

5. Two of Jesus' half-brothers became famous in their own right. His half-brother James was also known as "*James the Just*" and also "*Old Camel Knees*" because he was such a prayer warrior. What can we learn about James from **Gal. 2:9**? What book of the Bible did James write? What other half-brother of Jesus wrote a book in the Bible? Which book was it?

6. How did Jesus respond to the sarcasm and mocking of His brothers (**vv. 6-7**)? What can we learn about the timetable of Jesus' ministry from: **John 2:4; 7:6,8,30; 8:20; 12:23; 13:1; 17:1**? What major event would signify "*His time*" had arrived? Why did Jesus respond to His half-brothers, "*your time is always ready*?" How does **John 15:18-25** compliment **verse 7**? What truth can we learn about our own lives from **1 John 2:15-17** and **2 Tim. 3:12**?

7. What did Jesus tell His half-brothers to do in **verse 8**? How is the response Jesus gave to His half-brothers in **verse 8** similar to the response He gave to His mother in **John 2:4**? What can we learn from **Gal. 4:4** about the perfect timing of God? Did God keep this time? What kept Jesus from going up to Jerusalem at this time (**vs. 9**)? (See **John 5:16**)

Part II: Jesus quietly traveled to the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7:10-13)

1. Did Jesus go to the Feast of Tabernacles publicly or privately (**vs. 10**)? Why? From start to finish, Jesus was the talk of the festival that year. Who is John referring to in **verse 11** when he said, "*The Jews sought Him at the feast*?" (See Commentaries) Tension was high, especially among the religious leaders. Why were they looking for Jesus so intently?

2. According to C. S. Lewis, Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic, or He was Lord. What were some of the various opinions people had of Jesus (**vs. 12**)? How frightened were the Jewish people of their religious leaders (**vs. 13**)? Should this have been a red flag for them?

Part III: The authority of Jesus came from His Father in heaven (John 7:14-24)

1. When did Jesus finally go up to Jerusalem (**vs. 14**)? What did He do once He arrived at the temple? Note: This is the first time in John's gospel where we actually find Jesus teaching in the temple. What was the reaction of the people to this teaching (**vs. 15**)? Why? (See **Mark 1:22**) In essence the people were asking, "How does this Man have such great knowledge?"
2. The Jewish religious leaders assumed authority could only come from them through one of their rabbinical schools. Was this the case with the authority of Jesus? Note: "Doctrine" simply means "teaching." What was the source of Jesus' authority and teaching (**vs. 16**)? (See **John 8:26,40,46,47; 12:49,50**)
3. The Bible teaches that Jesus has two natures, He is "*vera homo, vera Deus*," meaning "truly man and truly God." Was Jesus omniscient (all knowing) in His human nature? (See **Mark 13:32-33**) Does Jesus have all the qualities of deity (omniscience; omnipotence; omnipresence) in His divine nature? (See **John 1:1-4**) Did Jesus have to learn and grow in wisdom and stature in His human nature? (See **Luke 2:51-52**)
4. What should people who want to follow Jesus know (**vs. 17**)? Who verified that Jesus really did speak the Word of God? (See **Luke 9:35**) What mark of a false teacher is revealed in **verse 18a**? What is another? (See **Matt. 7:15-20**) What does **verse 18b** teach us about the true prophet of God? What can we learn about the humility of Jesus from **Phil. 2:5-11**? Note: The God/Man is the same Jesus who quietly traveled to Jerusalem in the middle of the feast. If we are really seeking to do God's will, it will bless us when God gets all the glory!
5. What rebuke did Jesus give to the religious leaders in **verse 19**? What was the basis of that rebuke? What should have been the mark of the Jewish religious leaders? (See **Matt. 22:36-40**) How were their actions just the opposite to **Deut. 6:4 & Lev. 19:18b**?

6. How did the masses respond to the accusation from Jesus that the Jewish religious leaders desired to kill Him (**vs. 20**)? Was the crowd's response a new accusation for Jesus? (See **Matt. 10:25; 11:18-19; 12:24**) In essence the people were saying, *"You must be out of your mind – You are being led by a demon!"*
7. Jesus had to endure many false accusations over the course of His ministry, can you find eight of them in the Gospel of John? (See **John 5: 16, 18; 7:12, 47; 8:48; 9:16; John 10:20; 18:30**)
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8. What work (or miracle) did Jesus refer to in **verse 21**? (See **John 5:5-9**) Why was this miracle so offensive to the Jewish religious leaders? Why do you think Jesus turned the focus to circumcision in **verses 22 & 23**? (See **Gen. 17:10-12a; Lev. 12:1-3**) Were the Jews allowed to do this medical procedure on children if the 8th day fell on the Sabbath?
9. We find Jesus arguing from the lesser to the greater in **verse 23**. What was the essence of Jesus' argument? Did the religious leaders have a valid reason to murder Jesus? Why or why not? Are many religious people still guilty of playing religion today, keeping the letter of the law and not the spirit of the law? Have you ever been guilty of being legalistic?
10. What rebuke did Jesus issue to the religious leaders in **verse 24**? How do you think these proud men responded? What is the definition of the word *"righteous?"* (See Dictionary) What can we learn about righteousness and our spiritual state from **Rom. 3:10-12, 23**? What can we learn about the solution to our sin problem from **Rom. 3:24-26**?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Sometimes the hardest people to reach with the gospel are those closest to us.
- Jesus' own brothers did not believe in Him, they sarcastically mocked Him to go to the Feast.
- The Jewish religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus because He had healed an invalid man on the Sabbath Day at the Pool of Bethesda. (See **John 5:1-18**)
- Three times a year, all male Jews old enough, healthy enough, and close enough to Jerusalem were required to make the trip to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread; the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost); and the Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles) in the holy city.
- Jesus said His teachings were not His own, He taught as directed by His Father in heaven.
- The people said Jesus had a demon in Him because He claimed the Jews wanted to kill Him.
- Jesus argued from the lesser to the greater, if the medical procedure of circumcision was allowed on the Sabbath Day, surely healing a whole man should be as well.