jesus returned to the Galilee... vs. 3-5
 - Jesus half brothers - tried to convince Jesus to go to Jerusalem for the Festival...
 - It would do Jesus no good to do miracles in secret - He needed to show the world!
 - They wanted Jesus to make a 'grand entrance' - proclaim He was the Messiah...
 - But His brothers said these things sarcastically - because they did not believe...

- I am sure Jesus felt like the whole world was against Him...
 - The religious leaders sought to kill Jesus because He healed the lame man...
 - Most of His disciples had left Him because of His hard teachings - **John 6...**
 - Now even Jesus' family was turning against Him and mocking Him...
 - **I Kings 19** - Elijah ran for his life – when evil queen Jezebel wanted his head...
 - He thought he was the only one left - and so wanted to give up...
 - When everyone we know does not want to go to church – or hear about Jesus...
 - When we are under constant pressure to conform to the world around us...
 - It is easy sometimes to think we stand alone – the whole world against us...
 - But Elijah was not alone - God had 7000 men faithful to Him - **I Kings 19:18**
 - We do not stand alone – God always has a remnant that stands with us...
 - We may not know till we get to heaven – just how many people really love Jesus...
 - But no matter how dark/difficult things seem to be – we are never alone...
 - In fact – often it is when we stand up for Jesus – others will stand up too!
- 3rd - Hated by the world... vs. 6-9
 - Jesus refused to go - because it was not 'His time' - referring to His death...
 - The brothers could go to the feast at anytime - the world did not hate them...
 - But Jesus had to be careful - because the world hated Him - and wanted to kill Him...
 - Jesus would make a 'Triumphal entry' into Jerusalem - but it would end at the cross!
 - The world hates Jesus because He convicts the world of sin and righteousness...
 - If it were not for Jesus men could do whatever they wanted without consequence...
 - Like a light shining in the darkness – Jesus reveals the sin of the world...
 - Because men LOVE sin they hate the light that reveals their sinfulness...
 - They do not want their sin to be revealed – they do not want to come into the light!
 - They would rather have their sin - than eternal life with God in Heaven!
 - If you are wondering where your walk with the Lord is - examine yourself...
 - Stand in the light of Christ and be honest about the sin in your life...
 - **I John 1:7** - "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
- 4th - Different opinion about Jesus... vs. 10-13
 - After Jesus' brothers went up to the feast - Jesus followed secretly...
 - Jesus knew it was not His time - but He still needed to attend the festival...
 - The Law required every man 20 years or older to attend - **Deuteronomy 16:16**
 - The Religious leaders tried to find Jesus - asking anyone if they had seen Him...
 - There were some among the crowd who argued Jesus was a 'good man'...
 - But they were afraid to speak out publicly for fear of the religious leaders...
 - It is not enough to believe in Jesus - we must stand up for Jesus...
 - There is always a temptation to want to blend into the crowd – to be accepted...
 - If we are not willing to take a stand for Jesus today...
 - He will not stand for us before the 'Judgment seat of God' - **Luke 12:9**
 - But there were others who said Jesus was a fraud - deceiving the people...
 - When we stand up for Jesus - people will try to make us look bad...
 - People will attempt to discredit you through spreading untrue rumors...
 - Dave Matthews - was accused of being the cause of bagios hitting his Island...
 - The purpose is to justify why they are unwilling to come around or listen to you...

