

# The Gospel of John

## Lesson 7: *Rivers of Living Water* John 7 (14-21 Oct 26AD)

John 7:1 After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. 2 But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, 3 Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. 4 No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." 5 For even his own brothers did not believe in him. 6 Therefore Jesus told them, "My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. 8 You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come." 9 After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee. 10 However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. 11 Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, "Where is he?" 12 Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others replied, "No, he deceives the people." 13 But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders. 14 Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. 15 The Jews there were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?" 16 Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. 17 Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. 18 Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. 19 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?" 20 "You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill you?" 21 Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. 22 Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. 23 Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man's whole body on the Sabbath? 24 Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly." 25 At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? 26 Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? 27 But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." 28 Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, 29 but I know him because I am from him and he sent me." 30 At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. 31 Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, "When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?" 32 The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him. 33 Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me. 34 You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come." 35 The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks? 36 What did he mean when he said, 'You will look for me, but you will not find me,' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?" 37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. 40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "He is the Messiah." Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee? 42 Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" 43 Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. 44 Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him. 45 Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?" 46 "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards replied. 47 "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted. 48 "Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? 49 No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them." 50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, 51 "Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?" 52 They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee." 53 Then they all went home,

## The Feast of Tabernacles

**Monday 30 September 26AD Feast of Trumpets Mark 8:24** He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

**Wednesday 9 October 26AD Day of Atonement Mark 9:7** ... a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

John 7:1 **After this, (Mon 14 Oct 26AD. After Bread of life discourse on 19-21 September 26AD, and pool of Bethesda on 8 June 26AD)** Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to **kill him**. 2 But when the Jewish **Festival of Tabernacles** was near, 3 Jesus' **brothers** said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the **works** you do. 4 No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the **world**." 5 For even his own **brothers did not believe in him. (Believe after resurrection.)**

**John 5:18** For this reason they tried all the more to **kill him**; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

6 Therefore Jesus told them, "**My time (It is not the right time to die)** is not yet here; for you any time will do. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are **evil**. 8 You go to the festival. I am **not going up to this festival**, because my time has not yet **fully** come." 9 After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee.

10 However, after his brothers had left for the festival, (**Every Jew went to the feast**) he went **also**, not **publicly**, but in secret. (**100 miles from Nazareth and a walk of 3 days**) 11 Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, "**Where is he?**"

**Deuteronomy 16:16** Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the LORD empty-handed:

12 Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "**He is a good man.**" (**Some support him - Others think Messiah should come forward**)

Others replied, "No, **he deceives the people.**" (**Jesus was controversial**) 13 But no one would say anything **publicly** about him for fear of the leaders.

14 Not until halfway through the festival (**Friday 18 October 26AD**) did Jesus go up to the temple courts and **begin to teach**. 15 The Jews there were **amazed** and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?". (**Did he study? but not in their schools? He got his ideas from God**)

16 Jesus answered, "My **teaching is not my own**. It comes from the one who sent me. 17 Anyone who chooses to **do the will of God** will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. (**Desire to do God's will matches Jesus' teaching**) 18 Whoever speaks **on their own does so to gain personal glory**, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a **man of truth**; there is nothing false about him. 19 Has not **Moses given you the law**? Yet **not one of you keeps the law**. Why are you trying to **kill me?**" (**Jesus broke their Sabbath interpretation - see the ten day week calendar.**)

20 "You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. "**Who is trying to kill you?**" (**Their fickleness causes forgetfulness - see 7:1 & 5:18**)

21 Jesus said to them, "I did **one miracle, (Healing at Bethesda)** and you are all amazed. 22 Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy **on the Sabbath**. 23 Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be **broken, (Break the law to keep the law - as occurred at his own circumcision)** why are you angry with me for healing a man's **whole (Wholeness - healing body, mind, soul, spirit)** body on the Sabbath? 24 Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead **judge correctly.**"

25 **At that point** some of the **people of Jerusalem** began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are **trying to kill? (Jerusalemites know he is being sought for death)** 26 Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the **Messiah? (There is no neutrality)** 27 **But we know where this man is from; (Galilee isn't acceptable)** when the Messiah comes, no one will know **where he is from.**"

28 Then Jesus, still **teaching in the temple courts**, cried out, "Yes, you know me, and you know **where I am from**. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. **You do not know him, (Jews did not know him for they had law but not relationship)** 29 but I know him because **I am from him and he sent me.**" **(God is where Jesus is really from.)**

30 **At this (He said he is from God)** they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, **because his hour had not yet come. (God prevented their action)** 31 Still, **many in the crowd** believed in him. **(The outsiders have growing faith?)** They said, "When the Messiah comes, **will he perform more signs** than this man?"

