John 7

Jesus had been sifting… thinning out the crowd of His “would be” followers… Offending some… who were following Him to be wowed by His miracles and to get whatever blessings they could get out of Him…

Which left those who were serious about following Jesus, and growing spiritually …allowing Him to transform their lives.

Meaning they would one day allow Spiritual (unseen)/eternal things to become much more important that the temporary things of earth. Which is the key to unlocking the abundant life that Jesus wants us to possess.

V1 – Jesus was actively ministering, but avoiding Judea. Why?

1. Jesus was a “wanted” man!
* Practicing medicine without a license.
* Loitering at the Synagogue.
* Illegal wine production.
* Anti-war demonstrations.
* Fishing without a license!

John 5:18 – Now the religious leaders were now out to kill Jesus because He had done something great on the SABBATH…

He healed a man at the pool of Beth-es-da who had been paralyzed for 38 years.

For the benefit of those who may not know, the Sabbath is the 7th day, that God created specifically for rest… after 6 days of creating everything that you and I now enjoy.

One of the 10 Commandments that Yahweh, (God the Father) gave to Moses for His people to follow, was to set the seventh day apart (to make it HOLY) as a day of remembering God (Exodus 20:8)

To work for 6 days in a row and then rest (cease from working and worship God), because God is GREAT! Amen!

Deuteronomy 8:18 gives us good reason for remembering God’s GREATNESS…

He gives each of us the ability to work, earn money, and possess everything we have. God’s blessings!

Yes, we may have learned our trade from college courses, a parent, or experience… but it is He who gave us life and the brain that we use to think and learn with.

A God who is concerned enough about His people to provide us a day every week to devote ourselves to rest and worship, truly is an awesome God!!

And it’s our obedience in observing the Sabbath that demonstrates how important God and His Word are to us.

But let’s make sure that we understand: God made the Sabbath to meet the needs of people, not for people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath.

Because that is what the Pharisee’s taught… which is legalism…

Which is why they were so bent out of shape with Jesus for healing on the Sabbath.

Legalism happens when meeting the requirements of God’s Word are elevated above their true purpose.

Grace is the Holy Spirit revealing/confronting us the fact that God sent His Son to die for all, to pay for all of our sin, not to exalt rules or to produce religion, but to produce a loving interactive relationship between us and the LIVING GOD that exalts Him with our words, attitudes and actions.

It is impossible to have a true encounter God’s amazing Grace and remain the same, because it’s life altering… It transforms the believers perspective…

* Grace gives eyes to see as God sees.
* A mind to think as God thinks.
* Hands to serve whom God would serve.
* Feet to go where God would go.
* A mouth to say what God would say.
* A heart to love as God loves.

To the entirely sanctified believer, Jesus is the central, most important person.

And since Jesus is the Word (John 1:1)…

Obeying God’s Word by the Holy Spirit is serving Christ…

Developing the gifts and callings of the Holy Spirit isn’t something believers do to avoid hell (which is works salvation).

Believers obey God because He saved us! Because we love Him, and we believe His promises that by faith He will produce much fruit.

Here are just a few examples of religious rules that the Pharisee’s added that short-circuited the blessing of the Sabbath that God intended for mankind.

* Adding fresh water to a vase of cut flowers (sowing–any activity that causes or furthers plant growth).
* Making a bouquet of flowers (making a sheaf).
* Separating good fruit from spoiled fruit (winnowing, selecting, sifting).
* Brushing dried mud from one’s boots or clothes (grinding).
* Cutting hair or nails (shearing sheep).
* Applying makeup (dyeing).
* Braiding hair (weaving).

So because the Pharisee’s had no plans of accepting Jesus as their Messiah or surrendering their lives to Him, their perspective remained unchanged…

In their eyes Jesus couldn’t possibly be the Son of God because He was violating their Law!!

V2 The feast of Tabernacles (Boothes) happens in the fall. It is one of Seven feasts that the Jews observe.

This feast was their time to remember when God set His people free from 430 years of slavery in Egypt and how He took care of them as they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.

It has been said that; “It only took a short time for God to get His children out of slavery, but it took 40 years of wandering to get the slavery out of His children.

The Feast of Tabernacles was being observed in Judea… Jesus knew the Pharisee’s would be there and would be looking to kill Him…

V3-5

So not only was Jesus wanted by the religious leaders He was also unwanted by His own brothers!!

1. Jesus was an “unwanted” man.

Do you think Jesus was out to become a public figure?

No, but this is often how the Heavenly Father operates… The big things that we don’t set out to do, He does thru humble/willing/obedient hearts.

He exalted…, and is still exalting, Jesus.

Philippians 2:10-11

He was, is and forever will be the greatest public figure in all of human history!! Past, present & future!!

And all He did was love and obey His Father in heaven, even to the point of death.

Revelation 12:11 tells us that Jesus followers possess that same mindset.

Who were His brothers who wanted to see Him dead? Matthew 13:55-56

So don’t feel bad when your family & friends don’t believe in Jesus… His own brothers did not… He was an embarrassment to them… so they (probably in a sarcastic tone) encouraged Him to go and put Himself in a place where He would be arrested & likely killed.

For people like that who may be ashamed or embarrassed by Jesus,

He said these Words in Mark 8:38.

Is there any hope for such shameful, hideous, unbelieving, ungodly people? You bet!

God’s GRACE would eventually transform one of His (half) brothers, James, who became the head of the church in Jerusalem after Jesus’ crucifixion & resurrection!

Grace also transformed His brother Jude… who wrote the powerful single chapter letter in the N.T. which appears just before the Revelation.

When they saw Jesus dying for His belief and rising again on the third day, living with His disciples another 40 days before ascending back into heaven… that changed everything!

And when you and I put down our religious attitudes and demonstrate the importance of our relationship with Christ… exalting Him, surrendering to Him, dying to our self-focused desires for Him…

Our friends & family may just believe your words about Christ when you bury the old you and let the Holy Spirit bring the “new you” to life.

How did Jesus respond to all this harsh, negative, hurtful, hateful talk from His brothers?

John 7:6-8

1. Jesus was a hated Man!

also…

1. Jesus was a misunderstood man!

John 7:9-13

Misunderstanding Jesus caused them to miss the only Savior sent by God…

They expected a “conquering king” who would save them from the Romans and make them the Mid-East Super Power…

But God had other plans… John 3:17-21

God sent a “conquering king” alright… to save His people from their sin (Matthew 1:21) and to save them from themselves so that God could begin winning back mankind… one soul at a time… through true followers of Christ.

And those who follow Him can expect that they may also be:

* An embarrassment to some
* Wanted by some
* Unwanted by some.
* Hated by some
* Misunderstood by some.

If that describes you today, you may be in good company, if you are a;

* True blue
* Entirely sanctified
* Perspectively rectified
* Blood bought
* Spirit led
* Obedient follower of Jesus Christ!

If that doesn’t describe you… there is still hope.

God’s not giving up on you and neither are we!