

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus Arrives at the Feast of Tabernacles

Last time...the end of Jesus' Galilean ministry and the journey to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles via Samaria by Jesus and the 12

This time...Jesus arrives at the Feast of Tabernacles...and the controversy starts immediately
It is the 7th month...Sept/Oct
The harvest is in (PTL!) and the autumn weather is cool...as is His reception

We will be in John 7

There are 3 parties in the controversy that erupts afresh when Jesus arrives in Jerusalem

1. Jesus
2. the Jews: scribes and Pharisees hostile to Jesus
3. the people: common folk divided regarding Jesus

v11-12 the Jews sought...much murmuring among the people:

Jesus has not been in Jerusalem for 18 months, since the Feast of Passover
(John 5)

Which means...Jesus did not go to Jerusalem for either

- Feast of Tabernacles "last year" (a year ago)
- Feast of Passover "this year" (6 months ago)

because of what happened the last time He was in Jerusalem

John 5:1-10, 16-18

followed immediately by a "Sabbath teaching" away from Jerusalem

Matt 12:1-8

Mark 2:23-28 the sabbath was made for man and not man for the sabbath

Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath, the Lawgiver

Letter of the Law: man must keep the obligation of the Sabbath...

NO work of any kind, increasingly defined by rabbinic interpretations (which the Jews teach)

Spirit of the Law: the Sabbath was made for man...
to benefit and bless man

Jesus is greater than the Temple and greater than the Sabbath

The Feasts of the LORD are His appointment calendar,

the feasts are prophetic in nature...

He is the fulfillment of the feasts

So back at the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem...

1. The Jews (hostile scribes and Pharisees)

- are on the lookout for Jesus...not looking to fellowship with Him but looking for Him like a hunter searching his prey

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour

- “Where is that blaspheming Law-breaker from Nazareth?!!!”

2. The people (common folks)

- were grumbling about Jesus, a very controversial Figure
- Some: “He is a good man”
 - “supporters”
 - NOT “He is the Christ/Messiah” or “Son of God” (no longer, after the “fake news” campaign against Him by the liberal Jews)
 - merely, “He is a good man”
 - note: Jesus CANNOT be a good man if He claims to be the Jewish Messiah equal with God...but isn’t
- others: “No! He deceives the people.”
 - detractors who have been drinking the Kool-Aid of the Jews
 - Mark 7:1-13

3. Jesus

- is the center of controversy
- causes division (Matt 10:34...sharp 2-edged sword)

4. btw...the 12 disciples

- are taking all of this in
- eyewitnesses to the hostility of the Jews toward Jesus
- Jesus recently told them repeatedly “Matt 16:21”...

Because it has been 18 months since Jesus was in Jerusalem, the “seeking” of the Jews and the murmuring of the people were greatly heightened

A “Jesus Alert” is in effect
Hence, v6 and v8

v13 no man spake openly...fear of the Jews:

The divided people were murmuring/grumbling...

- speaking under their breath in hushed tones
- speaking behind closed doors

out of fear...of man

Fear is Satan's m.o.

John 9:22

The Lord tells us to "Fear not"

Matt 10:28 **fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

Faith is Jesus' m.o.

Ps 118:6 The LORD *is* on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

Murderous hatred and fear blanket Jerusalem...Satan's calling cards

What are the hatred and fear blanketing this nation?

Satan's calling cards

v14 about the midst of the feast:

Feast of Tabernacles was a 7 day feast unto the LORD (Lev 23:34)

About half-way thru...Day 3 or Day 4...Jesus suddenly arrives in Jerusalem

What did He do?

Went to the Temple (Herod's) to teach

The teaching is not recorded BUT God (Is 9:6) is teaching His people!

A very significant event, a fulfillment of the prophesy in Hag 2:1-9

The glory of the LORD filled

- Tabernacle (Ex 40)
- Solomon's (1st) Temple (1 Kings 8)...in 1004 BC

The glory of the LORD departed Solomon's (1st) Temple (Ezk 9-11)...
in 594 BC

Then Solomon's (1st) Temple was destroyed by Neb in 586 BC
70 years later, in 516 BC, Cyrus commissioned the Temple to be re-built
the 2nd Temple...Zerubbabel's, a work the prophet Haggai was
sent to encourage

Ezra 3

The altar was built
The returning remnant kept the Feast of Tabernacles
Yet the work to re-build the Temple halted because of...fear
So the Lord sent Haggai to encourage them to work...and they did
The Word of God had effect in their hearts
When the foundation was laid, the people rejoiced but the old men
who had seen Solomon's Temple wept bitterly

Hag 2:1-9

Then about 500 years later, in 19 BC, Herod "remodeled" the Temple,
which (Herod's, 3rd Temple) was a work in progress during Jesus'
ministry

The cleansing and the teaching of the "Desire of all nations" in the
(2nd remodeled) Temple is the fulfillment of Hag 2:1-9

2 Cor 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of
darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the
knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ

v15 The Jews marveled:

The hostile enemies of Jesus...children of the devil...marveled at Jesus' teaching

"How does this man know (so much) about letters (Scripture) but is not learned
(is not a graduate of the schools of the rabbis)?!"

where men taught what other men taught about what other men taught
where traditions were passed on...to their own harm (Mark 7:1-13)

Many a seminary is a factory of faith-destroying, pride enflaming "elitist"
Gnostic teaching

Disciples: better to learn at the feet of Jesus than in man's seminaries

Their attitude toward Jesus of Nazareth was, "Is this not the carpenter's son?

