

Within John's telling of Jesus' participation in the Feast of Tabernacles, there are strong undertones regarding social, religious, and historic norms or conventions that Jesus is dismantling.

### Background

- Gospel of John: What versus Who
- The Feast of Tabernacles
- Tabernacle
- What's the big deal with Moses and the law?
- What did it mean to be Jewish around 1BC/1AD?

What do we learn about the context of this passage? Why does the history matter?

### John 7:1-9

What was the "normal" or conventional action that Jesus' followers thought he should have?

Why does the world "hate" him?

What evil works is Jesus talking about regarding the world?

### John 7:10-17

What do we learn about Jesus' purpose? What is His purpose?

How is His agenda different than the Jewish expectation for the Messiah?

### John 7:18-20

There are words and there is meaning.

Have we ever misinterpreted, misunderstood, or mistook something that was REALLY important?

### John 7:21-24

What "one work" is Jesus referring to?

What does Jesus imply when he is saying "judge with right judgement"?

### John 7:25-31

We can see that genuine curiosity is growing as people are analyzing the evidence for the Messiah in their midst.

Jesus pokes at the assumption that birthplace and genealogy don't equate identity, purpose, or mission. What could that mean for us?

### John 7:32-26

What is the perceived threat amongst the religious leaders?

What is the social perception of the "Dispersion" or Greeks?

**Pray:**

Lay down any distractions, control, fears, etc. that will keep you from fully engaging in your time together.

**Looking Back:**

How have you been growing in Jesus lately through Bible reading/reflection, prayer, relationships, etc.?

**Looking Up:**

Read John 7:1-36 and have someone summarize the stories/sections in their own words.

- Verses 1-9
- Verses 10-14
- Verses 15-24
- Verses 25-32
- Verses 33-36

Where do you see yourself most in this story based off what they expected, wanted, or anticipated the Messiah would do, would act, or would behave?

- General member of society?
- Follower of Jesus?
- Religious leader?
- Law official/officer?

What did you learn about Jesus?

What stands out to you about how Jesus defied conventions?

If we could have our own way, what would we want God to do with his power and authority?

If God followed our conventions, what might that look like?

What in our conventions and social, cultural, and religious norms might Jesus call out as evil works?

**Pray:**

Lord, would you reveal to us where we might think we have it "right" based on our own understanding of Scripture, interpreted Biblical truths, and church(ed) history?

**Looking Forward:**

What step of action is Jesus calling you to take based on this sermon and discussion? How can we pray for you and support you?