



Study 8 Leader notes: John 7:1-24

Main Point: Jesus and his teaching comes from God and therefore stands over us

Main Application: Do the will of God by coming under Jesus' teaching

Launch: When were you the subject of chatter? How did you respond?

Context: Jesus healed on the sabbath at the sheep gate to Jerusalem in chapter 5. Then Jesus goes back up north to galilee and feeds a crowd of 5000 people in chapter 6. This crowd wants to make Jesus King by force.

This study will be in two parts. We'll start by reading 7:1-9:

- 1) Last week the crowds wanted to make Jesus King. How has the tone changed?
Answer: Compared to the crowds in Galilee Jesus' brothers and the crowds in Jerusalem are much more uncertain or hostile about Jesus v5, 12
- 2) How does Jesus respond to this friction?
Purpose: to flesh out what Jesus means when he says that the world hates him because he testifies that its works are evil v7
 - a. What does this tell us about the world?
Answer: the world is opposed to Jesus v7
 - b. Why does Jesus refuse to go to the festival because his time has not yet come then?
Purpose: to see that Jesus expects opposition to build up leading to his death. Jesus knows the time of his death hasn't come, so he doesn't intend to go to Jerusalem, yet

Jesus goes secretly to Jerusalem and eventually starts teaching, perhaps in response to people's questions. Let's read 7:10-24:

3) What judgements are people making about Jesus in vv10-13?

Answer: that Jesus is a good man v12, while others say he deceives people v12

a. Why is there so much friction and judgement?

Purpose: to make the connection between this discourse and the healing of John 5 – people are divided over healing on the sabbath

b. Why won't people make their judgements public?

Answer: The people fear the leaders v13 (the Jewish religious leaders)

c. What is the basis that people are making their judgements on then?

Answer: The people won't say anything publicly because the leaders are the arbiters of truth

4) Why is Jesus and his teaching legitimate?

Answer: Jesus teaching is from God, who sent him v16

a. What is it mean for Jesus to be 'sent'? (especially in this conversation he is having with the people)

Purpose: to see that Jesus is not only 'sent' by God but that he is 'sent' in the ilk of the prophets of the past like Moses or Isaiah or Elijah etc. He is like the prophets who have been sent with God's words to bring those words to God's people

5) How does Jesus want people to judge him?

Answer: by the doing the will of God

a. What does it mean to do the will of God?

Answer: to live according to his word (the law) rather than living in fear of the leaders

b. Why aren't the people doing the will of God?

Answer: they're fearful of the Jewish leaders v13, and they can't even keep the law v19, which means they are sinners/lawbreakers. Their own hearts are corrupt

Apply:

1) Why do people in your life come to different conclusions about Jesus?

Purpose: to see that ultimately, we come to different conclusions because of sin. Specifically, some people reject Jesus' teaching because of their lifestyle or desire for freedom. Others want to use reason to judge Jesus. For others, Jesus grates with their tradition

a. When do Jesus' words make you uncomfortable?

*Answer: When my own life doesn't align with Jesus' teaching, or I want freedom
Method: Let people be as specific or general as they want. "Tell me more"*

b. How does this passage reshape us so that we submit to Jesus and his words?

Answer: Jesus wants me to lay down my own methods of judgement and my grasping for control over and against him

Pray

- Spend some time in pairs or triplets praying in response to the passage and application