32 The **Pharisees** heard the crowd whispering such things about him. **(This support angered them)** Then the chief **priests** and the Pharisees sent **temple guards (Illegitimate priests need temple guards)** to **arrest him. (Time to arrest him.)**

33 Jesus said, "I am with you for only a **short time**, and then I am going to the one who sent me. 34 You will **look for me, (They look for a physical Messiah - but there will be none)** but you will not find me; and where I am, **you cannot come.**" **(Sinners cannot go to heaven)** 35 The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live **scattered** among the Greeks, and **teach the Greeks? (After his death his apostles taught the Greeks)** 36 What did he mean when he said, 'You will look for me, but you will not find me,' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?"

## ***Rivers of Living Water***

37 **On the last (Mon 21 Oct 26AD) and greatest day** of the festival, **(After marching around the altar 7x, with the temple choir singing Psalm 113-118, from the pool of Siloam the priests poured water to God. The crowd waved their boughs and cried out "Lift up your hand" to the priest to accept it)** Jesus **stood** and said in a **loud voice, (Then Jesus shouted - as God)** "Let anyone who is **thirsty come to me and drink**. 38 Whoever believes in me, as **Scripture** has said, **rivers of living water will flow from within them.**" **(Spiritual water will be in you like a river)** 39 By this he meant the **Spirit**, whom those who believed in him were **later to receive**. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been **glorified**.

**Isaiah 12:3** With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

**Psalm 113:1** Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, you his servants; praise the name of the LORD. ... **118:24** **The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. 25** **LORD, save us!** LORD, grant us success! 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. 27 The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With **boughs** in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the **altar**. 28 You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. 29 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

**Exodus 17:5** The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and **water will come out of it for the people to drink.**" So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

**Ezekiel 47:1** The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). **The water was coming down from** under the south side of **the temple**, south of the altar. ... 5 ... so where the river flows everything will live.

**Zechariah 14:8** On that day **living water will flow** out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter.

40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the **Prophet.**" **(Jesus is Prophet, priest, and king.)**

41 Others said, "He is the Messiah." Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from **Galilee?** 42 Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from **Bethlehem**, the town where David lived?" 43 Thus the people were **divided** because of Jesus. **(Jesus still causes division - not peace and unity)** 44 Some wanted to seize him, but **no one laid a hand on him.**

**Deuteronomy 18:15** The LORD your God will raise up for you a **prophet** like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him...18 I will raise up for them a **prophet** like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him.

**Micah 5:2** "But you, **Bethlehem** Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

45 Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?" 46 "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards replied. **(Soldiers disobey unethical orders)** 47 "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted. 48 "Have **any** of the rulers or of the **Pharisees** believed in him? **John 12:42** Yet at the same time many even among the **leaders** believed in him. But because of the **Pharisees** they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; 49 No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law ("**It takes education to make a saint**" - Hillel)—there is a **curse** on them."

**(Common people were considered automatic sinners)**

**Deuteronomy 27:15** "**Cursed is anyone** who makes an idol—a thing detestable to the LORD, the work of skilled hands—and sets it up in secret." ...16 ... dishonors their father or mother."... 17 ... moves their neighbor's boundary stone." ... 18 ... leads the blind astray on the road." ... 19 ... withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow." ... 20 ... sleeps with his father's wife, for he dishonors his father's bed." ... 21 ... has sexual relations with any animal." ... 22 ... sleeps with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother." ... 23 ... sleeps with his mother-in-law." ... 24 ... kills their neighbor secretly." ... 25 ... accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person." ... 26 ... does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out." ... "Amen!"

50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, 51 "Does our law condemn a man without first **hearing him** to find out what he has been doing?" **(Nicodemus caused them to re-evaluate and have the trial of Jesus.)**

**Deuteronomy 1:16** And I charged your judges at that time, "Hear the disputes between your people and judge fairly, whether the case is between two Israelites or between an Israelite and a foreigner residing among you. 17 **Do not show partiality** in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgment belongs to God. Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it." ... 17:2 If a man or woman living among you in one of the towns the LORD gives you is found doing evil in the eyes of the LORD your God in violation of his covenant, 3 and contrary to my command has worshiped other gods, bowing down to them or to the sun or the moon or the stars in the sky, 4 and this has been brought to your attention, then you must **investigate it thoroughly**. If it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing has been done in Israel, 5 take the man or woman who has done this evil deed to your city gate and **stone that person to death**.

52 They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? **(They didn't follow the law - they refused to analyze all the facts)** Look into it, and you will find that a **prophet (The Prophet. p66 & p75)** does not come out of Galilee." 53 **Then they all went home, (Not to their booths, because the Feast of Tabernacles was over)**

**Psalm 118:24** **This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.**