- o It is also to try and keep others away from hearing the Gospel
- 2ND - HOW TO TEST A TEACHING... vs. 14-24
 - o 1st - Testing the teacher... vs. 14-18
 - Half way through the weeklong feast - Jesus stood up and began to teach...
 - Jesus could only keep quiet so long - there were people who needed to hear...
 - We know there is only one way to get to heaven - and only one alternative - hell...
 - Knowing the truth - how can we hold back from sharing - how can we keep silent!
 - **Jeremiah 20:9** - "His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not."
 - The people marveled at Jesus teaching...
 - Jesus had never been to school - yet he was more 'learned' than the scholars!
 - Jesus answered that His doctrine was not His own - but the one who sent Him...
 - Men tend to look for the diploma on the wall - to validate their ability to teach...
 - But I am not a big fan of Bible college / seminaries...
 - They tend to fill their students with the ideas of men - religious doctrines...
 - But a good teacher does not teach his ideas - he teaches the Word of God!
 - Testing the heart of the listener...
 - Only those who want to follow God - will know if a teaching is from God...
 - One reason why many people are deceived by false teachings...
 - Is because they want to be - they do not want to know the truth...
 - People flock to teachers who tell them God wants them to be healthy and wealthy...
 - Not because it is true - but because they want to be healthy and wealthy!
 - They prefer false teachings because it is what they want to hear!
 - Putting a teacher to the test...
 - If someone teaches their knowledge to impress others - false teaching...
 - Only those who teach to give glory to God - say what is true!
 - Many 'Pastors' teach for their own glory - to show how much they know...
 - But the power comes when a Pastor teaches the Word of God...
 - Not so that people will marvel at Him - but instead give glory to God!
 - o 2nd - Think about what is being taught... vs. 19-24
 - Jesus asked the crowd - 'why do you want to kill me'...
 - The accusation was Jesus broke the Law of Moses - healing on the Sabbath...
 - But Jesus points out that no one is able to keep the Law of Moses...
 - **Romans 3:20** - "No one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are."
 - Be willing to ask questions...
 - The people responded - 'you must have a devil - who wants to kill you'...
 - Keep in mind there was a huge crowd from all over in Jerusalem for the feast...
 - Jesus had also not been in Jerusalem for over a year and a half...
 - Many in the crowd likely had no idea that the Religious leaders wanted Him dead...
 - So rather than look into the truth - they just assumed Jesus was possessed...
 - More often than not when people do not understand something - they assume...
 - And more often than not their assumptions are WAY OFF - 'Jesus possessed'...
 - There are always going to be things in the Bible / about God we do not understand
 - If we have a hard time understanding the Word of God - ask questions...
 - Assumptions will only get us into trouble - answered questions give us the truth!

- Take the time to examine the teaching...
 - According to the Law - a baby had to be circumcised on the 8th day - **Leviticus 12:3**
 - If the 8th day happened to be the Sabbath - they still circumcised the baby...
 - So they Jews kept the law of circumcision only by breaking the law of the Sabbath!
 - Yet Jesus was accused because He healed ONE man on the Sabbath day...
 - He broke the Sabbath to keep another Law - 'Love your neighbor' - **Leviticus 19:18!**
 - And to love your neighbor is a far greater command than to circumcise!
 - Obvious - but no one took the time to think about what was being taught...
 - Too often men believe what they are told - because they are looking to a person...
 - We should not just accept the words of preacher - no matter who is teaching...
 - If we only know what the preacher has told us - then our faith is in their words...
 - But if we seek the Bible for the answers - then our faith is in the Word!
 - **Acts 17:11** - "Search the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things are so."
- **3RD - THE REACTION OF THE CROWDS... vs. 25-31**
 - Could this be the Christ... vs. 25-29
 - The people of Jerusalem knew the Religious leaders wanted Jesus dead...
 - Yet here was Jesus publically speaking in the Temple - and they did nothing...
 - They wondered if perhaps it was because the leaders knew Jesus was the Christ!
 - We may not think anyone is watching us - but they are...
 - And when we are bold enough to get up and talk about Jesus - people notice...
 - They had a problem - 'no one knows where the Christ will come from'...
 - Everyone knew that Jesus was from Nazareth (*though born in Bethlehem*)...
 - They expected the Messiah to 'drop out of the sky' - or just suddenly appear...
 - A common tradition of their day - but contrary to the Word of God...
 - The Bible says the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem - **Micah 5:2...**
 - Many people do not want to hear about the Gospel - because of their traditions...
 - Thinking if they were sprinkled as a child - they have a free ticket to heaven...
 - We live in a community where many are very hardened towards the Gospel...
 - Because they have been indoctrinated in a lifetime of traditions and superstitions...
 - And they are proud of their 'religion' and believe it is enough to get them into heaven...
 - The crowds knew about Jesus - but they did not know Jesus...
 - That is why Jesus was sent from the Father - so they could know God!
 - Most people only know about Jesus - they do not have a relationship with Jesus...
 - The reason why we stand up for Jesus - is so that people can come to know Jesus!
 - Two reactions... vs. 30-31
 - Some of the crowd wanted to arrest Jesus - but it was not yet His time...
 - But many of the people believed - what more would the Christ do than Jesus...
 - The reality is not everyone who hears about Jesus - will choose to believe...
 - As a matter of fact most likely only a small portion of those who hear will believe...
 - But though 100 people might break our hearts by refusing the wonderful Gospel of grace...
 - When that one person says yes - even the Angels in heaven rejoice!