



WEEK EIGHT HANDOUT – The Son Sent from God

BAND OF BROTHERS 2020

Key Verse: “...I came from Him, and He sent me.” – John 7:29 ESV

- **Feast of Booths**

- Held at end of the agricultural year
- Thanking God for the preceding years provisions and pray for the coming years provisions
- Held so the Jewish people would not forget the God who redeemed them from slavery once they entered the Promised land
- Primarily held to remember the wilderness journey from Egypt to Canaan when God made the Israelites live in Booths

*“On the fifteenth day of the seventh month and for seven days is the **Feast of Booths.**” – Leviticus 23:34*

*“You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites **shall dwell in booths**, that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt.” – Leviticus 23:42-43*

- **Jewish Leaders “Seeking” Jesus**

- Why?
 - They wanted to put him to death
 - This will be confirmed later

“Why do you seek to kill me?” – 7:19

- Rumors of who Jesus was were all over the map

“And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, ‘He is a good man,’ others said, ‘No, he is leading the people astray.’” – 7:12

- Regardless of what anyone thought, they knew they had to keep it to themselves
 - Nobody wanted to face the wrath of the Sanhedrin

“Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.” – 7:13

- **Jesus Teaches in the Temple**

- You would think Jesus would keep a low profile because of the Jewish leaders
- The people were astonished that Jesus knew so much
 - They thought he was an uneducated Galilean
 - He had no training
 - He was speaking with such insight and wisdom that it was difficult for them to understand

“How is it that that this man had learning, when he has never studied?” – 7:15

- Jesus reveals who sent him
 - This is where we get this week’s title
 - Throughout the book of John we see Jesus solely point to the Father who sent him
 - God sent Jesus. It’s plain and simple. He says it multiple times.

*“My teaching is not mine, but **his who sent me.**” – 7:16*

*“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will **of him who sent me.**” – John 6:38*

*“... I seek not my own will but the will of **him who sent me.**” – John 5:30*

- Pharisee’s Reaction
 - Claiming to be sent by God only added fuel to the fire
 - Jesus goes directly after the Pharisees in verses 17-18
 - The Pharisees prided themselves on “doing God’s will”
 - Jesus knew their hearts and their only interest was to increase their reputation
 - Jesus compares himself with the Pharisees
 - *“The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory” – **The Pharisees***
 - *“The one who seeks the glory of him **who sent him** is true, and in him there is no falsehood.” – **Jesus***
 - Jesus is revealing that these men were choosing to glorify themselves rather than God

“So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach.” – Matthew 23:3 NLT

- **Jesus reveals the Pharisees Plan**

- Jesus reveals to the people that he knew the Pharisees were trying to have him killed
- The crowd was confused because they had no idea the Sanhedrin wanted to kill Jesus
 - The crowd thought that Jesus had lost his mind

*“...**Why do you seek to kill me?** The crowd answered, ‘You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?’” – 7:19-20*

- Jesus skips right past these accusations and gets to the heart of the matter
 - Jesus was accused of violating the law by “working” on the Sabbath
 - Most likely refers back to healing the paralyzed man on the Sabbath in 5:15
 - Jesus turns the table around on them
 - If the Pharisees were free to “break” a law to keep another, why were they upset with Jesus?
 - Didn’t understand who Jesus was
 - They refused to accept Jesus as the Son of God so they couldn’t understand that he was doing the will of God
- The crowd begins to wonder why the powerful Sanhedrin has done nothing to silence Jesus
 - Some begin to wonder if the religious leaders believe that Jesus is actually the Messiah
 - This thought quickly leaves

*“...here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to Him! **Can it be that the authorities really know that his is the Christ?** But we know where this man comes from, and **when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from.**” – 7:26-27*

- This belief is ill-founded and in contradiction to scripture

*“**O Bethlehem...from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel...**” – Micah 5:2*

- Jesus skips past this and gets back to the heart of the matter again in verses 28 and 29
 - He says that he was sent by God, **IN THE TEMPLE**
 - Jesus knew where he was when he said this, and it was on purpose
 - Even further, he claims that the people in the Temple do not know God
 - Because they were ignorant of God, they were unable to recognize the Son of God
 - Like Nicodemus and the Samaritan Woman before them

- Throughout the Gospel of John we see the role Jesus plays in revealing his Heavenly Father

*“Whoever sees me **sees him who sent me.**” – John 12:45*

*“Whoever has seen me **has seen the Father.**” – John 14:9*

*“No one comes to the Father except through me. **If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.**” – John 14:6-7*

