

Chapter 7

Which school did you attend? Too Many Opinions About Jesus Confused over Christ?



Highlights

- Jesus arrives quietly at the feast
- Public debate grows louder
- Religious leaders grow more hostile
- Jesus offers living water openly
- Division deepens

The response of the majority can be characterized by three words

- disbelief,
- debate, and
- division

A. Before the Feast: Disbelief (7:1-10)

- His brothers did not yet believe in Him (v. 1-10)
- 'My time is not yet fully come.'
Jesus refused to let human pressure control divine timing. Public success without submission to God's timing -

B. Mid-Feast: Debate (7:11-36)

- My teaching is not my own (v. 11-52)
- How should we interpret the fact that many people look at that same evidence and find it unconvincing?
- Some said He is a prophet; others claimed He is a good man; yet others called Him a deceiver ...

People judged Jesus based on appearance, background, rumor, and expectations, rather than truth (7:24).

- What evidence or experience convinces us that Jesus truly was sent from God?
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C. End of the Feast: Invitation and Division (7:37-52)

- What was significant about Jesus' invitation in verses 37-39?
- **The Loudest Invitation at the Feast** - Jesus publicly stood and cried out
During the feast (*Sukkot*) water ceremony, Jesus said: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me..."
 - Jesus placed Himself where the feast symbol pointed.
 - Jesus was not merely commenting on the ceremony—He was declaring Himself its fulfillment (Isaiah 11:9; 12:2,3; 44:3; 58:11).

- 'Drink' the living water - means to come, believe, and receive.

- People's reaction: Some accepted Him, but the hierarchy rejected Him on pre-conceived assumptions – why?

- What about Nicodemus's witness?

"When men are wholly consecrated to the will of God... they find out that Christ's teaching is divine." (G. Campbell Morgan, cited in Wieserbe, *Be Alive*, p. 114, [2009])

Conclusion:

Many voices were speaking at the feast. Jesus did not compete by speaking louder—He spoke truth loudly but clearly.

Questions

- Why were people divided even when hearing the same Jesus?
- What keeps people today from clearly recognizing the truth?
- Why did Jesus choose the final day of the feast to speak publicly?
- What does Nicodemus teach us about slow courage?