

December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2024

Triumphant Tuesday and Wisdom Wednesday

Bible Study

John 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter

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**The Anticipated Messiah**

Jesus, ministry was anchored in the OT; every character of the OT points to the work that Jesus came to accomplish. The Messiah is revealed through out the Bible in various ways. Through the Old Testament, the New Testament was born. This gospel presents Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies and points to Jesus as the way of salvation.

It's believed that **John chapter 7**, is taking place during the time frame of 29 AD, around the harvest season during the fall, probably between September and October. The Feast of the Tabernacle also known as The Festival of Booths is celebrated during this time of year; therefore; John chapter 7 is focused around this celebration. It is at this feast where it's thought that Jesus will be arrested.

During ancient Israel, God commanded the celebration of Feast of Booths/Tabernacle, they celebrated by constructing and living in temporary housing built out of tree branches and other natural materials.

**Leviticus 23:40-42 NIV reads:**

***On the first day you are to take branches from rich palm trees, willow and other leafy trees-and rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. Celebrate this as a festival to the Lord for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month. Live in temporary shelters for seven days; All native-born Israelites are to live in such shelter.***



The festival served to remind the Israelites that God lovingly took care of them as they journeyed through the wilderness after leaving Egyptian bondage. **Psalms 120 thru 134** known as the Psalms of Ascent were likely sung, possibly in sequence, by the Hebrew pilgrims as they went up to Jerusalem to the great worship festivals. Jerusalem was the highest city in Palestine, and so all who traveled there spent much of their time ascending, the ascent was not only literal, it can also be viewed as a way of life lived upward toward God, the existence that advanced from one level to another in developing maturity in our Christian walk of faith in our Lord and savior Jesus Christ – Paul describes it as “the goal” (**Philippians 3:14 AMP**) ***“I press on toward the goal to win the (heavenly) prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Psalms of 113 thru 118*** were also recited, they were known as the Hallel Psalms (which means Praise God); one or two of the psalms were recited before the meal, and the rest afterwards.

This Feast of Booth/Tabernacle, in ancient Israel, was considered the greatest of them all. It was a time of great joy and thanksgiving before the Lord for his abundance of blessings.

Now, Apostle John wrote that Jesus, who was God, was willing to live in the temporary "tabernacle" (flesh as human) in order to die for our sins. **John 1:14 reads, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the, Father full of grace and truth."**

Apostle Paul wrote that we who receive the Holy Spirit become a temple or tabernacle for God to dwell in; this can be found in **1 Corinthians 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter and 2 Corinthians 6<sup>th</sup> chapter**. We do know that our fleshly tents will not last, but if these earthly dwellings become a temple of the Holy Ghost our corruptible become incorruptible, per the **15<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 Corinthians** beginning around the **53<sup>rd</sup> verse**.

The Feast of Tabernacle is continued in the NT, Jesus celebrated it and came close to being arrested in **John chapter 7**. The awaited Messiah is here. Jesus didn't make a way; Jesus is the way; **John 14:6, Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the, Father except through me.** As we will continue to see in **John chapter 7**.

We'll be looking at the NIV translation of John chapter 7; it has 53 verses, broken down as follows:

**The Disbelief 1-10**

**The Debate 11-36**

**The Division 37-52**

### **The Disbelief**

**7** After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want<sup>[a]</sup> to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him.<sup>2</sup> But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near,<sup>3</sup> Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do."<sup>4</sup> No one who wants to become a public figure act in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world."<sup>5</sup> For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore Jesus told them, "My time is not yet here; for you any time will do." <sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup> You go to the festival. I am not<sup>[b]</sup> going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come." <sup>9</sup> After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee.

<sup>10</sup> However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret.

As I stated earlier, the Feast of tabernacles/Booth is a festival commemorating the journey of Israel when they wandered in the desert for 40 years, living in tents under the guidance and protection of God – **Exodus 13:21 KJV, *And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.***

Religious figures, such as Jesus, would be expected to attend the festival. Jesus' brothers told him to go to the festival, so that his disciples there may see his works, go, show yourself to the world. His brothers didn't believe in him. Jesus shows the difference between himself and them, in two ways, #1. His time was set, so was not theirs. Jesus said, my time is not yet come, but your time is always ready #2. His life was sought, so was not theirs. Jesus denies the brothers his company when they went to the feast, because they were carnal and hypocritical. The brothers were thinking that Jesus, success depended on the world's attitude to Him, the brothers believed in the world rather than Jesus.

