



Metro Calvary – Roseville CA  
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# The Gospel of John

## Confrontation at the Convocation

### John 7:1-36

**Related Topics:** Holy Convocations; Feast of Tabernacles/Booths; Contempt for Jesus; Confusion Concerning Jesus; Unbelief Concerning Jesus; Polarization because of Jesus; Open Opposition to Jesus; The Authority of Jesus; The Origin of Jesus; Jesus: A rabbi without a rabbi; Not Judging By Appearances; Ignorance; Willful Ignorance

## CHAPTER 7

**<sup>1</sup>After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.**

**<sup>2</sup>Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand.**

In the Book of **Leviticus** God had designated mandatory gatherings of His people, Israel — He called them HOLY CONVOCATIONS. One of those Holy Convocations is called the Feast of Booths, or the Feast of Tabernacles.

*Leviticus 23:33-43 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>34</sup>“Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the Lord. <sup>35</sup>On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work. <sup>36</sup>For seven days you shall present food offerings to the Lord. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the Lord. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work. <sup>37</sup>“These are the appointed feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim as times of holy convocation, for presenting to the Lord food offerings, burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its proper day, <sup>38</sup>besides the Lord’s Sabbaths and besides your gifts and besides all your vow offerings and besides all your freewill offerings, which you give to the Lord....*

*<sup>40</sup>And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days. <sup>41</sup>You shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. <sup>42</sup>You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, <sup>43</sup>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: I am the Lord your God.”*

The Feast of Booths fell at the end of September and the beginning of October. It was one of three feasts of Israel that every adult male Jew — who lived within fifteen miles of Jerusalem — was **required** to attend.

The Feast of Booths, or Tabernacles, looked back to Israel’s journey through the wilderness, and looked forward to the promised kingdom of Messiah. I know you guys are Bible lovers, so here’s an interesting factoid: The Feast of Booths is the **ONLY** one of the feasts of Israel mentioned by name that is observed during the Millennial Rule of Jesus on the earth (**Zech. 14**).

Following the Feast of Trumpets and the solemn Day of Atonement, **the feast of Booths** was a festive time for the people. During the Feast of Booths the Jews lived in booths made of branches to remind them of God’s providential care of the nation for nearly forty years. The temple area was illumined by large candlesticks that reminded the people of the guiding pillar of fire; and each day the priests would carry water from the Pool of Siloam and pour it out from a golden vessel, reminding the Jews of the miraculous provision of water from the rock.

This **CONVOCATION** was a joyous time for the people — but it was a time of **CONFRONTATION** for Jesus. **This feast marked the beginning of open and militant opposition to Him and His ministry.**

There are some words that come to mind as we look at John’s record of this feast:

CONTEMPT — CONFUSION  
UNBELIEF — IGNORANCE  
POLARIZATION — OPPOSITION.

Let’s walk through our text!

**<sup>1</sup>After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. <sup>2</sup>Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. <sup>3</sup>So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. <sup>4</sup>For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup>For not even his brothers believed in him.**

Here we see the CONTEMPT that Jesus' own brothers had for Him. First we have to note that Jesus did have brothers! Some of you may have been raised Catholic like me. When we were little we were told that Mary, Jesus' mother, was a virgin when she conceived Jesus. THAT is true — The Bible declares she conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit — not by any man. But as a Catholic kid I was told that she remained a virgin — "ever virgin." Now when you're a little boy you think, "That's neat!" Now as a married man I find that deeply disturbing — Because no man minds marrying a virgin, but he is anticipating that at some point over the next 15, 20 years her status as virgin is going to change! They commonly explain this verse by saying that Joseph must have had other children from a previous marriage. The word "**brothers**" is the Greek, adelphoi, the plural of adelphos. The PREFIX a = denoting unity. The SUFFIX delphos = womb. LITERALLY — one born from same womb

**<sup>4</sup>If you do these things, show yourself to the world.**

**The Living Bible** gives a good sense of this: *You can't be famous when you hide like this! If you're so great, prove it to the world!* They are essentially saying — *"If You really do have all this miracle power — take Your stuff to the big leagues — go to Jerusalem and make Yourself really famous!"*

*"Muster a crowd, reveal Yourself as Messiah, and overcome the enemy."* **LISTEN CAREFULLY** — This suggestion — this strategy — came from unbelieving hearts and minds. Tragically, the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is listening to the strategies of unbelieving men and women — even paying them as consultants!

Back in **John 6** — Jesus had already turned down the crowd’s offer to make Him King. Celebrities might ride to success on the applause of the crowd, but Jesus would not! HUGE — The true servant of the Lord knows better.

