Jesus and the Word

John 7:1-29

Introduction:

I. The Division in the Family – 7:1-10

A. When – 7:1-2

“After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, ﻿﻿because the ﻿﻿Jews sought to kill Him.”

After the events of Chapter 6 (During Passover) in April AD 32, Jesus spent His time preaching in Galilee.

“Now the Jews’ Feast of Tabernacles was at hand.” (7:2)

Just prior to the “Feast of Tabernacles” -- Chapter 7 – These events occur just before (and during) the “feast of tabernacles” in October – (about six months). This was the time of harvest. Many devout Jews lived outdoors in booths made of tree branches as a reminder of God’s provision in the desert during the wanderings of the nation for 40 years.

B. What – 7:3-8

1. The Statement of His Brothers – 7:3-5

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“His brothers therefore said to Him, “Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. ﻿For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.”

His brothers were being very logical. If you are offering yourself to the nation, Jerusalem is the place to be:

* The leaders are there,
* The most popular feast of the year is on,
* All of the devout people are there.

“His brothers” were really half-brothers. They were Children of Mary and Joseph. In Mark 6:3 the people said this about Jesus:

“Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and ﻿﻿brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?”

After Jesus death and resurrection: His brother James was leading elder in the church at Jerusalem. (Acts 15) and he and his brother Jude both wrote books in the N.T. But here we read:

“For ﻿﻿even His ﻿﻿brothers did not believe in Him” (7:5)

But, at this point, they did not believe in Him. Living in the same house with Jesus doesn’t guarantee that one will believe in Him.

2. The Response of Jesus – 7:6-7

“Then Jesus said to them, ﻿﻿“My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.”

Jesus time means the “time to go to the feast”. They could go any time, but He was on His Father’s schedule. Some see this as a reference to His death, but, in John, Jesus always use the word “hour” (7:30) to refer to His death.

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“The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me ﻿﻿because I testify of it that its works are evil.” (7:7)

The world does not hate its own. They were of the world. Jesus, on the other hand, condemned the world. They hated Him.

3. Jesus’ Advice to them – 7:8

“You go up to this feast. I am not ﻿﻿yet going up to this feast, ﻿﻿for My time has not yet fully come.”

He told them to go on to the feast. He was not yet ready to go.

C. Where – 7:9-10

“When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.”

There is no word as to what He did in this short period of time, but we know that He was about His Father’s business.

“But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.”

After the crowds had gone to Jerusalem, then He and His disciples went up without fanfare. The time had come and He apparently learned about it from the Father.

II. Debate with the Jews – 7:11-29

A. Searching for Him – 7:11-13

“Then ﻿﻿the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, “Where is He?”

The Jewish leaders expected Him to be at the feast. He was at the Passover two years ago. He ought to be here.

“And ﻿﻿there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. ﻿﻿Some said, “He is good”; others said, “No, on the contrary, He deceives the people. However, no one spoke openly of Him ﻿﻿for fear of the Jews. (7:12-13)

There were some who were for Jesus and some who were against Jesus. “No one,” either for good or for evil, spoke publicly about Jesus, maybe because the people could not determine where the leaders stood on the subject of Jesus’ claims.

B. Surprised at Him – 7:14-20

1. His Sudden Arrival – 7:14-15

“Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and ﻿﻿taught.”

For the first three days no one saw Jesus. Then they find Him teaching in the temple courts.

﻿“And the Jews marveled, saying, “How does this Man know letters, never having studied?”

The surprise was not because He could read and write; but that He understood religious matters – not having studied under the rabbis. (Acts 4:13)

2. His Plea – 7:16-18

a. Where He got His Teaching – 7:16

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﻿﻿“Jesus answered them and said, ﻿﻿“My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.”

He was taught by the Father Who sent Him. The Father taught Him what He “should say and what He should speak.” (John 12:49) as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. (8:28)

b. How Jesus’ Listeners can Understand His Teaching – 7:17

“﻿﻿If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.”

He must first be willing to do it -- Rom. 12:1-2

“I ﻿﻿beseech ﻿﻿you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies ﻿﻿a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your ﻿﻿reasonable service. And ﻿﻿do not be conformed to this world, but ﻿﻿be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may ﻿﻿prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

c. How We can Emulate Jesus’ Teaching – 7:18

Don’t seek your own glory,

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

We are a step down the ladder:

* The Father sent the Son
* The son sends His followers.
* We, the followers, represent Jesus.
* Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20)

3. His Assessment of Them – 7:19-20

a. They Try to Murder Him – 7:19

“Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? ﻿﻿Why do you seek to kill Me?”

The law teaches us not to commit murder, but they, the “followers of Moses” were trying to kill Him.

b. They Call Him Demon-Possessed – 7:20

“The people answered and said, ﻿﻿“You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?”

They were not implying that Jesus was empowered by demons. People in Jesus’ day considered mental illness and paranoia as being demon-induced.

C. His Correction of Them – 7:21-24

1. The Deed that Jesus Performed – 7:21

“Jesus answered and said to them, “I did one work, and you all marvel.”

That work was the healing of the paralytic on the Sabbath, by the pool of Bethesda. (5:1-18)

2. The Deed They Perform All the Time – 7:22-23

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﻿﻿“Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, ﻿﻿but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because ﻿﻿I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? ﻿

Jesus point was: If care for one part of the body be permitted, then certainly the healing of a whole body (that of the paralytic) should be allowed on the Sabbath.

3. Things to be Learned – 7:24

﻿﻿“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

* Get all of the facts - They should have known those facts that Jesus spoke.
* Don’t let personalities enter the picture. Jesus is not in our group. He is wrong!
* Jesus is taking the spot light away from us.

D. Ambivalence Toward Him – 7:25-29

1 The Question: “Who He is” – 7:25-27

a. The Rulers Send Out Mixed Signals – 7:25-26

“Now some of them from Jerusalem said, “Is this not He whom they seek to ﻿﻿kill? ﻿But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. ﻿﻿Do the rulers know indeed that this is ﻿﻿truly the Christ?”

They seek to kill Him, but He is right here and they do nothing. They must know that He is the Christ.

b. The People had Conflicting Information – 7:27

﻿﻿“However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from.”

They were wrong on both counts!

* They thought He was from Nazareth -- He was born in Bethlehem (Mic.5:2)
* They thought He was the Son of Joseph -- He was virgin-born of Mary (Isa. 7:14)

2. The Question: “How He got Here” – 7:28-29

“Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, ﻿﻿“You both know Me, and you know where I am from;”

a. What They Know – 7:28a

When John says that Jesus cried out (or similar phrases) solemn announcement follows. “You both know Me, and you know where I am from;” Who He is and where He is from.

This statement seems to contradict what they just said; in fact it does! This may be the reason for the words “Jesus cried” (i.e. called out in a loud voice). We might translate the next words as “you think you know Me and My origin.”

Lenski says that Jesus’ meaning is: “So you think you know Me, since you are sure you know My home and family” The meaning is that they do not know and they also don’t know one more thing:

b. What They do not Know – 7:28b

“and ﻿﻿I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me ﻿﻿is true, ﻿﻿whom you do not know.

They do not know God, His father.

c. But Jesus Knows Him – 7:29

“﻿﻿But ﻿﻿I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me.”

They did not know God because they did not know their Scriptures (5:46). They did not know Jesus because they did not know the Father who had sent Him.

“In verse 16, Jesus had disclaimed originality for His teaching, and here He now disclaimed responsibility for His Mission” [Leon Morris – John – NIC 362]