As Jesus obeyed His Father, He lived out the truth that God's timing is an important expression of His will. Something may be in God's will but not yet in His timing. **(Ecclesiastes 3:1) NIV, *"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens"***. This scripture tells me that, God has appointed times for specific events in our lives, and Jesus is so in tune with the Father, that He knows when to move and when to stand still; He knows to trust God's timing; He sees situations from God's viewpoint. Christ's intent was not simply to draw a crowd as the brothers

were thinking. Christ's goal was to explain the truth, **John 6:26-29 TPT states, "Let me make this very clear, you came looking for me because I fed you by a miracle, not because you believe in me. Why would you strive for food that is perishable and not be passionate to seek the food of eternal life, which never spoils? I, the Son of Man, am ready to give you what matters most, for God the Father has destined me for this purpose. The people replied, "So what should we do if we want to do God's work? Jesus answered. "The work you can do for God starts with believing in the One he has sent."**

Jesus has been keeping away to delay the inevitable conflict with the Jewish religious leaders; His time to be publicly proclaimed as Messiah is yet in the future, **(Romans 8:28), AMP, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.** Jesus' brothers did not face the spiritual hostility as He did. Jesus' life and ministry were focused on exposing the sin of the world, pointing to the need for a savior.

After the brothers left, Jesus discerns that he should go to the festival, not publicly but in secret.

**Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on him to guide you, and he will lead you in every decision you make. Become intimate with him in whatever you do, and he will lead you wherever you go. (Proverbs 3:5-6) TPT**

## The Debate

<sup>11</sup> Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, "Where is he?"

<sup>12</sup> Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man."

Others replied, "No, he deceives the people." <sup>13</sup> But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders.

<sup>14</sup> Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. <sup>15</sup> The Jews there were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?"

<sup>16</sup> Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. <sup>17</sup> Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. <sup>18</sup> Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. <sup>19</sup> Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"

<sup>20</sup> "You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill you?"

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. <sup>22</sup> Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup> Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man's whole body on the Sabbath? <sup>24</sup> Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly."

<sup>25</sup> At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? <sup>26</sup> Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? <sup>27</sup> But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from."

<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, <sup>29</sup> but I know him because I am from him and he sent me."

<sup>30</sup> At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. <sup>31</sup> Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, "When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?"

<sup>32</sup> The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

<sup>33</sup> Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me. <sup>34</sup> You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come."

<sup>35</sup> The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks? <sup>36</sup> What did he mean when he said, 'You will look for me, but you will not find me,' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?"

The public debate about Jesus involved three different groups of people; **first**, the Jewish leaders, who were attached to the temple ministry, which included the Pharisees and the chief priests, (most of whom were Sadducees) and scribes. All of these men differed in religious beliefs, but they agreed on one thing, their opposition to Jesus Christ and their determination to get rid of Him. The **second** group, "the people", this would be the festival crowd that had come to Jerusalem to worship. They wouldn't be influenced by the attitude of the religious leaders; they weren't up to date on the gossip that's currently in the city; they hadn't heard that Jesus was considered a law breaker by the officials. Finally, the **third** group was composed of the "Jews" who resided in Jerusalem, they would likely side with the religious leaders.

The Jerusalem authorities had great deal of power over the common people. The leaders couldn't do much to Jesus at this time, but they threatened anyone who might publicly support him. For showing support for Jesus, the punishment would be excommunication from the synagogue- and this is considered severe punishment.

But all were discussing the one topic, "Where is he, where is Jesus"? Risk or no risk, no one seemed able to get away from the topic. There was much arguing and heated differences of opinion. Some were against him and others stated that He is a good man, but whispering it below their breath.

To say that Jesus is a good man. Let's just take it home and say that Jesus is the God-Man. Throughout the gospels, Jesus declared His deity through His claims of authority. To show the world who He was, He performed deeds that only God could do.

He raised people from the dead (**Mark 5:41**) (**John 11:38**); He went throughout the cities and villages teaching and healing every kind of disease and sickness (**Matthew 9:35**); the blind receiving their sight, lame walking, lepers cleansed, deaf can hear again (**Matt 11:4-5**); performed miracles, turning water to wine, walking on water, calming the storm, feeding thousands of people, with five loaves of bread and 2 fish (**Matt 14<sup>th</sup> chapter**). To quote **John 21:25** in the **MSG**, it reads, ***"There are so many other things Jesus did. If they were all written down, each of them, one by one, I can't imagine a world big enough to hold such a library of books.*** Every one was talking about Jesus! But when it came time to speak up for him in public, no one said a word. All were afraid. Fear can restrain our witness. Although many people talk about Jesus within their little cycles, when it comes to making a public statement about their faith, there's silence. **Matthew 10:32 MSG**, states, ***"Stand up for me against world opinion and I'll stand up for you before my Father in heaven. If you turn tail and run, do you think I'll cover for you?"***

Jesus begun to teach in the Temple Courts, it was stated that He didn't have any authority to do so. Now the Jews were amazed at the learning of Jesus, especially since they viewed him as being uneducated, because, according to their standards, Jesus has never been formally taught about Jewish laws and scriptures. In the rural areas, most people could neither read nor write; in urban area a greater number of men could at least read inscriptions. Jewish boys were often taught how to read or recite Torah but were not taught to write. More advanced education, often in the mid-teens,



included writing (for scribes) and studying under a more advanced Torah teacher.

