

# Jesus Goes to the Festival

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #23)

John 7:1-13

- A. The opening words of John 7 suggest a growing hostility against Jesus
- B. Jesus first confrontation will be with his earthly brothers on how he works, i.e., his apparent strategy or lack of one

## THE FESTIVAL (7:1-2)

- A. There were three obligatory Festivals for all Jewish males: (cf. Deut. 16:16)
  - 1. In the spring, there was the Passover or Feast of Unleavened Bread (Pesach)
  - 2. In the summer, there was Pentecost or Festival of Weeks (Shavuot)
  - 3. In the fall, there was the Feast of Tabernacles or Festival of Booths (Sukkoth)
- B. Surprisingly, the Festival of Tabernacles is Israel's favorite and most joyous
  - 1. The festival involved constructing a "temporary" house, "tent" or "booth"
  - 2. They would eat and sleep in them for a week - remembering God's provision while they were in the wilderness
- C. John claims Jesus fulfills all the provisions of God for his people in the wilderness of this world - not just for forty years, but forever

## THE FEELING (7:3-5)

- A. Jesus' (four) brothers came together to give advice to Jesus
- B. This paragraph reeks with successism
  - 1. It sounds more like a call to Madison Avenue than Golgotha
  - 2. We want Jesus' mission to succeed; but it only "succeeds" if done God's way
  - 3. This may be good common sense; but it's Christian nonsense
- C. Maybe the brothers mean well but Jesus sees through it
  - 1. Many think they have a better way for the church to function than God
  - 2. God has a plan for the completion of his mission: prayer, discovering and using our spiritual gifts, evangelizing the Gospel, making disciples...

## THE FASTIDIOUSNESS (7:6-10)

- A. Jesus reminds his brothers he lives by his father's clock, not the world's
  - 1. The world loves the worldly; it distains those "losers"

- 2. By the world's definition, Jesus was not a winner in his time; nor can the church be in our time (cf. Matthew 16:26)

- B. Jesus came to bear witness to the Good News of God and the Bad News of the world
  - 1. The Church's faithful proclamation requires telling the world we desperately need salvation
  - 2. The foulness of the world is not only its immorality but its proud self-sufficiency, its belief we can even challenge God's standards, and its refusal to acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ
- C. Jesus knows Jerusalem will see his coming as a political statement
  - 1. Jesus knows his purpose is to become our Savior by dying on a cross
  - 2. While Jerusalem argues about messianic possibilities; Jesus wants everyone to know his life is a sacrificial offering for their sins...
- D. The world hates Jesus because he doesn't do what they want but obeys only what his Father says - and that's why the world hates us as well

## THE FEAR (7:11-13)

- A. There are differences of opinion about who Jesus is; he leaves us to choose
- B. What one thinks about Jesus determines how one responds to Jesus
  - 1. If you think he is a fool, you ignore him
  - 2. If you think he is a good person, you tolerate him
  - 3. If you think he is a deceiver, you try to silence him
  - 4. If you think he is a criminal, you beat him and nail him to a cross
  - 5. If you think he is Messiah, you worship and obey him
- C. Who do you think Jesus is? A lot hangs in the balance