

# “The Gospel of John: Animosity and Astonishment”

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## Scripture

### John 7:1-18

“After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee, for **He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him**. Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near.

3Therefore, His brothers said to Him, "Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. "For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." For not even His brothers were believing in Him.

6So Jesus said to them, "**My time is not yet here, but your time is always opportune**. "The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil. "Go up to the feast yourselves; I do not go up to this feast because My time has not yet fully come." Having said these things to them, He stayed in Galilee.

10But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then **He Himself also went up**, not publicly, but as if, in secret. So, the Jews were seeking Him at the feast and were saying, "Where is He?" **There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him**; some were saying, "He is a good man"; others were saying, "No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray." Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

14But when it was now the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. **The Jews then were astonished**, saying, "**How has this man become learned, having never been educated?**"

16So, Jesus answered them and said, "**My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me**. If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, **whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself**. "He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him."

## The Courtroom Scene Revisited

John 1 - The Apostle John ->	The Defense Attorney laying out the case
John 1 - John the Baptist ->	The First Witness
John 2 - The Miracles Begin ->	Wedding at Cana
John 2 - The Mixed Response ->	Jesus wasn't entrusting Himself to the people -> <b>No faith in the Jury!</b>
John 3 - Nicodemus ->	The Elitist Reaction
John 3 - The Mission ->	John 3:16-17
John 4 - The Women at the Well ->	The Commoner Reaction
John 5 - The Case to Jerusalem ->	The Five Witnesses support Jesus
John 6 - The Case to Galilee ->	Jesus is the Bread of Life

The Evidence to Date -> Must have spiritual life to be acceptable to God -> Holy Spirit Passport

**Who determines guilt or innocence in a trial?**

**Last Week:** **The Departure** -> Many of His disciples left Him but the Twelve remained faithful -> **The Jury!**

This week, we'll look at more of the Jury who had opinions about Jesus

- Animosity
- Astonishment

Different Relationships

- Personal relationships – Jesus's brothers
- Professional relationships – Jewish teachers

Trying to share Jesus with your family – Is it easier or more difficult?

Following Jesus regardless of your family – Oftentimes, this is a difficult road to travel

## Jesus Follows the Father's Timeline

### John 7:1-2

“After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee, for He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near.”

“He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him”

Jesus's intent was to stay in Galilee -> not forcing the Father's timeline

“After these things” -> another serious gap in the timeline

“Feast of Booths” -> we're now into the October timeframe -> harvest of grapes and olives

John 5:1 -> “another feast of the Jews” -> Most likely the Feast of Booths

We're seeing 6-month jumps from John 5 (Booths) to John 6 (Passover) and now to John 7 (Booths again)

John records events around the time of Jewish feasts -> Jesus is the centre of the Feasts

Feasts and the recognized intent behind them:

Each of the seven feasts has a historical, Messianic and personal significance associated with them. This is displayed in the following table:

Feast / Date	Historical Significance	Messianic Significance	Personal Significance
Passover Nisan 14	Freedom from the slavery of Egypt. Lamb slain and blood applied	Jesus' death as the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world	Redemption: Our deliverance from this world into the family of God through faith in the Son of God
Unleavened Bread Nisan 15-22	Exodus in haste from Egypt	Jesus' sinless life and his burial	Sanctification: Our walk with God – being free from the leaven of sin that corrupts
Firstfruits Day after Sabbath following Passover	Firstfruits of the harvest. Celebrates the crossing of the Red Sea	Jesus' resurrection from the dead as the firstfruits of the New Creation	Consecration: Living in newness of life as a New Creation in Christ and offering ourselves back to Him.
Pentecost 50 days after firstfruits	Remembering the giving of the law (Torah) on Sinai	The coming of the Holy Spirit to indwell believers	Dependence: Walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit and following the law of the spirit of life
Trumpets Tishri 1-2	Jewish New Year. Celebrates the creation of the world	The rapture and resurrection of believers Crowning of King Jesus	Watchful/Warfare: Living in view of His imminent return. Being watchful and ready.
Day of Atonement Tishri 10	Holiest Day and national forgiveness	The second coming of Christ in power. National day of atonement and forgiveness for Israel.	Repentance: Before the Lord and yielding ourselves up to Him.
Tabernacles Tishri 15-22	Celebration in coming into the Promised Land.	The 1000 year Messianic Kingdom on Earth.	Rest: Living in the rest and joy that is in Christ in our daily lives today

Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) was a time of rest after the Harvest -> Looking forward to the Kingdom!

**John 2:4** (the wedding at Cana)

“Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.”

Jesus patiently waiting for the Father’s timeline to unfold

### Jesus’s Brothers

We are introduced to Jesus’s brothers in this passage

Jesus was not an only child:

**Mark 6:2-4** (and **Matthew 13:53-58**)

“When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands?” **“Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?”** And they took offense at Him. Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household.”

At least 4 brothers and 2 two sisters -> family was at least 7 children

Catholics interpret this as “Cousins” -> trying to hold on to the perpetual virginity of Mary

“Brother” -> *adelphos* -> “from the same womb”

Two of Jesus’s half-brothers would write New Testament letters -> James and Jude

**Acts 1:14** (post resurrection in the upper room)

“These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, **and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.**”

But, at first, there was animosity:

### Fraternal Animosity

**John 7:3-5**

“Therefore, His brothers said to Him, “Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. “For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” **For not even His brothers were believing in Him.**”

It must have been tough for live up to Jesus’s standard

Talk about the perfect child!