If they could have condemned Jesus on some false doctrine or wrong understanding of Scripture, they would have. Since they couldn't, they attacked the credentials of Jesus. Jesus didn't point to His credentials, but to His doctrine. It was as if He said, "I don't have a seminary degree, but judge Me by My doctrine. "If the Jewish leaders listened carefully to the doctrine of Jesus, they would know that it was all rooted in the OT Scriptures, and that it was from God.

Jesus didn't claim to be self-taught; He claimed to be God-taught.

Jesus has the authority to speak, because what he says comes directly from God. To make it plain to them, so that they could understand, he basically told them that His professor is The Lord.

***"God has given each of us a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen (1 Peter 4:10-11 NLT),***

All truth is God's truth, and God alone deserves the glory for what He has taught us. No teacher or preacher can take the credit for what only can come from God.

Jesus went on to speak boldly, announcing that the leaders wanted to kill Him, because, according to their standards, He had violated the Sabbath, Jesus healed a man on the sabbath, whom had been paralyzed for 38 years. Jesus stated to keep the law of Moses you circumcise on the sabbath, although that law states that no work should be done on the sabbath. According to the Torah, circumcision was to be performed eight days after birth of a boy (**Gen 17:9-14 and Lev 12:3**) to initiate him into God's

covenant people. Even if the eighth day after birth was a Sabbath, the circumcision will still be performed; therefore, the religious leaders allowed certain exceptions to Sabbath laws; but for them, this did not extend to healing on the Sabbath. So your exception allows the body to endure pain on the Sabbath but doesn't allow healing of the body on the Sabbath. This would make us say today "**REALLY**". Jesus contended that no act of mercy was to be delayed for the sake of the sabbath.

Jesus goes on to say in verse 24, "Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.

***So Jesus addressed them directly. "You always want to look spiritual in the eyes of others, but you have forgotten the eyes of God, which see what is inside you. The very things that you approve of and applaud are the things God despises. (Luke 16:15 TPT).***

Since the Lord knows every private thought that we have, it's useless to try to put on an outward show of righteousness, while at the same time we neglect judging sinful thoughts, such as pride, greed, lust, selfishness, gossiping, jealousies; we might impress our peers, but God is not impressed.

Jesus wasn't intimidated by the threats against Him, He spoke with such boldness that no one could make Him stop.

***"preach the word (as an official messenger); be ready when the time is right and even when it is not (keep your sense of urgency, whether the opportunity seems favorable or unfavorable, whether convenient or inconvenient, whether welcome or unwelcome); correct (those who err in doctrine or behavior), warn (those who sin), exhort and encourage (those who are growing toward spiritual maturity), with inexhaustible patience and (faithful) teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2 AMP)***

Many of the Jews believed the Messiah will suddenly appear, as if out of nowhere. It's thought that, this thinking came from **Malachi 3:1 MSG, *Look! I'm sending my messenger on ahead to clear the way for me.***

***Suddenly, out of the blue, the Leader you've been looking for will enter his Temple-yes, the Messenger of the Covenant, the one you've been waiting for. Look! He's on his way!" A Message from the mouth of God-of-the-Angel-Armies.*** Yes, they took this verse and ran with it. It's believed that it was this verse that they chose to think the Messiah would come out of nowhere to show Himself to Israel. (**Micah 5:2** which clearly predicts the Messiah's birthplace (Bethlehem). We know that John the Baptist was the Messenger, the forerunner, that is being spoken of in **Malachi 3:1. John 1:29 Look! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**

The leaders, don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah, or do they? Along with Jesus's established reputation for miracles, and His boldness of speaking God's word; it has created a crisis in the confidence of the religious leaders such as the Pharisees, who view themselves as being extremely accurate and detail oriented in all matters pertaining to the law of Moses, but their system of religion was more about outward appearances than of genuine faith. They separated themselves from the common people because they considered them religiously unclean. As far the Sadducees, they were the party of high priests, aristocratic families, and merchants-the wealthier of the population, they claimed social and economic position. From the perspective of the common people, there were three possibilities as to why the leaders hadn't stop Jesus: #1 the leaders are too weak to stop Jesus #2 they're too confused to do anything #3 they accept His claims. After the people hearing the debate between Jesus and the leaders, it causes them to openly question their spiritual leaders. This embarrassment fuels their determination to silence Jesus permanently.

