

Last time (chapter 6):

- Jesus feeds 5,000+
- "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
- "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."
- many followers decide to reject Jesus

## Chapter 7

1. Jesus at the Feast of Booths (verses 1 - 24)
2. Can this be the Christ? (25 - 31)
3. Officers sent to arrest Jesus (32 - 36)
4. Rivers of living water (37 - 39)
5. Division among the people (40 - 52)

Briefly:

Jesus goes to a festival,  
says some controversial things,  
arouses interest and suspicion

(YouTube videos)

## themes/background:

- Feast of Booths: thanksgiving for God's provision to Israelites after leaving Egypt; eight days long; Sept./Oct.
- Jesus' revelations about himself cause confusion/controversy
- death threats and arrest attempts
- in middle of Feast, Jesus begins to teach openly
- Jesus is on God's time
- Jesus offers living water

Discuss in your groups:

1. What were some of the different views expressed about Jesus by people at the Feast?
2. Explain Jesus' argument in verses 22-23 about the Sabbath.
3. Verses 33-34: where is Jesus going? What does 34 mean?
4. What might the "rivers of living water" in verse 38 refer to?  
See also Isaiah 58:11.
5. Why did some people reject Jesus as Christ in verses 41-42?
6. Why didn't the officers arrest Jesus (verses 45-46)?

*(What were some of the different views expressed about Jesus by people at the Feast?)*

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verse 12: good man vs. leading people astray

verse 20: demon-possessed

verse 40: the Prophet

(as predicted by Moses in Deuteronomy 18:15)

vv. 26, 41: the Christ (Messiah/anointed one)  
e.g., Daniel 7:13-14

*<sup>13</sup> "I saw in the night visions,  
and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man..."*

Jesus is both the Christ and the Prophet;

the prophecies in Old Testament all refer to same person

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here in verses 22-23, Jesus points out:

- it is common to perform circumcision on the Sabbath;  
circumcision highly respected ritual (Genesis 17:10-14)
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- Sabbath does not forbid medical procedures or care for the sick
- to uphold Sabbath while ignoring needs of people is completely opposite of intent
- Mark 2:23-28 <sup>27</sup> *"The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."*

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back to the Father in heaven;

end of Jesus' life and earthly work were coming to a close

people could not follow because they were not dead yet

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as mentioned in verse 37: it is last day of the Feast;  
involved a water ritual

*"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.<sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"*

the Holy Spirit dwelling in believers would be like a well of life within them, springing up to meet their spiritual needs

<sup>39</sup> *Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, **for as yet the Spirit had not been given**, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

Does not mean that there was no work of the Holy Spirit in the world prior to Jesus' resurrection.

Genesis 1:2    *...And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters.*

Ezekiel 2:2    *And as he spoke to me, the **Spirit** entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.*

Micah 3:8    *But as for me, I am filled with power, with the **Spirit of the Lord**, and with justice and might...*

**John 7:39** refers to the full and powerful promise of the Holy Spirit, as in:

Ezekiel 36:26

*And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

Joel 2:28

*"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."*

Also: later in John 20:22 and Acts 2:1-13.

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prophecies said the Christ would be of the seed of  
David from Bethlehem (e.g., Micah 5:2);

people think Jesus was born in Galilee

in fact: Jesus was born in Bethlehem descended from David,  
but grew up in Galilee

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*<sup>46</sup> The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!"*

not from fear (of crowd, etc.),

but because: officers so impressed by Jesus' teachings;

shows amazing power of Jesus' words