

Rivers of Living Water

JOHN 7 • LESSON 9

To learn more about the **Feast of Booths**, check out **Leviticus 23:39-43**

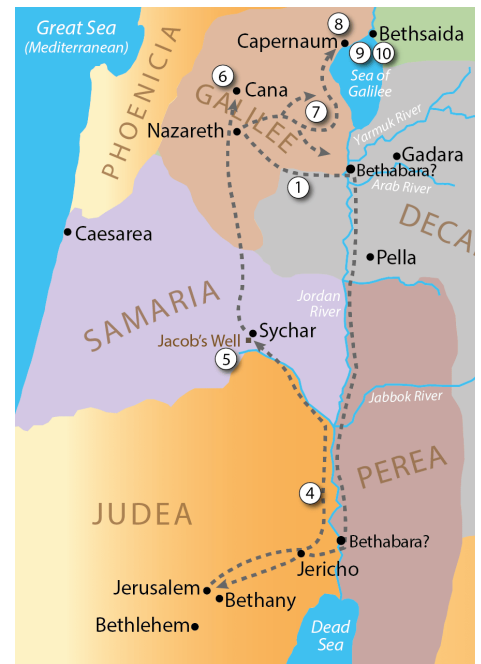
Now the Jews' Feast of _____ was at hand. (John 7:2)

In **John 7**, we're told that even Jesus' own brothers didn't believe in him. In fact, they sarcastically encourage him to go to Judea,

"for no one works in secret if he seeks to be _____ openly" (7:4). Jesus eventually makes his way to the feast in Jerusalem, but privately. During that special week, many of the Jews were looking for him, and there was widespread disagreement as to whether he was a good man or a misleader of the people.

In the middle of the feast, Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching.

The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?" So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not _____, but his who _____ me." (7:15-16)



Notice how Jesus consistently draws attention throughout **John 7** to the real Source of his teaching:

So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my _____ accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. I know him, for I come _____ him, and he sent me." (7:28-29)

Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am _____ to him who sent me. You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you _____ come." (7:33-34)

On the last day of the feast, Jesus stood up and cried out:

"If anyone _____, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his _____ will flow rivers of living water.'" 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. (7:37-39)

Who is this man? A deceiver, leading people astray? But what about the signs? Is he the Prophet? The Christ? But didn't the Scripture say that the Christ would come from Bethlehem? Even the officers sent to arrest him had to admit, "No one ever spoke _____ this man!" (7:46). Let's talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- This is the first time we are introduced to Jesus' brothers in John's Gospel. What can we know about them? [Mark 6:1-4](#) might be worth visiting here...
- Looking ahead, let's take a quick trip to [Acts 1:12-14](#). What changed? By this point, what do you think had changed the minds of Jesus' brothers?
- [John 7](#) is not the first time we hear Jesus saying something like "My time has not yet come" (see for instance [2:4](#)). So what do you think he meant in [7:6-8](#)? What did John mean in [7:30](#)?
- In your own words, what was Jesus saying in [7:15-16](#), [28-29](#), and [33-34](#) as he consistently drew attention to the real Source of his teaching?
- Notice the confusion in [7:25-27](#) and [40-43](#) about where Jesus had come from. What was this all about? Were they right to expect the Christ to come from Bethlehem? [Matthew 2:1-6](#) might be helpful here...
- Let's zero in on the last day of the feast. What should we make of what Jesus cried out in [7:37-38](#)? What are these "rivers of living water"? Briefly visiting [Proverbs 4:23](#), [Isaiah 58:11](#), and [John 4:13-14](#) might be helpful here...
- As the Pharisees continue to say ugly things about Jesus and those who believe in him ([7:45-49](#)), who speaks up in [7:50-51](#)? Where have we run across him already in John's Gospel?
- Remember John's mission statement: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ..." ([20:30-31](#)). How does [John 7:31](#) show us that the signs were doing exactly what the signs were intended to do?