- **Adding Fuel to the Fire**

- Immediately the Pharisees sought to have Jesus arrested
- However, it was not the hour for Jesus to be turned over
 - John showing us that there was a divine timeline that God was not going to allow to be thwarted
- In the meantime more people began to believe that Jesus was the Messiah
 - They actually only believed because of his miracles, not because of genuine faith
 - This faith would not hold up and still won't hold up today
 - His crucifixion would be the deal-breaker for his former followers
 - They weren't expecting their Messiah to die

“Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, ‘When the Christ appears, will He do more signs than this man has done?’” – 7:31

- Jesus continues to speak cryptically
 - Says he is “going away”
 - Says he was sent by God again
 - The emphasis on this should be very clear, after all it is repeated numerous times

“I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me.” – 7:33

- The crowd in the Temple is still confused by what Jesus is saying
- They don't know where he is going or what he means by he is leaving

*“Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the **Dispersion** among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? What does he mean...” – 7:35-36*

- **Dispersion**
 - Described the Jews who scattered from Palestine and were living elsewhere in the
 - These Jews did not understand where Jesus was going, any more than they understood where he had come from
 - They thought the “Messiah” would not waste his time outside of Palestine
 - Ironically, the apostles would go to these areas to preach the gospel

- **Water Rite Ceremony**

- Seventh or eighth day
- High Priest would lead a procession from the Pool of Siloam to Temple
- Priest would fill Golden Ewer with water from the pool
- Carry water to the temple and pour into a silver basin which would run to the base of the alter
- People would chant Isaiah 55:1 and 12:3
- At the same time the priest was pouring water, another priest would pour in wine to a different basin
- The pouring of water represented God's provision of water in the wilderness and the pouring of wine represented God's bestowal of the Holy Spirit

"I will pour out my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants." – Isaiah 44:3

- Jesus stands up and cries out
 - The context gives massive significance
 - Rabbi's usually sat, but here Jesus is standing and crying out
 - There is intense emotion here
 - By doing this, Jesus is declaring the festival to be about himself
 - He takes the Isaiah 55:1 passage and says "THAT'S ME"
 - In saying these things, Jesus was linking himself to the promises in scripture of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit
 - It is through faith in Jesus that the promise of the outpouring of God's Spirit would come
- Jesus had been revealing throughout John that he was going to have to die so that eternal life could be made available
 - His death would be followed by his resurrection and ascension
 - When he ascended, the Holy Spirit would descend
 - John makes this clear for his readers

"Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." – 7:39

- The Jewish people and leaders had trouble understanding Jesus
 - This is why we see the emotions of Jesus coming out here
 - He wants them to understand
 - So much of what Jesus did and said contradicted what they believed to be true about the Messiah
 - They knew the Messiah was coming from Bethlehem, but were unaware that Jesus was born there
 - There was so much the Jewish leaders and people did not know that debate broke out amongst the crowd over Jesus

“So there was division among the people over him. Some wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.” – 7:43-44

- **Divine Timing**

- Again, John emphasizes the divine timing of God
- The Pharisees wanted Jesus arrested, but it was not yet his time
- Angers the Pharisees even more

“Have you also been deceived? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him?” – 7:46

- Nicodemus shows back up
 - We have new insight into Nicodemus from where we last left him
 - He was stunned and confused in John 3
 - He could not understand why his colleagues were so unwilling to give Jesus a fair trial
 - The Pharisees begin to turn on Nicodemus and accuse him of being nothing better than a lowly Galilean

- **True Colors Shine**

- The Pharisees said that the people should search the Scriptures and see that no prophet arises from Galilee
- This is False. Both Jonah and Nahum were prophets from Galilee
- The Pharisees were driven by blind hate and anger for Jesus because he did not fit their preconceived notions of the Messiah
 - Their pride and egos got in the way of them being able to see that they were face to face with the Son of Man who was sent by God

*“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet **you refuse to come to me that you may have life.**” – John 5:39-40*

- Jesus wants us to know who he is, what he came to do, and who it is who sent him. God, through His Word, through the Gospel of John, reveals this to us.
 - Do you believe him?

For Further Thought

- What does Jesus mean when he says, “My teaching is not mine”? What was he trying to get the people to understand?
- What is the importance of Jesus revealing the coming of the Spirit for believers today?
- In what ways, like the Pharisees, have we let our pride/egos get in the way of us seeing God?