

HE SENT ME

JOHN 7:14-29

(Prepared by Gene Thompson using LifeWay's ETB material.)

1. We all have at least one teacher that stands out as having a positive impact on our life. What one word would you use to describe that teacher? (Caring.)
 2. What makes a teacher effective and memorable? (Loving. Caring. Kind. Knowledgeable.)
 3. Would anyone like to **briefly** share about a teacher that had a major positive impact in your life?
- In our focal passage today, we find Jesus teaching in the Temple Complex. But it's been said "Every text without a context is a pretext," so let's set the context.

Chapter seven begins with Jesus in Galilee. The people are preparing for the Festival of Tabernacles or Booths, so it is late September or as late as mid-October. Most Jewish men tried to go to Jerusalem for this eight-day festival. This festival came just five days after the Day of Atonement—the most solemn of the Jewish holy days while the Festival of Booths is the most joyous Jewish festival. It recalled the journey in the wilderness from Egypt and celebrated the harvest or ingathering of the crops for the year.

Jesus' brothers tried to get Him to go to the festival with them but Jesus told them that He wasn't going at this time. In every place Jesus used the phrase "My time has not yet arrived." He used the word "hora," except here. "Hora" means "the destined hour of God." In this passage Jesus used the word "kairos" which characteristically means an opportunity; that is, "the best time to do something, the moment when circumstances are most suitable." So Jesus told His brothers that to go at the beginning of the Festival was not the most opportune time for Him to arrive. Hence, He arrived after the festival had already begun. — Information from *The Gospel of John volume 1 by William Barclay*.

Read John 7:10-13

In our passage we will encounter several different groups of people: The Jews usually referred to those opposed to Jesus. Then there were the people who lived in Jerusalem then those who had come from outside Jerusalem.

FROM THE FATHER! Read John 7:14-19

Generally, when a Rabbi was teaching, they identified the source of their information. Jesus was teaching "as one with authority."

1. Why were the people so amazed at Jesus' teaching? (He didn't have a list of credentials after His name. He didn't quote other Rabbis. He spoke with authority.)

They were amazed at His knowledge of the Scriptures, yet they were puzzled about the source of His knowledge. They knew He had not attended the rabbinical schools, so how did He know these things He was teaching.

2. How do we know if a person's teachings are from God? (Does it agree with the Bible? Is God glorified by the teaching or does the one speaking get glory? Is there evidence of changed lives?)

When Martin Luther was on trial before the religious council of the Roman Catholic Church in Worms, Germany for his teaching he replied to them: "Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason-I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other-my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."

3. What were three points Jesus made regarding His teaching and His knowledge? (1-He and His teachings came from God; 2-Those doing God's will would recognize His source; and 3-He was seeking to glorify only God.)

Jesus is the living Word; His Source was truth Himself. He was Divine!

4. How does verse 17 say you can know it is from God? (You must be willing to do the will of the Father.) Belief in God and obedience to God are prerequisites for discerning the truth. Jesus suggested that the leaders failed to follow God, so they could not judge His teaching.

5. Did His response alleviate their concerns? (The people had a mixed reaction to Jesus' statement.)

6. What can help believers today discern whether a leader's teachings are legitimate? (Study of the Scripture for ourselves. Let Scripture interpret Scripture. Hide the Word in our hearts.)

The only way to discern the truth is to stay close to the One who defines all truth. Remember, we don't define truth we discover truth from the One who is truth!

Jesus' claim that some in the crowd wanted to kill Him created a stir. But He turned the tables on His opponents by using their own religious rituals to prove His point.

WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS! Read John 7:20-24

1. Was there a group of people who wanted to kill Jesus? (Yes and their efforts intensified every visit He made to Jerusalem until they finally did it.)

Some of the people thought Jesus was paranoid or crazy, as some casually use the word today.

2. How would you define *hypocrisy*? (The practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform; pretense.)

3. How do the actions of the Jewish leaders Jesus described here constitute hypocrisy? (They circumcised on the Sabbath but criticized Jesus for making a man whole on the Sabbath.)

4. Do we ever judge others based on their outward appearance? (Unfortunately, we do it too often. God looks on the heart.)

5. What makes seeing our own hypocrisy difficult? (We respond in certain ways based on the circumstances not applying the standard of truth always. Sometimes we are simply blind to the truth.)

6. Do we see hypocrisy in the world around us today? (Public prayer for a ball player and a coach not allowed to pray with his team after a high school ball game.)

7. What kept the religious leaders from truly understanding what Jesus was saying? (They were too wrapped up in their legalistic view of the Scripture.)

Jesus' amazing teaching and bold, public stand began to convince some that He might be the Messiah. But they still had questions and doubts to overcome.

THEY KNOW EACH OTHER! Read John 7:25-29

1. Why were the people in Jerusalem confused at this point? (Some of the people knew the Jewish leaders were trying to find a reason to get rid of Jesus. Yet there He was speaking in the Temple complex, and they did nothing about it.)

2. What reasons did the people give for thinking Jesus was the Messiah? (He performed many signs and miracles. The Jewish leaders weren't trying to arrest Him.)

3. What reasons did the people give for thinking Jesus was not the Messiah? (They knew where He was from, and they didn't believe they would know where the Messiah was from.)

4. How did Jesus respond to the people's statements? (You know Me and where I am from, but you don't know the One who sent Me.)

5. What are the dangers of not knowing the full facts about Jesus? (You can be deceived in your belief. It is difficult to share with others if you don't know all the facts.)

Neither side really understood Jesus. As a result, neither side could really accept Him and find life in Him.

6. What was the significance of Jesus saying God had sent Him? (He knew God. He was not merely another teacher or healer; He was God the Son who came from heaven. His mission was no less than the salvation of all people who will repent of sin and place their faith in Him.)

7. Who do people think Jesus is today? (A famous historical figure. Just another man. Messiah.)

The way a person views Jesus impacts their ability to accept Him as Savior! We can never really know Him until we have a true relationship with God through Him.

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE!

What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?

God is a God who invites. God is a God who calls. God is a God who opens the door and waves His hand urging us to come in. His invitation is for life eternal. It is an invitation to come into His kingdom and take up residence in a tearless, graveless, painless world. Who can come? Whoever wishes. —Max Lucado.