

2009 #10 GOSPEL OF JOHN - JESUS AT THE FEAST

JOHN 7:1-24

This week was a historic week with the inauguration
Of our first black President Barak Obama
How many of you were able to watch the inauguration?
The swearing in using President Lincoln's Inaugural Bible.
Administered by Chief Justice John Roberts.
And the invocation from Pastor Rick Warren.

All week long you and I have seen history being made.
Celebrated with 10 official inaugural balls.
Performances from Aretha Franklin, Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder, Garth Brooks,
The Disney Channel "Kids Inaugural"
What is the estimated expense of the celebrations?
over 150 million to usher in a new era.

Washington DC experienced a tsunami in cash flow income over 700 million
From motels to food to feed 2-3 million people
Not wanting to miss this historic event.

Barack Obama has proven he knows how to run
a successful presidential campaign,
But now the world waits to see how he will meet
The challenge to lead the greatest country in the world.
In the midst of a deepening financial crisis,
Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Conflict in the Gaza strip,
Ongoing terrorist threats.
The skyrocketing unemployment,

But by far, the most difficult challenge he faces
Is to meet the inflated expectation of every American,
Who wants to hold him to his promise of change
To get something from the Government
As payback for each part in this history making.

It was God who placed in office President Obama and
he must use these first few months
To discover his own form of leadership that
Is not dictated by inflated expectation, nor by public opinion
Or by past histories, but by the stark realities of present life,

This is the same challenge every president has faced,
And it is the one in our scripture today that Jesus faced,
He was the greatest man who ever walked this earth.
The very Son of God.

I. JESUS OBEYED GOD.

Jesus has just calmed the storm,
dispelled the demons,

Healed the lepers,
 But he could not satisfy the crowds
 He could not satisfy his own brothers and sisters,
 Who wanted more of his miraculous bread and fish,
 And free clinics that mended bones and opened blind eyes.

²But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, ³Jesus' brothers said to him, "You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. ⁴No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." John 7:2-4

You would think that Jesus brothers would have been behind him,
 His most loyal supporters.
 But you can read the sarcasm behind these words,
 Their taunts of him as a public figure.

Jesus is experiencing what we too often experience,
 That the people closest to us are the hardest to please
 And they can wound us most grievously.

Have you ever been out of sorts with your brothers or sisters?
 Had a disagreement over family issues the farm, business or inheritance?
 And been cut to the quick.
 Abel faced Death from his disgruntled brother Cain.
 Joseph face slavery as he found himself thrown in to a pit, and sold to Egypt
 By his brothers..
 Jacob stole the family inheritance from Esau for a bowl of soup.

It's painful.
 We don't know what motivated Jesus brothers.
 Was it jealousy, resentments, or anger.
 The next verse gives us the clue it was unbelief.
⁵For even his own brothers did not believe in him. John 7:5

His brothers didn't believe he was the Son of God.
 And they were pushing Jesus to get out in the open.
 Show yourself if you are such a big man.
 Jesus faces the conflict that we too often face,
 Are we going to do it our family's way or God's way.
 How much easier would it have been to
 Have just gone along with the family to Jerusalem.

How often do we fall prey to doing something
 We may later regret,
 Because of public opinion. Or peer pressure.
 Because we just want to keep the peace in the family.
 They were unbelievers.

I wondered just how often does the unbelieving world
 Still try to give direction to the church
 Still try to dictate what we should be believing,

And teaching.

Sometimes church leaders are more interested in being open and inclusive than
In being truthful, and scripturally honest.

Satan is a deceiver.

John 10:10 says: The thief purpose is to steal, and kill, and destroy.

The first thing he tries to steal is your innocence.

Your purity

You willingness to be in line with scriptural authority.

Because if he can get you to discard the truth in one corner,

You loose its credibility in all.

Once that is gone,

He can then began to kill your spirit,

And destroy your life

We are in a spiritual war.

Satan has told Americans to believe that the
the first privilege we have is to take care of ourselves.

To maintain our own happiness.

Then we will be content.

But we are being deceived.

There is a story of a man who found himself in a position where every wish was immediately fulfilled. He wanted a house and there it was with servants at the door; he wanted a Cadillac, and there it was with a chauffeur. A successful career and there it was, He was elated at the beginning, but it soon began to go sour on him. He said to an attendant: I want to get out of this. I want to create something, to suffer something. I would rather be in hell than this. The attendant said: "Where do you think you are?"

Every new parent learns that giving a child
everything they want is not healthy.

Just because a child wants to play with a scissors,

Doesn't mean we give it to them.

We don't give our 10 year olds the keys to our car.

We don't allow underage drinking with teens.

**Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness is not our mission
or our goal as Christian Americans.**

Life liberty and the pursuit of Godliness is.

We must know what our calling and mission is from God.

The thief comes only to steal, and kill an destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

I. JESUS OBEYED GOD

II. JESUS FOLLOWED GOD'S TIMELINE

⁶Therefore Jesus told them, "The right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right. ⁷The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil. ⁸You go to the Feast. I am not yet^{F40} going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come." ⁹Having said this, he stayed in Galilee.

Jesus said two times: The right time has not yet come.

Do you know God's timeline for your life?
 Maybe God wants you to stay in school to get your education first
 Maybe God timeline means getting established,
 Growing in your self understanding before
 you get entangled with marriage and children.
 Maybe it means submitting to a small group for your Spiritual growth
 Because God has a mission and purpose for your life.

The world doesn't think that God has a timeline
 Psalmist does.

He says: When I was made in the secret place when I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalms 139:15-16

You don't have to play it by ear or chance.
 Feel like your lost and wondering.
 God has a plan for you in his word.
 You can discover it in His word.

But like Jesus let me say this
 That your timeline with Christ will go against the crowd.
 It may go against your family's wishes,
 It may go against the lifestyles of our day, your friends acceptance.

I am not asking you to do something that's easy.
 When you follow Christ.
 The opposite is true.
 Jesus said the world will hate you.
 You will be out of synch with its madness.
 You will be in opposition to its twisted lifestyles,
 You will rub against the grain of its language,
 Its self centeredness, its god hatefulness.

When we as Christians compromise God's truth.
 we don't excite the world envy,
 Or upset its civil rulers,
 Because we end up possessing the same spirit that the world holds.

Jesus said: I testify against it.

I bear witness against it.
 What in your total life bears witness against this world mania?

I have had a person leave this church because they she said
 that on Sunday morning when we preach from Gods word
 It makes her feel more sinful.

That is testimony to the truth of God's word
 Not to our preaching.
 Jesus was hated because he showed the depravity of the human nature.
 But he was loved because he also showed the grace of God that saves us from our sins.

II. JESUS FOLLOWED GOD TIMELINE

III. JESUS COMPLETED GOD'S PLAN

¹⁰However, after his brothers had left for the Feast, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. ¹⁴Not until halfway through the Feast did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach.

There is a time to be silent.

But there is a time to speak out.

We would do well to know when to do both.

Jesus greatest enemies were the Pharisees and leaders of the synagogue.

They were waiting to take his life vs 1

He goes now to speak directly to them to show them

How far Satan has deceived them.

He said-you are upset because I broke the law of the Sabbath

²¹Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all astonished.

He had cured the 38 year old paralyzed man who lay at the Bethesda's pool

Their anger over this breaking of Sabbath law

had blinded them to see how

they were willing to Break the 6th commandment

Thou shalt not kill

To stop healing people.

Jesus tries to warn them..

He said:

¹⁹Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"

But they were already deceived.

¹⁶Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me.

Then he gives them a way to test Gods word.

¹⁷If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

Literal translation is:

If any man is willing to do His (God's) will, he shall know. John 7:16-17

Jesus said you and I can prove God's word is true by obeying it.

This calls for more than just a taste test of truth.

But a commitment to a life of truth.

"I prayed for faith and thought that some day it would come down and strike me like lightning. But faith didn't seem to come. One day I read in Romans that "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." I had up to this time, closed my Bible and prayed for faith. Now I opened my Bible and began to study and faith has been growing ever since."- D.L. Moody

It works.

But the Pharisees had the scriptures and were the religious leaders but didn't get it.

The youth have a saying: You can't fix stupid.

But Jesus is saying "you can if you surrender to God."

E. Stanley Jones speaks about a young girl who came to the mission field with an experience of God that was real and contagious. But she slipped and backslid. She got her eyes on everything except Jesus. For 8 months she wandered amid her old fears, fears of the dark, fears of going places, fears of failure. Then came the moment when she knelt in a chapel before the picture of Christ and said very simply' "You've got me, Lord" An eight-month-long bondage was broken, and her fear dropped away. She arose the next day and said: "All day I have been throwing up windows and opening doors to let the fresh air and sunlight into the very musty and dingy home of my soul. I m' free again."

If that is what you see for your life,
Jesus said the secret is obedience to God's word.
Jesus demonstrated it for us.
He went to the feast on God's timeline not his brothers.

Many of you are here today because you want to believe God.
You want to follow his timeline for your life.
You want to stop looking back with regrets
You want to let go of the fear in your life.
And start living with the Joy of the Lord Jesus.
That why were here in worship.
To say: Lord you got me. I'm free again.

Let that be your prayer
As we bow our heads.