

• **THE MAIN POINT:** Divided. On whose side will we be? Even members of a family confronted with Jesus are divided in their opinion of Him and following Him. Jesus said, "I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Your enemies will be right in your own household." Matthew 10:34-36

**7:1** AFTER. Jesus had told the crowds who followed him that He was the Bread of Life. (6:66-69) AFTER - ". . . many of his \_\_\_\_\_ turned away and \_\_\_\_\_ Him." AFTER - Peter, speaking for the 12 disciples, told Jesus they weren't leaving. "\_\_\_\_\_ to whom would we go? You \_\_\_\_\_ have the words that give \_\_\_\_\_ Life. We \_\_\_\_\_ your words, and we \_\_\_\_\_ you are the \_\_\_\_\_ of God." After this Jesus stayed in \_\_\_\_\_, going from village to village to proclaim the Kingdom and heal the sick. He stayed in Galilee because the Jewish \_\_\_\_\_ were plotting his \_\_\_\_\_ for a couple of reasons. They considered him guilty of blasphemy (making himself God) and he was a political threat to them.

AFTER THIS (after telling the people that He was the Bread of Life): Jesus came right out and told those who followed Him that He had come down from heaven - from Father God's presence. He compared Himself to bread that people eat to keep their bodies alive. However, eating and drinking Him - entering into an intimate relationship with Him - a mingling of their spirits with His.....was the Bread of Life - bread of eternal life. He was saying, "In the beginning I AM - I already existed- I was with God - I AM God-I was in the beginning with God-I created everything there is. Nothing exists that I didn't make-Life itself is in Me-and My life gives light to everyone." (John 1:1-3 in the first person.)

**7:2-9** It was early fall and it was nearly time for the Celebration of the Festival of \_\_\_\_\_, which Jews were supposed to celebrate in Jerusalem near the temple. Jesus' biological \_\_\_\_\_, who did not yet believe that He was the Christ, sarcastically urged him to go to Judea for the celebration and do some \_\_\_\_\_ to amaze his followers. You can't make yourself famous—a \_\_\_\_\_ would really stir things up - perhaps provoke the leaders to kill him prematurely and his \_\_\_\_\_ to act had not yet come. (V8) But Jesus tells his brothers to go to the \_\_\_\_\_ because they are nobodies and what they do doesn't make any \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore, the political and religious \_\_\_\_\_ would not \_\_\_\_\_ them. They were not accusing "the powers that be" of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**FESTIVAL OF SHELTERS:** Feast of Tabernacles (Holy camp out). This feast took place in October following the harvests. The people camped out during these days in tabernacles/ tents made of palm and willow trees to remember the 40 years their forefathers spent in the desert when God took care of them and brought them to the good land.

GO: The unbelieving brethren of Jesus wanted Him to confront the leaders of Israel NOW --prove Himself by coming out on top. Jesus planned to do that, not as they thought, but by offering Himself as "The Passover Lamb" for the sins of the world on the cross. Jesus had not yet finished training His disciples or doing all that the Father had in mind.

**7:10-13** Jesus went later but \_\_\_\_\_. People were asking about Him, including the Jewish leaders. There was a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ about Him. Some said that he was a \_\_\_\_\_ man while others said, "He's nothing but a \_\_\_\_\_, deceiving the people. But no one had the \_\_\_\_\_ to speak \_\_\_\_\_ about Him in public because they were afraid of getting in \_\_\_\_\_ with the powers that be.

**DISCUSSION:** Whenever the subject of "Jesus" comes up -- whether then or now--there is a division of opinion. For some, Jesus is the I AM: the Bread of Life--the Living Water, the Light of the world-- the Good Shepherd - the Resurrection and the Life--the True Vine on which believers grow. Their Lord and their God. Others say He is a "fraud who deceives the people." When Jesus threw a tormenting spirit out of a man, "Some people were up on their feet applauding. There's never been anything like this in Israel!" The Pharisees (the pastor/teachers of Israel) were left sputtering, "Hocus pocus: It's nothing but hocus pocus. He's probably made a pact with the Devil." Matthew 9:33-34 The spirit of politics permeates the political and religious life of nations. People disagree and say mean and outrageous things about people they don't agree with. However, there is more at stake with Jesus. The sin against the Holy Spirit - the unforgivable sin -- is probably responding to the Holy Spirit's witness to Jesus as God come from heaven to save, saying, "He has a demon." Mark 3:28-30

**7:14-19** When Jesus shows up and begins teaching the Scriptures, the Jewish leaders were amazed at his insight and wisdom and learning because they knew he had not \_\_\_\_\_ what they had in the Rabbinic colleges. Jesus' answer to them was that His \_\_\_\_\_ had come first hand from \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ Him. He challenges the listeners. Those of you who want to do the \_\_\_\_\_ of God are already agreeing with what I'm saying. But some of you who've been to seminary and are busy throwing around big ideas trying to make yourselves look smart are looking for people's \_\_\_\_\_ instead of \_\_\_\_\_ God who brought great truth about many things including what it means to \_\_\_\_\_ the Law of Moses. In fact, you want to shut me up by \_\_\_\_\_ me.

**LEARNED:** Jesus is saying that He is speaking "REVELATION," - truth that only God knows. You can't learn that in the Rabbinic Colleges. He learned by listening to God, not men.

Paul says the same thing about his writings. "Dear brothers and sisters, I assure you that the Good News of salvation which I preach is not based on mere human reasoning or logic. For my

JOHN 7A (7:1) Study (NLT) "DIVIDED" January 10, 2010 Vineyard Church • Great Falls • MT

*message came by a direct revelation from Jesus Christ himself.  
No one else taught me." Galatians 1: 11-12*

WILL: Jesus continually points out that He is submitted to the Father. His food is to do the Father's will and finish His work. 4:34 He does nothing of Himself--but only what He sees the Father doing 5:19 He judges according to the Father's opinion. 5:30. He seeks the glory of the Father---not his own. 7:18 • This is just the opposite of the first people who ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil to enable themselves to be independent agents.

**7:20-24** There is always a temptation to shade the truth or to rationalize the truths we live by to support our own prejudices, indulgences, and great ideas people admire us for. Jesus confronts the religious scholars with the issue of what it means in God's eyes to keep the Sabbath. (After all He is God and the Lord of the Sabbath). Though it goes against their interpretation of the Sabbath to work on the Sabbath, they will \_\_\_\_\_ a baby boy if the "8 days after his birth" falls on the Sabbath so as not to break (another law) of Moses. "So \_\_\_\_\_ should I be \_\_\_\_\_ for making a man completely \_\_\_\_\_ on the Sabbath? Think this through (abandon your preconceptions) and you will see that I am right."

**What Does This Scripture Say To You?** \_\_\_\_\_