

# The Fight at the Feast

John 7:1-24

John 7 describes what takes place before and during the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. Jesus presents his credentials as the Messiah. Some respond with disbelief. Some debate over the details. Many are divided in their opinion. The passage points out that *we should use our time wisely to verify the truth about Jesus.*

## The Opposition to the Messiah (1-13)

The events of chapter 7 occur approximately six months after chapter 6.

Opposition to Jesus had by now become so strong, particularly in Judea, that Jesus chose to stay and minister around Galilee (1).

The Feast of Tabernacles (2) was the most popular of three required Jewish feasts (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles). It commemorated the Israelites' sojourn in the wilderness.

Jesus' half-brothers advised him to go to the feast (3-5). They assumed Jesus wanted as large a following as possible. His brothers did not believe who he claimed to be.

Jesus was following the Father's timetable, not his or others' plans (6).

Jesus knew that opposition awaited him in Jerusalem (7).

Jesus encouraged his brothers to go now (8), but he would continue to wait and minister in Galilee (9).

Jesus was led by the Father to go up to Jerusalem after his brothers left (10). He did it quietly so as not to draw attention to himself.

The Jewish authorities were looking for Jesus (11).

Jesus was a controversial subject at the Feast (12-13). Many grumbled and debated about his identity.

## **The Authority of the Messiah (14-24)**

Toward the middle of the week, Jesus began to teach publicly in the temple (14).

People were amazed at Jesus' understanding of religious matters (15). They knew he did not have a formal education under one of the rabbis.

Jesus responded that he received his knowledge from God the Father who had sent him (16).

Jesus said you can know a person's teaching by whether they sought to do God's will (17).

A person advancing their own ideas will glorify themselves (18). Jesus sought to glorify God.

Jesus contrasted himself with his critics. They claimed to follow Moses but they did not carry out the Law (19).

The crowd thought Jesus was delusional and paranoid (20).

Jesus reminded them that they marveled when he healed the paralytic at Bethesda (21).

Moses prescribed circumcision for the physical well-being of the Israelites (22). The Jews performed this rite on the eighth day, even if it fell on the Sabbath.

Jesus pointed out that if care for one part of the body was permitted on the Sabbath, why not healing the whole body (23)?

Rather than judge on external, superficial criteria, we should judge on the basis of what is truly right (24).

At the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus presented his credentials. He followed God's timing ... taught what the Father gave him ... did the Father's will ... sought to glorify God ... exposed hypocrisy ... and explained the standards for righteous judgment.

Use your time wisely to verify the truth about Jesus.