

Program: SS Panel 2024 4 Q

Quarterly title: Themes in the Gospel of John

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Lesson Title: #6 More Testimonies About Jesus

For Lesson Dates: *November 2-8, 2024*

Section title: Thursday - The Witness of the Crowd

Note: This color and **this color** and font = quarterly text

Note: This color and font = John Dinzey notes

Lesson 6

**November 2–8*

More Testimonies About Jesus

Read for This Week's Study: *John 3:25–36, John 1:32–36, Dan. 7:18, John 6:51–71, John 5:36–38, John 7:37–53.*

Memory Text: " 'And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself' " (*John 12:32, NKJV*).

THURSDAY

November 7

The Witness of the Crowd

“On the last day, that great day of the feast, 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.’ ” (John 7:37, 38, NKJV).

John had recorded, numerous times, Jesus’ making bold statements about Himself, about who He was and what He came to do.

The lines quoted above from John 7:37, 38 are another example of what Jesus claimed about Himself and about what He would do to all who come to Him. These were astonishing claims, as well.

When Jesus spoke to the Jews attending the Feast of Tabernacles, what was the response of many in the crowd? John 7:37–53.

John 7:37–53 37 On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

Libation: 1a: an act of pouring a liquid as a sacrifice (as to a deity)

They offered a libation at the temple.

2a: an act or instance of drinking often ceremoniously

a libation to celebrate their anniversary

If any man thirst

From: SDABC - John:7:37. Last day. There is a difference of opinion as to whether the 7th or the 8th day of the feast is meant. There is some doubt as to whether the appellation “that great day of the feast” could appropriately be applied to the 8th day. The feast lasted for seven days (Lev. 23:34), but the eighth day was “an holy convocation” Lev. 23:36). If Jesus’ statement has reference to a water-libation ceremony immediately preceding (see below; cf. DA 454), it seems necessary to identify the “last day” as the 7th day, for in the time of Jesus the ceremony was apparently performed only on the first seven days of the feast (see Mishnah Sukkah 4, 1, 9, Soncino ed. of the Talmud, pp. 193, 226).

If any man thirst. This saying of Jesus undoubtedly has reference to the water-libation ceremony conducted during the 7 days of the feast. The Mishnah describes the ceremony thus: “How was the water-libation [performed]? A golden flagon holding three logs was filled from the Siloam. When they arrived at the Water Gate, they sounded a teki’ah [long blast], a teru’ah [tremulous note] and

again a teki'ah [long blast]. [The priest then] went up the ascent [of the altar] and turned to his left where there were two silver bowls. ... The one on the west was for water and the one on the east for wine" (Sukkah 4. 9, Soncino ed. of the Talmud, p. 226). According to the Talmud (Sukkah 48b, Soncino ed., p. 227) **the three trumpet blasts had reference to the Scripture statement**, "Therefore with joy shall we draw water out of the wells of salvation" (Isa. 12:3). The ceremony followed the morning burnt offering (Tosephta Sukkah 3. 16, cited in Strack and Billerbeck, vol. 2, p. 800), and was connected with the ritual of the drink offering. The two bowls contained openings connected with an underground passageway. The sizes of the openings were such that the water and the wine would drain out in approximately the same length of time (Mishnah Sukkah 4. 9, Soncino ed. of the Talmud, p. 226; Talmud Sukkah 48b, Soncino ed., p. 229; cf. DA 449).

Rereading

John 7:37–53 **37** On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

John 7:39 **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.

Isaiah 44:2-3 **2** Thus says the Lord who made you And formed you from the womb, *who* will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant; And you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

3 For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; **I will pour My Spirit on your descendants**, And My blessing on your offspring;

Isaiah 12:2-3 **2** Behold, God *is* my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For Yah, the Lord, *is* my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'

3 Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation.

"Truly this is the Prophet."

John 7:40 Therefore **many from the crowd**, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet."

Question: What prophet were they talking about?

A Prophet like me from your midst

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 15 “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,
16 according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’
17 “And the Lord said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good.
18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.
19 And it shall be *that* whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require *it* of him.

“This is the Christ.”

John 7:41 Others said, **“This is the Christ.”**

But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee?”

42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?”

43 So there was a division among the people because of Him.

44 Now **some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.**

Rejected by the Authorities

John 7:45 Then the officers came to **the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why have you not brought Him?”**

46 The officers answered, **“No man ever spoke like this Man!”**

John 7:47 Then the Pharisees answered them, **“Are you also deceived?”**

48 Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him?

49 But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.”

>>> it seems the some of the people that Pharisees and rulers had sent to trap Jesus, their hearts were touched! They realized that Jesus was speaking words of life, full of the Holy Spirit. The expression "no man ever spoke like this man!" Helps us understand that none of the describes, and Pharisees they have ever heard has spoken, like Jesus! Here is a danger that still exist today the Holy Spirit is leading someone to the truth, and someone who may be well-being is trying to downplay or diminish the truth that has been heard.

Nicodemus defends Jesus

John 7:50 Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them,

51 “Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?”

52 They answered and said to him, “Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee.”

53 And everyone went to his *own* house.

Some said He was the Prophet like Moses predicted long ago (see *Deut. 18:15–19*). Others thought Jesus was the Christ. But this brought the argument that the Messiah would not come from Galilee, that He had to be of the Davidic line, and had to be born in Bethlehem—all of which were true about Jesus (compare with *Matthew 1–2*), though many did not seem to know this!

*****READ*****

Even the arresting officers were stymied by Him and the eloquence of His words. The Pharisees responded to the officers with another question. “ ‘Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him?’ ” (*John 7:48, NKJV*). This question from the Pharisees gave John the opportunity again to bring in Nicodemus, who, after having had his meeting with Jesus, was seeking to protect Jesus from their machinations. “ ‘Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?’ ” (*John 7:51, NKJV*).

Did Nicodemus ever accept Jesus as the Messiah? Though this scene does not prove that He had, between this act and what He did after Jesus died (see *John 19:39, 40*), the Bible gives us solid evidence that Nicodemus did in fact come to believe in Him.

And so, the answer to their question was, Yes, in fact, one of the Pharisees did believe in Him, after all.

>>> seeds were being planted

Act 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and **a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.**

Mat 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

Mat 16:14 And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

Mat 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

Mat 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Jhn 16:1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

Jhn 16:2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

Read John 7:49. What were the leaders saying that showed their disdain for the masses who followed after Jesus? What lesson might be here for us