Is not his mother called Mary and his brethren...?" (Matt 13:54-58)

But in reality, Jesus is John 1:1, 14...the fulfillment of Is 7:14 and Is 9:6

Messianic prophesy was given so Israel would recognize the Messiah but...the
Jews did not recognize Who Jesus was, yet had to face the reality that

- no Rabbi ever taught like this man!
- Jesus taught as one having authority, not like the scribes

v16 My doctrine is not Mine:

The Jews marveled, the Jews insulted Jesus, Jesus answers the Jews
Jesus was sent by the Father, it was doing the will of the Father that energized
Jesus (John 4:32)

Deut 18:15-19

Therefore, The Prophet is teaching the very words/Truth of God
(not the words/opinions/traditions of men)

He is speaking on the Highest Authority
He is God's Ultimate Messenger to men
Heb 3:11 Apostle, High Priest of our profession of faith

Jesus continues speaking to the Jews by revealing the Source of His teaching

v17 do His will...know of the doctrine...God...myself:

God: "His" in v16 and v17

If any person does the will of God, he/she will know/understand God's doctrine...
because they believe

To believe is to obey/do is to understand/know
Ps 111:10 a good understanding have all they that do
his commandments

Matt 12:46-50
Know by doing...i.e. believing

And believers know that Jesus' teaching is straight from God, without human
interference or interpretation

Jesus teaches of God, not "of" Himself, as the rabbis did
1 Tim 2:5 one God, one mediator, the man Christ Jesus

v18 seeketh his own glory...His glory that sent Him:

The teacher that teaches what he personally thinks...speaks of himself...
does so for his own personal fame (the praises of men) and fortune

BUT He (Jesus) that seeks His Sender's (God's, His Father's) glory...
is true and righteous/acceptable/pleasing (Matt 3:17, Matt 17:5)...
because He (God) is true and righteous (Ps 107:8, 15, 21, 31)

John 12:42-44 Pharisees were seeking praises of men vs praise of God
Rom 2:28-29 Jew inwardly, not praise of men but of God

The obvious and painful contrast Jesus is drawing is to
the other teachers...rabbis
the other senders of those teachers...other rabbis
both of whom are neither true nor righteous

Unlike the Pharisees and scribes, Jesus is a Self-less, humble, faithful ambassador
of God...not a self-seeking glory hound

Having revealed the Source of His teaching
(and making a piercing comparison to the Jews),
Jesus reveals the heart of the Jews

v19 Moses...law...none of you keep...to kill Me:
The heart of the Jews was well-known, and exposed by Jesus:

1. hypocritical: have the Law (John 5:39a) but NONE of them keep the Law (as they professed and taught)...honored God with their lips but their hearts were far from Him

The last time Jesus was in Jerusalem, He spoke to the Jews
John 5:31-47

Not to mention the Truth spoken in the future by a Pharisee,
the son of a Pharisee (Rom 7:5-12...10th Cmd, coveting)

2. murderous: reject Moses they “so revere”, desiring to kill Jesus

In His mercy, the God of Israel is giving the Jews an opportunity to repent of their wickedness

Now, the people respond to Jesus’ revelation of hearts

v20 The people...You have a devil:
Which people?

The detractors in v12 who have been drinking the Kool-Aid of the Jews...
and who are probably being incited by the Jews at this very moment

The self-righteous, condemning, devil-like Jews...and their followers/disciples...
accuse Jesus of being in cahoots with the devil, doing and teaching by the power of the devil

v21 done one work...marvel:

The Jews are still infuriated by and festering about John 5...18 months ago
They have not forgotten, consumed with hatred for Him because of it
Just as the destroyer of life hates the Healer of life

So Jesus addresses that issue again...healing on the Sabbath

v22-23 Moses...circumcision...made a man every whit whole:

Moses gave the children of Israel the Law
But Who gave Moses the Law?
The Lawgiver, Who by nature is "above" the Law

Circumcision was the sign God gave to Abraham, the sign of His promise;
was to be done unto all males on the 8th day, per the Law (Lev 12:3)

Yet if the 8th day was to fall on the Sabbath, the priests "did work" by performing
the circumcision

If it is acceptable to "cut away flesh" on the Sabbath (given for the benefit of
man), then it is most certainly acceptable to make a man completely
healed on the Sabbath...as did the Lord of the Sabbath

man is the key consideration to God, not the Sabbath

2 Cor 3:6 the new testament, not of the letter, but of the spirit:
for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life

Therefore...

v24 judge not...but judge:

Righteous: pleasing and acceptable to God
God is righteous
Him Whom God sent (Jesus) is righteous
Jesus was sent to do righteous works and speak righteous words

John 5 was merciful

God delights in mercy (Micah 7:18)
God delighted in the healing on the Sabbath in John 5

So do not judge on the outward appearance (what man sees),
judge according to God's heart...as revealed by the Word of God

2 Cor 10:10 For *his* letters, say they, *are* weighty and powerful; but *his* bodily presence *is* weak, and *his* speech contemptible.
 2 Cor 10:12b they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.
 2 Cor 10:18 For not he that commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

Application

Hosea 6:6 I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God (His heart) more than burnt offerings

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God

to be like-minded, in one accord with God

Do not judge as flawed, self-righteous, legalistic man judges,
 according to what man sees and thinks
 judge as God says and teaches
 according to the heart of God

This is wisdom that is from above...

- pure
- peaceable
- gentle
- easy to be compliant
- full of mercy
- without partiality
- without hypocrisy

i.e. Christ-likeness