Jesus stated; ***"I am with you for only a short time, he also stated, "You will look for me, but you will not find me and where I am going, you cannot come.*** Jesus was speaking of His upcoming ascension to heaven, but they didn't understand. They didn't ask a question for clarity directly from Jesus "what do you mean, what are you saying, ***(I am with you for only a short time..)***. In keeping with their consistent practice, they do not speak to Jesus in reply but "to themselves, that is, to one another. Which is what we do, when facing an uncertainty of some kind, we don't consult our

Father in heaven first but each other, we try to figure it out ourselves. The Lord said in **Jeremiah 33:3 NIV**, ***“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”***

Jesus told them that he was going to the one who sent him. He has come from God; he can only be going back to God again. But if they do not know who “the One who sent him” is, they cannot know where he is going. Due to the fact that they were Spiritually blind, they can only comprehend the natural. They only knew Him as the carpenter’s son.

In their case, ***“the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”***. (2 Cor 4:4 NIV)

## **The Division**

<sup>37</sup> On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.”<sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”<sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

<sup>40</sup> On hearing his words, some of the people said, “Surely this man is the Prophet.”

<sup>41</sup> Others said, “He is the Messiah.”

Still others asked, “How can the Messiah come from Galilee?”<sup>42</sup> Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?”<sup>43</sup> Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.<sup>44</sup> Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

<sup>45</sup> Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?”

<sup>46</sup> "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards replied.

<sup>47</sup> "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted. <sup>48</sup> "Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? <sup>49</sup> No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them."

<sup>50</sup> Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own numbers asked <sup>51</sup> "Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?"

<sup>52</sup> They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee."

<sup>53</sup> Then they all went home,

All through the days of the festival, the priest would bring water from the Pool of Siloam, carried in a golden pitcher and poured the water out onto the altar to remind everyone of the water *God provided for a thirsty Israel in the wilderness. This water was symbolic of the water Moses drew from the rock (Exodus 17:6)*



It seems that on the last greatest day of the feast, there was no pouring of water-only prayers for water- to remind them that they came into the Promised Land. It is thought that at this very moment is when Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "***Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and***

***drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."***

Surprised people looked and paused; they knew this man. Some had heard Him preach in the hills; others, in the city streets. The crowd had seen and heard this carpenter before. But, had they heard Him this intense? He stood and shouted. The traditional rabbinic teaching posture is sitting and speaking. But Jesus stood up and shouted out LOUD! Forget the clearing of the throat; Christ demanded their attention; He shouted because His time was short. This would be the last time He would speak to many of them before His crucifixion. In about another six months Jesus would be dragging a cross through the streets; He knew of this because He's in tuned with the Father. ***"The Father and I are one" (John 10:30)***

Jesus, said drink, which He's saying believe in me, he's saying accept me as your Lord and Savior, and receive the gift of salvation that only I can offer. Jesus is offering himself as a source of living water that can quench our deepest thirst.

**Verse 39** states, that the spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. Only after Jesus death and resurrection, followed by His ascension (His ascension into heaven was 40 days after His resurrection), after the ascension took place, the Holy Spirit indwell everyone who professes faith in Christ, (**Acts 2:1-13** and Ephesians **1:13-14**) also known as The Day of Pentecost.

On Day of Pentecost, He entered into a more intimate relationship with believers. **1 Cor 6:19 NLT, "Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself."** This is the Messiah's gift to His people; He baptizes with the Spirit (Matt 3:11). The "Spirit" here is identified with the "living water" that comes from the temple.

The people are asking, **"how can the Messiah come from Galilee?"**

Some are thinking maybe He is the Messiah? They knew this man to be the carpenter's son; therefore, they are thinking, he could not be the Messiah! They did not want to know Jesus as God in the flesh, they wanted a political leader, someone to become king and lead a revolt against the current establishment. Jesus had no intention of becoming an earthly king. His kingship was to be of a different order; he came into the world for an entirely different reason and that reason is to become the complete and final sacrifice for our sins. By His death and resurrection, He opened heaven's door for us-something He never could have done as an earthly king. He's the king of all creation. ***"He is the divine portrait, the true likeness of the invisible God, and the firstborn heir of all creation. For in him was created the universe of things, both in the heavenly realm and on the earth, all that is seen and all that is unseen. Every seat of power, realm of government, principality, and authority-it all exists through him and for his purpose!" (Colossians 1:15-16) TPT***

The rulers made many arguments against the claim of Jesus being the Messiah; they argued that the Messiah would have some mysterious origin and they pretended to know all about the origin of Christ, although they did not know; they insisted that no prophet could come out of Galilee, in their arrogance, they were totally wrong.

