**John 7**

**Jesus Goes to the Festival of Tabernacles (vs 1-13)**

* The Festival of Tabernacles is also known as Succoth or the Feast of Booths. It’s held in September or October and commemorates God’s faithfulness to Israel while they wandered in the wilderness.
* During Succoth, families would build shelters and sleep in them for the week.
* Jesus was staying in Galilee instead of Judea in order to avoid the religious leaders who wanted to kill him.
* His brothers urged him to go to Jerusalem and “show off” a few miracles to convince the public he is who he says he is.
* Even his own brothers did not believe in him.
* Note: this passage shoots down the doctrine of the perpetual virginity of Mary. Mary was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus, her first born. But she had more children after Jesus.
* “My time is not yet here.” John emphasizes Jesus operates according to the will of his Father.
* “The world hates me because I testify that its works are evil.” Don’t be surprised when the world hates Jesus and rejects Jesus. Don’t be surprised when the world hates you and rejects you when you stand up for Jesus.
* Jesus goes to Jerusalem secretly for Succoth.
* The people of Jerusalem are confused over who Jesus is. It’s still true today.

**Who Is Jesus? (vs 14-52)**

* Jesus begins to teach in the Temple courts during Succoth. The people are amazed that an unlearned man is such a great teacher of Scripture.
* Jesus responds that he is a great teacher because he is receiving God’s Words from the Father directly.
* Don’t speak in order to receive glory. Rather, speak to give glory to the Father, as a person of truth.
* “Why are you trying to kill me?” The crowd responds with, “Who is trying to kill you. You are demon-possessed.” The common people were not aware the religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus.
* Don’t judge people by their appearance. Instead, judge correctly.
* The crowd begins to wonder if Jesus is the Messiah. But they also know where Jesus is from, Bethlehem. Traditional teaching said that when the Messiah came, no one would know where he was from.
* Still teaching in the temple courts, Jesus cried out, “I am here on the authority of my Father.”
* Again, the leaders tried to seize him and kill him, but they were not able because it was not his time to die.
* Many in the crowd put their faith in him as the Messiah.
* The Chief Priest and Pharisees tried to arrest him to no avail.
* Jesus responds that the day will come when they will look for him but will not be able to find him. This is a reference to his ascension into heaven.
* On the last and greatest day of the festival Jesus stood and proclaimed in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me…rivers of living water will flow from within them.”
* Important because of where he was standing.
* Important because of when he was saying it.
* Important because of how he was saying it.
* Important because of what he was saying.
* Jesus was speaking of the Holy Spirit, who would later be given to all believers.
* The people were divided over who Jesus is. They still are today.
* The temple guards refused to arrest Jesus because they were so impressed with Jesus’ words and way of speaking.
* Nicodemus, from John 3, speaks up in defense of Jesus.
* Can a prophet come from Galilee?