

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (John 7:1-31)

1. **Jesus waits for the timing that His Heavenly Father has ordained for Him even when his own brothers tell Him to do otherwise.**
As you consider your own life, have you ever faced pressure to do something outside of God's will/timing?
What was the situation and how did you respond:
in accordance with the Lord's desires & will or did the pressures lead you in another direction?
How can we learn from our Lord's response to His own brothers here?
2. **"The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil." - John 7:7**
As we look at Jesus' words to His own brothers here, we see that they are of the world (at this point in the narrative).
Jesus is hated, not because He lies to the world, but because He testifies to the truth that the world's works are evil.
Why do you think this truth results in hatred toward the Lord, and what might it mean for us as His followers?
(READ John 15:20 for Jesus' own words about how we should expect to be treated)
If we find people don't hate us as Christ's followers, should that be a concern for us?
Why or why not?
3. **We see early on that people are divided over what to do about Jesus?**
In verse 13 we see that it is the fear of man (those in authority) that prevents any of them from speaking openly about Jesus.
Is there any way that fear of man might be holding you back from sharing the love and hope of Jesus with somebody?
Have you had times where a fear of man has caused you to do something you shouldn't or not do something you should?
How can we prevent the fear of man from keeping us from doing what God has called us to do?
How about preventing the fear of man from causing us to do what God has commanded us not to do?
(READ Matthew 10:28 for Jesus' words about fear of man vs. fear of God).
4. **"Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment." - John 7:24**
Jesus makes this statement after rebuking the crowd
(for their allowance of circumcision on the sabbath, but rejection of His healing of a paralytic).
He makes it clear that ALL who desire to do God's will are going to receive His teaching because He teaches that of the Father.
What does this mean for us in our time?
What should we do if we struggle to accept something that is clearly taught in the Word of God?
What does it mean to accept Jesus' teaching here, and what does it reveal about us if we don't?
What does it mean to judge with "right judgment" - and how can we get ourselves aligned with "right judgment."
How can we keep ourselves from judging by appearances?
5. **Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.**
Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

- 1. Jesus only teaches & does what the Father wills!**
- 2. We also must judge rightly & not by appearances!**
- 3. All people MUST give a response to Jesus! One of two responses:**
 - 1. Accept Him as He truly is & submit accordingly*
 - 2. Reject Him ("indifference" is also rejection)*