

BIBLE READING DAY 22, SUNDAY: MARCH 20

Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles

John 7:2–9, 11–52

Now a feast of the Jews, the Feast of Tabernacles, was at hand. Jesus's brothers therefore said to him, "Why don't you leave here and go to Judea, so your disciples there may see the works that you are doing? For nobody does anything in secret if he wants to be known publicly. If you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." For his own brothers did not believe in him.

"My time has not yet come," replied Jesus, "but your time is always present. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me, because I bear witness of it that its works are evil. You go on to the feast. I will not go up to the feast as yet, for my time has not yet come."

Having said these things, he remained in Galilee.

Now the Jews were looking for Jesus at the feast, and people kept asking, "Where is he?" And there were many quiet discussions about him among the people. Some said, "He is a good man." But others said, "No, he is leading the people astray." However, no one spoke of him openly, for fear of the Jewish authorities.

But about the middle of the festival, Jesus went up to the temple and began to teach. And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this man know the scriptures, never having gone to school?"

"My teaching is not mine," replied Jesus, "but his who sent me. If any man wants to do God's will, he shall know whether my teaching is from God, or whether I am speaking only on my own authority. A man who speaks on his own authority is seeking his own glory, but one who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is sincere, and there is nothing false in him.

"Did not Moses give you the law?" said Jesus. "And yet, not one of you is keeping the law. Why, then, are you seeking to kill me?"

"You must be demon possessed! Who is seeking to kill you?" answered the crowd.

"I performed a single work," replied Jesus, "a work at which you all marvel. Moses commanded circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers) and you will circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why be angry with me because I made a man's entire body well on the Sabbath? Do not judge merely according to appearances but be honest and fair in your judgments."

Then some of the people of Jerusalem said, "Isn't this the man they are seeking to kill? Look! He is speaking openly, and yet they are not saying anything to him! Have the rulers found out that this is really the Messiah? But we know where this man is from, and when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from."

Jesus therefore exclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and where I am from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and you do not know him. I know him, because I came from him, and he sent me."

Then the authorities sought to arrest him; but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. But many of the people believed on him, and said, "When the Messiah comes, will he do more miracles than this man has done?"

The Pharisees overheard the people saying these things about him, and they and the chief priests sent officers to arrest him. Jesus therefore said, "I will be with you only a little while longer, and then I will go to him who sent me. You will seek me and not find me, and where I am, you cannot come."

The Jews then said among themselves, "Where does this fellow intend to go, that we shall not find him? Does he intend to go to the Jews scattered among the Gentiles, and to teach the Gentiles? What can be the meaning of his statement, 'You will seek me and not find me, and where I am, you cannot come'?"

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, "If any man thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who trusts in me, as the scripture said, out of his inmost being shall flow rivers of living water."

(Now this he said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive; for the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.)

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is truly the Prophet!"

"This is the Messiah!" said others.

But some said, "Is the Messiah, then, to come from Galilee? Hasn't the scripture said that the Messiah will come from the line of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?"

So, the people were divided over him.

Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid hands on him. Then the officers returned to the chief priests and Pharisees.

"Why didn't you bring him?" asked the priests and Pharisees.

"No man ever spoke like that man!" answered the officers.

"Have you, too, been led astray?" replied the Pharisees. "Have any of the authorities or any of the Pharisees believed in him? But this rabble, who do not know the law, are accursed!"

Nicodemus, who earlier came to Jesus, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without giving him a hearing first and finding out what he is doing?"

"Are you, too, from Galilee?" they replied. "Search for yourself; you will find that no prophet comes from Galilee!"

FUN FACT: Often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, (as many things are), this prayer is of unknown origin, perhaps intentionally so, and intentionally attributed to the kind, Italian friar. It is included here to encourage your thoughts and written words on prayer

"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

Approximate Timeline of Jesus's Public Ministry

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| EARLY LIFE | EARLY MINISTRY | 1 st Feast of PASSOVER | SUMMER | 1 st Feast of BOOTHS | WINTER | 2 nd Feast of PASSOVER | SUMMER | FALL | WINTER | SPRING | SUMMER | FEAST OF BOOTHS | WINTER | SPRING |
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DEVOTIONAL DAY 22 (SUNDAY MARCH 20)

Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles

Based on John 7: 2-52

“Really?” I tend to say that more than often in my household. And it’s simply because I question the thought process of a teenager. There are times when I want to jump inside their head and solve all the things they can’t seem to solve. I want to put them on the path where they need to be and make sure they don’t stray.

Sometimes you can have them seek for things that can be staring them right in the face and they just can’t seem to find it. Do they really not see it or maybe they just don’t understand what I am saying to them? Which leads to me saying, “Really?”

Just as I question my teenagers, many have questioned Jesus’s actions too. He performed tasks that some had seen as demonic, simply because they didn’t understand how He was able to do so. But how could they not? They had front row seats to some of things we read about in the Bible today. Anything He did was because of God’s will for Him. As Jesus began to teach at the Feast of Tabernacles, He gave the glory to God and gave them the tools on how they too can have personal glory with God. But they still questioned Him.

I often find myself telling my sons, “Take some time to really think about what I just asked you.” It’s because I want to them to take in what is being said so they can perform the task given to them correctly or make the right decision for the situation at hand. Jesus wants the same things for us. When we ready the Scripture, we need to process what we are reading and apply to our lives with giving all glory to God.

“Why do you not believe Me?”

Jesus, John 8:36
(Day 23 Reading)

During the Feast of the Tabernacles, Jesus spoke to many who questioned who He was and what He had done. I can only imagine how many times He said, “Really?” In His head, perhaps, even while He was speaking to them, and definitely when they replied. Jesus even questioned why they responded to His teachings and miracles when they had seen first-hand what He had done. He spoke truth and wanted everyone to see the truth He spoke.

Being a parent, you sometimes have to let your children make their own decisions and let them learn from them. Jesus offered those who believed Him to come to Him and so they could be filled with the Holy Spirit. They would simply be blessed.

And those who didn’t, well, all I can say is, “Really?” You had the perfect opportunity to live your life on the path God wants for you and you still doubted the One Whom He sent to save you from ALL your sins.

So, “Really?”

Lord, I know You go before me and provide a path for my life. I pray that I follow Your guidance and trust the path You have for me. I know I will fall at time, but I will pick myself back up and keep moving. Lord I know I may have questions along the way but I will trust You are who say You are and will honor You throughout my days and glorify Your name. Amen.

--By Shel Pruitt

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs)

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