**<sup>5</sup>For not even his brothers believed in him.**

If any of you have family members who don’t believe in Jesus — you’re in GREAT company! Jesus had that same problem!

**Before** His death and resurrection, the brothers of Jesus never believed in Jesus — were never supportive of His ministry. In fact, they thought Jesus was a lunatic!

*Mark 3:21 And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”*

**DON’T MISS THIS** — Here were men going up to a religious feast, yet rejecting their own Messiah! They were mechanically following religious tradition — and MISSED eternal truth. The publicans and sinners were rejoicing at His message, but His own half brothers were making fun of Him.

**That was before** His death and resurrection But as we noted last Sunday — The events of Easter change everything!

*Acts 1:14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.*

**<sup>6</sup>Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always here.**

Jesus was **completely submitted** to the will of the Father — that included God’s timing. **My time** refers to the cross. Jesus makes it clear throughout John’s Gospel that there was a specific TIME in regards to His suffering and death on the cross. Time and again in John’s Gospel Jesus uses the word *hour* to speak of the time of His arrest, crucifixion, and death, as ordained by God

**John 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1**

We see Jesus use the word *hour* it at the end of the Feast of Booths. (**John 7:30**)

**My time — Your time** — In both cases the word “time” is *kairos* in Greek. *It means time that is suitable, right, or opportune.*

For His brothers — who were not submitted to God's will — any time was fine! Jesus said — *You can come and go as you please. Me — The most powerful men in Israel want to kill Me — and I work for the Father and He has a **right time** — an appointed time — an exact hour for My death. Going with you guys to the Feast of Booths at THIS time is **not** on His time schedule.*

**Jesus was operating on a totally different clock from His brothers.  
Jesus was operating on His Father's clock.**

**HUGE POINT** — Jesus is our great example. Jesus is the PERFCT SERVANT. Jesus was submitted to the Father's WILL, the Father's WAYS (as opposed to His brother's advice about going to Jerusalem), and the Father's TIME. The Father's timing is just as important as His will.

**QUOTE:** Warren Wiersbe — *Live on **God's schedule** and you will always have **God's help**.*

**<sup>7</sup>The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.**

*The world doesn't hate you BECAUSE you think like the world — you act like the world. The world doesn't hate people that agree with it. But the world hates Me BECAUSE I testify that what it does is evil.*

Jesus says that the world hates Him because their modes and systems of conduct and thought are opposed to Him. It's not just some passive indifference or ambivalence. Jesus says that the world **hates** Him because He is the Truth Teller in a world of lies — BECAUSE He brings light into darkness — BECAUSE He confronts evil.

**<sup>8</sup>You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come.”**

Some compare this with **verse 10** (*He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret*) and conclude that they caught Jesus in a lie.

**QUOTE:** Arthur Schopenhauer (19<sup>th</sup> Century German philosopher —

*"Jesus Christ of set purpose did utter a falsehood."*

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to see that **verse 8** does not preclude Jesus from going to the feast at another time and in a different way.

**Verse 8** = *I'm not going in your time or in your way.*

**Verse 10** = *This is the right time and the right way for Me to go up.*

**QUOTE: ESV Study Bible** — The Greek present tense in **v. 8** can legitimately have the sense, "I am not now going," indicating that Jesus did not go up to the feast in the way the brothers suggested, for they wanted Jesus to manifest himself to his contemporaries for secular reasons. In fact, many of the oldest and best manuscripts have *oupō* (Gk. "not yet") rather than simply *ouk* (Gk. "not")

**<sup>9</sup>After saying this, he remained in Galilee.**

So BEFORE Jesus even gets to Jerusalem we see CONTEMPT and UNBELIEF — The contempt and unbelief of His own half-brothers, and the contempt (hatred) of the unbelieving world towards Jesus.

Now we see the scene at the Feast of Booths and in it see the CONFUSION and POLARIZATION of the people concerning Jesus.

**<sup>10</sup>But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private. <sup>11</sup>The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, "Where is he?" <sup>12</sup>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."**

Jesus is the GREAT DIVIDER! Look at **Verses 43-44**

***<sup>43</sup>So there was a division among the people over him. <sup>44</sup>Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.***

**LISTEN** to what one very godly old man had to say about Jesus.

***Luke 2:25-28; 34- 35** Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God . . . . . <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the **fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed** <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), **so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.**"*

Jesus divides people. Anyone who heard Him and knew Him couldn't remain neutral. POLARIZATION!

