

JOHN 7B (7:25-53) Study (NLT) "DIVIDED" January 17, 2010 Vineyard Church • Great Falls, MT.

• **THE MAIN THOUGHT:** People are always divided about Jesus. Some like themselves the way they are. Some know they are unfilled till Christ be formed in them by the Spirit. Some said, "He is a wonderful man." Some said, "He's a fraud." (7:12)

• **7:25-31** The people were wondering about Jesus. They had heard that the Jewish leaders were trying to _____ him. The fact that they had not seized and killed him made them wonder if the Jewish leaders themselves had come to believe Jesus was the _____. But then they did not feel that he could be because they knew where he had _____ from—that he was the son of Joseph from Nazareth—and there was a common notion – not Scriptural—that the Messiah would one day simply and suddenly _____ and no one would know where he came from. Jesus agrees with them. "Yes, you _____ me and you (think you) know _____ I come from. "But that's not where I am from. I didn't set myself up in business. My true origin is in the One who sent me, and you don't know him at all."
(Msg Bible) • At this point, the leaders tried to _____ him but somehow he slipped away from them because his _____-- the time when he would chose to deliver himself to them that they might be the agents of his crucifixion --- had not yet come.
• However, many _____ in him. They were convinced by his _____.

FEAST OF SHELTERS. This was one of 7 major spiritual holidays commanded by God to be celebrated by Israel. Each family made a tent out of branches and camped out for a week. This was to remind Israel that their ancestors were set free from Egypt and lived as pilgrims in the desert for forty years as they journeyed to the land promised to them by God (which happened). (Nehemiah 8:13-18). It was to remind them that they were on a spiritual pilgrimage through this life to heaven, and God would bring them there by His gracious help.

TIME. The times are in God's hands. Every detail of the Savior's life was planned before the foundation of the world. Ephesians 1:4 Jesus was born among us in what the Father considered "the fullness of time." Pilate told Jesus, "Don't you realize that I have the power to release you or to crucify you? Then Jesus said, "You would have no power over me unless it were given to you from above." John 19:10-11 The Father was in charge of the Lord's time, not men.

7:32-36 The fact that some of the people believed in Jesus caused the Jewish leaders to send temple guards to _____ Jesus. Jesus told them they wouldn't be able to touch him yet. He said that he would be here among these folks a little while _____. And in the time set by the One who sent him, he would _____ to Him. Then it will be too late for them. He told them that some of them might search for him but not _____ him. And you won't be able to _____ where I am. The Jewish leaders were _____ by this. They did not believe he came from heaven and was speaking of returning there. So they thought he might be talking about leaving the country around Jerusalem or going to Jews in _____ lands or maybe even to the _____!

7:37-39 On the last day of the Feast of Shelters, the priests would stand before the congregation of Israel at the Temple and pour out water on an altar—harkening back to the days when Israel lived in shelters for 40 years in their pilgrimage from Egypt- the land of bondage- to the land of milk and honey- and Moses struck the rock and water poured out to quench the thirst of Israel. At that moment, Jesus _____ before the crowds shouting out that he was the fulfillment of that prophetic liturgy – that He was the LIVING WATER for their souls. He said, "If you are _____, come to me! If you _____ in me, _____ and _____! For the Scriptures declare that _____ of living water will flow out from within." When he said, "living water," he was speaking of the _____ who would be given to everyone believing in Him. But the Spirit has not yet been given because Jesus had not yet entered into his _____."

WATER Poured OUT. On the 7th day of this festival, the priests would go down to the pool of Siloam and fill up a golden pitcher with water -symbolic of the water that came from the rock to give them drink when Moses struck it with his rod. (Exodus 17) As the water was brought up, the people joyfully sang Isaiah 12:3 "With joy you will drink deeply from the fountain of salvation..." That water was then poured out upon the altar and flowed out in every direction as a prophecy of the day when the souls of men would be watered. Revelation 22 speaks of the day when water of life will flow forth from the throne of God as a river..." Israel considered that literally some day the water would flow out from the altar of the temple as a river coming out of Jerusalem. However, it is the water flowing from the heart that is important. Jesus was the fulfillment of this hope. (I Corinthians 10:4)

HIS GLORY. Originally the place where God, who is Spirit, and mankind met was in the human spirit created in God's image. But when the human heart became full of sin, the Holiness of God would not let Him live there. Moreover, His holiness would torment us. It was not until Jesus placed His life's blood-- given to cover the sins of each person-- on the altar of heaven--the Father's heart-- that the human heart could not be made a holy place. "Once for all time, He took His own blood into (that great perfect sanctuary in heaven) and with it He secured our salvation forever." (Hebrews 9:11,12)

7:40-45 The Lord's words really stirred up the crowds. Some said that they thought he was "the" _____, that prophet greater than Moses himself that Moses spoke about. Others said he is the _____. But some said that he couldn't be because the Messiah had to be born in _____ and they all knew he was from Nazareth in Galilee. So the crowd was _____ in their _____ about him.

PROPHET. Moses had said, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellows Israelites, and you must listen to that prophet." Deuteronomy 18:15 Moses was not speaking of John the Baptist, the last Old Testament

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prophet who would prepare the way for the Messiah. He was speaking of the "Prophet of prophets," who would in his person be the LIVING WORD of God. "In the beginning the WORD already existed. He was with God, and He was God... the Word became human and lived here on earth among us... And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father." John.1:1; 14,15

DIVIDED. People are separated into two camps on earth which will continue into heaven. The issue is whether or not they will allow any other god than themselves in their lives. Jesus continually said that the Father will draw people to Him who want to encounter God - who are willing to pay the price, are willing to die to themselves and to be crucified with Christ.

7: 45-53 The temple guards returned without arresting Jesus. When asked why, they said, "We have _____ heard anyone talk like this!" Their bosses said that there was not a single one of them, _____ or _____, who believed in Him. And the crowds were just _____ and by the way, a _____ be on them. Nicodemus, who had come to seek Jesus in the dark of the night (John 3), said, "Is it _____ to convict a man before he is given a _____?" His fellow leaders, enemies of Jesus, pointed out that _____ prophet was ever said to come from Galilee.

What Does This Scripture Say To You? _____