

"What Time Is It?"
The Gospel of John Chapter 7: 1- 30

Jesus is staying in Galilee because the Jewish religious leaders in Judea are seeking to kill Him. The Feast of Tabernacles, a great celebration commemorating God's deliverance of His people in the wilderness is approaching. The feast occurred in late September to early October at the end of the harvest. It was one of three feasts that all Jewish males were required to keep (Deut. 16:13-17). It was characterized by tent dwellings (tabernacles) made from leafy tree branches. The feast pointed to Christ, **the** tabernacle (dwelling place) of God ((Jhn. 1: 14; Col. 2:9; Rev. 21:3).

The half brothers of Jesus in the flesh who did not believe in Him urge Him to go to the Feast. Many, even believers, want to give God advice or tell Him what to do (Acts 10:9-16)! Jesus responds that His time had not yet fully come (Gal. 4:4). He always ran on His Father's timetable (verse 30). What time is it for believers? It is time to do the Father's will, which characterized the life of Christ (fun. 8:29; Rom. 13:11-14).

The world hates Me, Jesus states in verse seven. It also hates those who carry the name of Christ (Lk. 6:22; fun. 15:18-19, 16:2; 2Tim. 3:12; 1Jhn. 3:13). We are to be a testimony to those not knowing Christ, that their darkness would be exposed and they would come to the Light (Eph. 4:8-14).

Finally, Jesus goes to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast at the proper time. There He is openly teaching in the temple. The Jews are astounded at His learning. Though possessing no formal training in the rabbinical schools prominent in those days, Jesus knows the Father and the scriptures (Lk. 2:46-52, 4:16-21; 2Tim. 3:15). We must do likewise for ourselves and our children (2Tim. 2:15). Most importantly, we must have been with Jesus, as the Jews recognized about the apostles (Acts 4:13).

Jesus points out their hypocrisy in claiming to keep the Law of Moses. Their plot to kill Him was contrary to the Law (Ex. 20:13). He further contrasts their working on the Sabbath to fulfill the Law concerning circumcision with His own work of making a man completely well on the Sabbath day (Jhn. 5:8-10). We too must follow Jesus' charge (verse 24) to judge righteously and not according to appearance (Jms. 2: 1-9). Jesus again claims His divine origin and authority from the Father (verses 28-29). The Jews seek to take Him, but they cannot. His hour (Greek *hora*, time) had not yet come. Only the Father can deliver His Son (Rom. 8:32).