And CONFUSION —

**<sup>12</sup> ...While some said, "He is a good man,"**

True — but not entirely true! It was Napoleon who made the famous remark: "I know men, and Jesus Christ is more than a man." Jesus was indeed truly man of history — but He was God become man. When Jesus speaks it is not one man speaking to another! If Jesus was a mere man — we might argue about His commands. But He isn't merely man — so when He speaks it is God speaking to men — there is no arguing about His Word or His commands — we can only accepting them as Divine and submit! THAT is why so many are quick to brand Jesus as "a good man!" By relegating Jesus to mere humanity they put Jesus on the same level as themselves. From that position they can admire Him without having to surrender to Him.

Look down at **Verse 40**

**<sup>40</sup>When they heard these words, some of the people said, “This really is the Prophet.”**

True — but not entirely true! The prophet is one who **foretells** the will of God and **tells forth** the heart and mind of God towards man. That is true of Jesus — but there is this HUGE difference. The prophet says: "Thus saith the Lord." His authority is borrowed and delegated. His message is not his own. Jesus IS God who became man — and as God with us He says: "*I say unto you.*" Jesus speaks, not with a delegated authority, but with the authority that He possesses by virtue of His divine nature. Again — Many are willing to concede or confer upon Jesus the title of “prophet.” By doing so they place Jesus in the same category as Mohammed or other prominent religious men. Again — By doing so — they relegate to Jesus mere humanity. But Jesus never claimed to be merely a prophet. He claimed to be God incarnate. The great proof of His claims hinged upon His resurrection. IF Jesus is a prophet — BUT He is not risen from the grave — THEN He is a false prophet, as He predicted not only His crucifixion, but also His bodily resurrection three days after His death.

**Look at Verse 20**

**<sup>20</sup>The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?”**

Some had concluded that Jesus was a self-deluded, demon possessed guy! This is HUGE — Either Jesus is the **only** completely sane person in the world — or He was a raving lunatic, demonically driven to delusions of divinity. He chose a Cross when he could have been king.

*He was the Suffering Servant when he might have been the conquering king. He washed the feet of his disciples when he might have had men kneeling at his own feet. He came to serve when he could have subjected the world to servitude.*

(William Barclay)

Jesus turned the world's standards upside down — Jesus brought the sanity of God into a totally insane world!

**<sup>12</sup> .....others said, “No, he is leading the people astray.”**

The Jewish authorities saw Jesus as a seducer — as leading men away from Judaism. Without a doubt — there's no arguing the point — If we prefer our religious ideas or philosophies over and above the person, Jesus Christ, we will view Jesus as a seducer. One of the hardest things in the world for any man to do to admit that he is wrong — and Jesus says that HE is THE WAY. Jesus tells people to FOLLOW HIM! Jesus even set forth the costs and requirements of following Him! Jesus isn't asking us to choose His religious ideas over others — He is asking men and women to choose HIM over religion — over everything and anything!

SO HERE WE SEE JESUS — THE GREAT DIVIDER. People have decided — one way or another — regarding Jesus. **The same is true today!**

**QUOTE: J.C. Ryle** — .....*Christ is the cause of division among men, wherever He is preached. So long as the world stands, some, when they hear of Him, will love, and some will hate--some will believe, and some will believe not. That deep, prophetic saying of His will be continually verified--"Do not think that I am come to send peace on earth; I came not to send peace, but a sword."* (Matt. 10:34.)

**<sup>13</sup>Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.**

The Jewish leaders had not yet publicly declared what they had in their hearts towards Jesus. In their own hearts and minds they hated Jesus and wanted Jesus dead — but they had not to this point publically rendered their verdict. So — even though Jesus was THE TOPIC of conversation amongst the swarms of people in Jerusalem — they're speculating and they're dialoging about the person and worth of Jesus — they are not ready to come out and state their personal position concerning Jesus — because they didn't want to find themselves polarized from the religious power base of Israel.

People still do that today. They test the waters concerning Jesus and then they decide what they will openly say about Him. EXAMPLE —the night I got saved. The guy who was invited me to go to a movie with himself and the guy who ended up leading me to Jesus. He NEVER spoke openly about Jesus around the coach's office or on the field. While on the other hand he did speak openly about his sex life and he did drink and get high with me. But that night it was "Praise the Lord and thank you Jesus!" I looked at the

guy sharing Jesus with me and then looked at this other guy and thought — *When did this guy join the Jesus team?*

*Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.*

What a SNARE it had to be for him to believe in Jesus but never stand for Jesus for fear of what the other coaches would say — what the players would say.

When it comes to loving Jesus — Make your stand FOR and WITH Jesus. Don't WAIT to see where anyone else stands. And if it turns out that you are the polar opposite position to those who have social or political or economic influence — not to worry. Jesus said that we are BLESSED when we are persecuted for His Name's sake — for righteousness sake.