

Reaction to the Incarnate Christ: A Private Display of Suspicion

John 7:1-13

October 16, 2022

1. The Feast of the Jews (1-2)

- a. Following His rejection by the multitudes and many superficial disciples, Jesus chose to spend His time in Galilee rather than Judea because the Jews sought to kill Him (1).
 - i. The Jews rejected Jesus because He didn't fit their selfish desires.
 - ii. The Jews sought to kill Him because He exposed their sinful condition.
- b. The setting of this story takes place just before the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles (2).
 - i. This feast occurred about 6 months after the feast of Passover.
 - ii. The Feast of Tabernacles lasted 7 days with a special assembly on the 8th day.
 - iii. This feast was to be celebrated every year (Deut. 16:16).
 - iv. Solomon's Temple was dedicated during this feast (1 Kings 8:2).
 - v. The Jews who returned to rebuild the temple made sure to celebrate this feast (Ezra 3).
 - vi. Ezra read the Word of God to the Jews during the Feast of Tabernacles (Nehemiah 8).
 - vii. It was celebrated 5 days after the Day of Atonement. The order of these 2 feasts is especially important; the atonement of Christ makes possible fellowship with Christ.

2. The Ridicule of Jesus by His Brothers (3-5)

- a. Jesus prophesied that a prophet is without honor in His own homeland (cf. 4:44).
- b. Their command is an obvious mockery of Jesus similar to the brothers of Joseph who mocked him as a dreamer (cf. Genesis 37:19).
- c. They are clearly implying that they believe that Jesus is simply putting on a show to gain the admiration of the masses; Jesus had indeed come to show Himself to the world, but not in the way that they could have possibly imagined.
- d. Jesus's brothers did not believe in Him; Though they shared the same mother, they did not share the same Father; while physically related, they shared no spiritual connection.

3. The Response of Jesus to His Brothers (6-9)

- a. Jesus makes it clear that the time for His public display to the world as Savior is yet to be fulfilled (6a).
- b. Jesus then distances Himself from them and their unbelief; they persisted in celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles while casting aside the One Who fulfills it (6b).
- c. Jesus willingly bears the shame and rejection of those He came to save (7).
 - i. Jesus's brothers and the world as a whole rejected Jesus because He exposed their evil nature.
 - ii. The reason people reject Jesus today is because He exposes their evil nature.
- d. Jesus separates Himself from His unbelieving brothers refusing to go up to the feast, because the time for His public revelation as the fulfillment of this feast was not yet come (8-9).
 - i. Jesus's separation is a rebuke of His brothers' unbelief.
 - ii. Jesus's separation is also a rebuke of the nation's unbelief.

4. The Reluctance toward Jesus because of the Jews (10-13)

- a. Jesus went to the feast secretly as a stranger, rather than the guest of honor (10).
 - i. Jesus is unrecognized today by the Jews who refuse to acknowledge Jesus as the fulfillment of OT prophecy.
 - ii. Jesus is unrecognized today by false "churches" who refuse to acknowledge Him as the fulfillment of the sacrificial system.
- b. The Jews sought Jesus to kill Him (11; cf. 7:1).
 - i. The Jews had a hostile intent (cf. 7:1).
 - ii. These Jews consisted of the Pharisees (7:32; 47-48) and members of the Sanhedrin (7:26, 32, 45, 48). This ruling class saw Jesus as a threat to their power and influence just as many false churches see Jesus as a threat.
- c. The common people cowered in fear of the Jews rather than publicly identify with Jesus (12-13).

- i. Some saw Him as a good man.
- ii. Others accused Him of being a deceiver.
- iii. Both were intimidated by the fear of the Jews, just as many today refuse to leave their false religions due to their fear of religious retaliation.

Conclusion:

1. How do you respond to a Jesus that exposes your evil nature? Before you can enjoy fellowship with Christ, you first must see your need for the atonement of Christ.
2. Are you willing to trust Jesus despite the rejection of family and religious leaders?
3. If you have trusted Jesus, are you willing to continue to identify with Jesus despite the ongoing rejection of family, religious leaders, and the world (cf. 15:19)?
4. Are you living like you believe that Jesus, the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles, dwells within you? Are you living like you say you believe?