“So that Your disciples also may see Your works which you are doing” -> **“Go do your magic tricks!”**

“When he himself seeks to be known publicly” -> **“You know you want to!”**

They think they’re older brother is seeking attention -> that He loves the spotlight!

**“Why are you hiding up here in Galilee?”** -> the biggest stage is in Jerusalem

Why did they want Him to dance to their tune?

- Could be that they wanted a social revolt?
- Maybe they wanted to see if He was the real deal?

“For not even His brothers were believing in Him” -> they were subtly mocking Him from unbelief

Unbelief in the same house -> Again, is this difficult to deal with?

Perhaps, you have had this happen to you -> sharing Jesus with someone in your family and they don't believe

Your family might mock your beliefs and ridicule you for your faith

The brothers doubt Him and giving Him music to dance to

Reminds me of Satan tempting Jesus in the Wilderness

### Matthew 4:3

“The tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

“If you're really God, then do X!”

In essence, PROVE YOURSELF to ME!

The brothers were not much different than Satan was

But they had opportunity to change:

### Fraternal Opportunity

### John 7:6-9

“So, Jesus said to them, “**My time is not yet here, but your time is always opportune** [ready]. “The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil. “Go up to the feast yourselves; I do not go up to this feast because My time has not yet fully come.” Having said these things to them, He stayed in Galilee.”

“My time is not yet here...”

Jesus is on the Father's timeline -> His life was planned by the Father

The brothers, on the other hand, are not on the same path as Jesus at this time

“The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil”

The world cannot hate the brothers because they are “of the world”

Believers are hated by the world:

### John 15:19

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.”

Believers are not of the world:

## John 17:16

"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

His brothers, though

"...your time is always opportune" -> the brothers are not bound to follow the Father's timeline

"Opportune" means "readiness" -> KJV has "ready"

They follow their own will and make their own decisions -> they can choose to follow Jesus, but they decline

It's not their appointed time to believe -> at least **James** and **Jude** will eventually find the right time to believe

Therefore, Jesus says, "Go up to the feast yourselves" because "My time has not fully come"

Jesus gets the word from the Father that He should go up to Jerusalem after all

## The Jesus Debate

But He goes up without fanfare or celebrity

## John 7:10-13

"But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then **He Himself also went up**, not publicly, but as if, in secret. So, **the Jews were seeking Him at the feast** and were saying, "Where is He?" **There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him**; some were saying, "He is a good man"; others were saying, "No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray."

**Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews."**

The Jews are looking for Jesus -> He's famous -> they are expecting Him to show

The Jews are seeking to kill Him, though

The general crowd have different opinions about Him

Some say, "He is a good man"

Others say, "He leads the people astray"

"Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews"

Even those who thought well of Him were not willing to openly commit to Him...

It is the same today, isn't it?

Jesus is a polarizing figure -> you're either with Him or determined to be against Him

If you speak anything of Jesus in the school system, you are placing your job at risk

"Keep your faith to yourself", we hear often

But there's another reaction of the Jews

Along with resistance, there is a curiosity about Jesus within the people:

## Jewish Astonishment

### John 7:14-15

“But when it was now the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. **The Jews then were astonished**, saying, **"How has this man become learned, having never been educated?"**

Jesus goes into the temple and began to teach

His initial reluctance to go -> the Father gives Him the green light to go -> now He's teaching in the temple

They know enough about His “country” upbringing to know Jesus has not been formally taught by a Rabbi

And yet, he has become “learned” -> amazing instruction, much different than the teachers of the day

Unlike the other teachers of the time -> **teaching with authority** -> Is He a prodigy?

The Jews marveled at His instruction

As a student, you know when someone has a command of the subject matter

The same bewilderment at Jesus's teaching was experienced by Nicodemus -> “How can these things be?”

Jesus responds to the Jews giving His source for doctrine

He could have said He was the Creator of the universe

He could have said that He was in Heaven

### John 7:16-17

“So, Jesus answered them and said, **"My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me**. If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, **whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself**.

Instead, He says His “teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me”

He wants the Jews to recognize that the Truth originated from the Father

He wants the Jews to know the Father

If they were plugged into the Father, they would know Jesus spoke the Father's truth

Or if Jesus was speaking on His own

In essence, they needed the Holy Spirit to interpret Jesus's words and bring understanding

The Holy Spirit gives confirmation that the words are true

## Followership

Jesus was teaching that the relationship with the Father is paramount in their lives

They “thought” they knew God from all of their study of the Scriptures

Unfortunately, they did not know God at all

### John 7:18

"He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him."

If the truly were followers of God, they would model what Jesus said in their lives

Instead of seeking the glory of their fellow men, they would seek God's glory

### **John 12:42-43**

“Nevertheless, many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; **for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.**”

Many are like this, however

They purport that they have a relationship with the Father, but they are in church because it looks good

They come out of requirement, not out of love for the Lord

### **Isaiah 64:6**

“But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousness are as filthy rags**; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

But the true follower of Jesus is different

They are in it for God's glory

“To God be the glory,” they sing

### **1 Peter 4:11**

“**Whoever speaks**, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; **whoever serves** is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; **so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen**”

Followers willingly give glory to God

Whether you speak on His behalf as a teacher

Whether you serve Him as a lay person

Followers give Him all the glory!

If we were part of the Jury, how would we have voted?

**How would we vote now?**

Are you a true follower of Jesus?

**Communion Prayer**

**Benediction**