

"HE DWELT AMONG US"

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN LESSON 8 Chapter 7

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

As we study **chapter 7** of the Gospel of John, we will be one third of the way through this wonderful book. God encourages us to be diligent students. The rewards are great. Each chapter we study carefully becomes ours in the sense that we understand and can apply the truth to our lives. This is exciting because as the Gospel of John becomes ours and we own its truths, a wonderful thing happens. It begins to own us! God's truth transforms us into His image.

DAY #1

Begin this day's study as you do every day, in prayer. "For it is **God** who works in you to will and to do of **His** good pleasure." **Philippians 2:13**

Read **John, chapter 7**. Now, read **John 7:1-18** once again and record the important facts and actions. Give a brief title to this section.

Title:

DAY #2

Can a person be neutral about Jesus? Many people would like to think they can. They don't want to submit to Him as Savior and Lord, but they don't really want to be thought of as against Christ. However, a decision must be made! Jesus said, "He who is not with Me is against Me." (**Luke 11:23**) Putting off the decision to follow Him is really a decision by default. At that point in time, those with supposedly no decision have decided not to follow Him.

Many new Christians are surprised that once they turn their life over to the Lord, they encounter some opposition. There will even be some family and friends who mock or belittle their faith.

- 1) Record the varied responses that Jesus Himself faced in the following verses of **John 7**.
 - A. **7:1**
 - B. **7:5**
 - C. **7:12**
 - D. **7:20**
 - E. **7:31**
 - F. **7:32**
 - G. **7:40**
 - H. **7:43**
- 2) Jesus clearly taught that the stand we make for Him will not be without cost. Read **Matthew 10:34-36**. Explain what Jesus meant and how it might apply to your life.
- 3) Read **John 7:3-5**. The half brothers of Jesus are mentioned. They were the sons of Mary and Joseph born after Jesus. In their unbelief and worldly thinking, they encouraged Him to advertise His works for personal recognition (to be known openly). The timing and goals of Jesus were not His own. He was committed to the Father's plan. In your own words, share what you learn as lessons for us today from these scriptures:

A. **John 5:19**

B. **John 6:38**

C. **John 7:7**

D. **John 7:16**

E. **John 7:18**

DAY #3

- 1) Read **John 7:14-18**. The people were surprised that even though Jesus was raised in a mere carpenter's home, His teaching was profound. He was teaching God's truth in the power of God. Record the humble occupations of the following people who were used powerfully by God.
 - A. Peter (**Matthew 4:18**)
 - B. Paul (**Acts 18:1-3**)
 - C. Matthew (**Matthew 9:9-10**)

- 2) Read **John 7:15-17**. Those questioning Jesus represented the most informed and educated in religion among the Jewish people. And yet, they did not recognize Jesus as being from God. They did not understand Him.
 - A. What appeared to be lacking that caused them to not understand the doctrine (teachings) of God?
 - B. How do you think a desire to do God's will help us understand God's Word? Prayerfully ponder this concept and share how it applies to your life.

Quote *"We learn more by five minutes' obedience than by ten years' study."*

Oswald Chambers (1874–1917)

- 3) When we have "the desire to do God's will," God rewards us in many ways. From the following passage, first of all explain how we can discover what God's will is (this is not complicated, it is often just a desire to please Him, and then doing whatever He sets before you). Then describe the benefits of surrender of our imperfect will to *His* perfect will. Make your responses personal if possible.

	God's Will	Rewards in My Life
<p>Colossians 1:8, 9 "For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;"</p>		

- 4) Through the entire Bible and the history of the Church, there are recorded accounts of people with unlikely backgrounds who became great vessels of God. Two features usually stand out as we read of such people. They were yielded to God and empowered by Him. Describe the things you learn from the following verses as they apply to you and the potential *you* have to be used.

A. Yielding to God: **Romans 12:1-2** "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*"

- B. Empowered by God: **Acts 1:8** *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

*Outside God's will there is no true success;
In God's will, no failure.*

DAY #4

Read **John 7:19-53**. Record the facts, actions, and characters which are important in this section. Write a brief title.

Title:

Day #5

The fact that Jesus healed on the Sabbath was one of the main issues that the religious leaders continued to dispute. They viewed this as breaking God's law.

- 1) From **John 7:19**, how many of Jesus' accusers always kept the law perfectly?
- 2) The Jewish leaders were "majoring in minors." Explain how Jesus viewed their priorities in **John 7:23-24** and **Matthew 23:23**.

- 3) Read **John 7:33-34** and **II Corinthians 6:2**. Explain what Jesus was telling the people then and what He wants people to know today about the need to respond while there is still time.

*****HISTORICAL BACKGROUND***** The Feast of Tabernacles was one of the three great Jewish feasts. It was a happy time of thanksgiving for the harvest. The people lived in outdoor booths made of tree branches for seven days. This was a reminder of the time they lived in temporary shelters as they traveled in the desert in their trek from Egypt to the promised land.

During the feast of the Tabernacles, the priests filled pitchers of water and poured them out on the alter. This symbolized the time when God caused water to flow out of the rock in the desert (**Exodus 17:5-6**). Jesus chose to use this symbolic action to paint a word picture to explain *spiritual water*.

- 4) "On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying,....." (**John 7:37-38**).
- A. What is the thirst Jesus refers to? (**vs. 37**)

 - B. Explain what, "Come to Me and drink" means to a thirsty soul. (**vs. 37**)

 - C. Explain the meaning to you personally of "from his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water." (**Vs. 38**)

 - D. In your own words, how would you explain **verses 37-38** to someone who did not yet know Christ?

Listen to the invitation from God given through Isaiah the prophet:

*“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
And you who have no money, come, buy and eat.
Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend money for what is not bread,
And your wages for what does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good,
And let your soul delight itself in abundance.” Isaiah 55:1-2*

DAY #6

Many of the religious leaders and people in the higher ranks seemed angry with and jealous of Jesus. But the common people often responded with eagerness.

1) Record what you discover in the following verses and what it means to you:

A. **Matthew 18:2-3** *“Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.’”*

B. **I Corinthians 1:26-27** *“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty”*

C. **Matthew 5:8** *“Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.”*

2) Read **John 7:50-53**. Once again, we meet Nicodemus, who came to Jesus by night in **chapter 3**. Summarize this last portion of **chapter 7** and share any thoughts and insights you have.

3) From this study of **John, chapter 7**, share three lessons, encouragements, warnings or blessings you desire to apply to your life. Pray that God will empower you and transform you.

A.

B.

C.

***“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.” Matthew 5:6***