They decided that Jesus couldn't possibly be the Messiah because he was from Nazareth. He was born in Bethlehem (**Luke 2:1-7**) although He grew up in Nazareth. If they had looked more carefully, it's possible that they would not have jumped to the wrong conclusions, but, it's God's plan and in God's timing when things are to be revealed. When searching for God's truth, we should make sure that we look carefully and thoughtfully at the word with an open heart and mind. Don't jump to conclusions about anything before digging for the treasures that can be found in the Word of God.

The Romans ruled Israel, but they gave the Jewish religious leaders authority over minor civil and religious affairs. The religious leaders supervised their own Temple guards and gave the officers power to arrest



anyone causing a disturbance. When the guards returned without the expected prisoner, The religious leaders asked, "Why didn't you bring him in?"

They informed the leaders that, they could not find any reason to arrest Jesus, in fact, as they listened to him, they couldn't help being impressed by his words. When we've heard other speakers, even very good ones, they have absolutely no effect upon us; but listening to this man, our soul is stirred, we felt as if we could hardly endure the life which we are living and we are conscious that if we did not shut our ears against him and leave the sound of his voice, our fate would be like that of others-he would captivate us with his message and we would grow old sitting at his feet. For he could make us confess that we ought not to live as we do; therefore, we held our ears and torn ourselves away from him.

The Pharisees are losing ground, the Temple guards came back impressed by Jesus and one of their own Nicodemus (to avoid trouble with other Pharisees, Nicodemus came to Jesus at night (**John 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter**), it is the only time that a Pharisee is presented as positive in the presence of Jesus, it's possible that Nicodemus had been in some of the crowds that Jesus taught since that night he visited him. Nicodemus ask a question, as to defend Jesus, he makes a plea for due process, reminding them of the Jewish law that forbids condemning any accused person until they have had a chance to speak for and defend themselves. Nicodemus is mocked and his suggestion is ignored. Nicodemus is asked if he's from Galilee (this was meant to be an insult to Nicodemus); their view of Galilean isn't favorable, regional prejudices remained prominent in the area. Urban residents often looked down on rural peasants, this is what Galileans were viewed as, low class. Jerusalemites often viewed Galilean as backward. They're so blinded by their prejudices, pride and defensiveness, they refuse to except that any prophet could come from Galilee. They instructed Nicodemus to search the Scriptures and he would see that no prophet was from Galilee, this sounded like they knew what they were talking about, it was a bluff; if Nicodemus were to answer with the truth to their statement

of there not being any prophets from Galilee; he could have stated, yes, there were:

Jonah, Nahum, Hosea, Elijah and Elisha are prophets from Galilee.

In my conclusion: Jesus is Prophet, Priest and King-Jesus perfectly fills all three roles at the same time.

**Jesus as Prophet:** (Deuteronomy 18:15-18) (Acts 3:22-23) (Matt 13:57) (John 1:18) (John 7:16) (John 8:28) (Matt 24:1-4)

**Jesus as Priest:** (John 17:9 & 20) (Romans 8:34) (Hebrews 2:17 \* 4:14 \* 7:25 \* 9:11-12 \* 9:26-27 and 10:12)

**Jesus as King:** (Matt 2:2 \* 27:11) (Rev 19:16)

Jesus was King from the moment of His birth, but He was rejected by His people. In His first coming He did not come to establish the Davidic, messianic kingdom, which is what the Jews were expecting. **Verse 53** stated 5 words **“Then they all went home.”** As we'll in our individual homes alone or with our families; no longer sitting in the crowded sanctuary, Bible study whatever gathering. We need to keep in the forefront of our hearts and mind that our spiritual life will dry up if we don't continue to drink of the Word daily. We need to continue daily, to pray without ceasing and stay in His Word, obeying Him, remembering that it is the Walk, not the Talk. It is with urgency that we be about our Father in heaven business. Not our will but God's will be done.

**Resources:**

Cultural Background Study Bible

Chronological Life Application Study Bible

Warren W Wiersbe

The Jeremiah Study Bible

The Interpreter's Bible

Billy Graham Evangelistic

Reformation Study Bible