

022821 Growth Group Study

Is He Good?

John 7:1-24



Background: This Sunday we enter back into the amazing Gospel of John. Over the next five weeks, we will explore chapters 7 and 8, the very heart of the book. Hostility and conflict surrounding the identity of Jesus characterize almost every scene in these two chapters. The instant pot is building pressure. Who is he anyway? Is Jesus "a good man," meaning is he really connected to God, the source of all goodness (John 7:12)? Or is he an imposter? These two chapters invite us to decide for ourselves, and a lot hangs in the balance.

Sermon Text (ESV):

John 7:1-24

I. The Brother's Pressure (1-5)

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

II. Jesus' Response (6-10)

6 Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. 8 You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come." 9 After saying this, he remained in Galilee. 10 But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private.

III. The Crowd's Division (11-13)

11 The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, "Where is he?" 12 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." 13 Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.

IV. Jesus' Authority Questioned (14-18)

14 About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. 15 The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?" 16 So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. 17 If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. 18 The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.

V. Jesus' Actions Questioned (19-24)

19 "Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" 20 The crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?" 21 Jesus answered them, "I did one work, and you all marvel at it. 22 Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. 23 If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? 24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
 - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?

- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
 - Hostility and conflict towards Jesus will characterize chapters 7 and 8. How/where do we see hostility and conflict toward Jesus today? As a follower of Jesus, what are examples of productive vs. non-productive responses to this hostility and conflict?
 - Shawn taught about the difference between *Chronos*, or “clock time”, and *Kairos*, or “opportunity time”. Given this, do you still have any concerns about Jesus “not telling the truth” about his attendance at the feast? Do you have any examples of experiencing *Kairos* time this past year: a special moment fulfilled by God for a special purpose?
 - Many at the feast are muttering (grumbling) about Jesus based on His appearance at Passover 6 months earlier, while others say he is a good man. In what ways have you come and seen that the Lord is good? What character or attribute(s) of God have meant the most to you this past year?
 - In Scripture, Jesus speaks with the authority of God over creation, over the demonic, over sin, over death, over everything... Where do you need Jesus the most today to speak into your life with authority? Will you share this prayer request with your group?
 - As we follow Jesus, we are intended to reflect His goodness each and every day. Shawn described this as working with (vs. against) the grain in wood. What are ways at home, in the workplace, among your friends (and enemies) that you can “work with the grain”: work in the direction of God’s good purposes in this world?