

2009 #11 GOSPEL OF JOHN – IS JESUS THE CHRIST

John 7:25-52

Last week Jesus shared with us that we are all under God's timeline.
We were born with a plan for our lives.
This week Jesus shows us that we are designed to live satisfied.

Adam and Eve were created in a world that completely satisfied them.
They were perfectly adapted to Eden
What happened?
Sin happened,
Now we have a world full of empty unsatisfied people.
Searching for meaning.

If we're a child we wish we were a teen
If we're a teen we wish we were an adult
If we're an adult we wish we were married.
If we're married we wish we had kids

Even our work isn't always satisfying.
Nobody jumps out of bed and says:
I'm going to work, I 'm going to work today.
That's for the movies.
Some of us feel like we were pushed into our work.
We went to law school because it was expected,
Or we became a doctor or nurse because it's the family profession.
We become a pastor because they only work one day a week.
And we are not satisfied.

We grab madly for things that actually poison us in this search for satisfaction
Drugs, alcohol, gambling, top that all off with sex,
And the shopper whose always looking for more.
and these demonic tools ultimately will kill us
And destroy everyone we love around us.

Now we do get a short sense of satisfaction when we can get even
Or revenge.

A young mother ran into the room where her 4 year old son was screaming and found his two-year-old sister pulling his hair. The mother gently released the child's grip and explained to the young boy. "She's just a baby, she doesn't understand that pulling hair hurts." The mother was barely out of the room when the little girl screamed. She rushed back and asked. "What happened?" The boy said: "Now she understands!"

The feast of Tabernacles was all about remembering a
Great thirst that was quenched in the wilderness,
when Moses struck the rock and water poured forth.
satisfying their thirst.

So every day at the Feast the priest would draw water
in a golden vessel from the Pool of Siloam

and carry it to the temple to be poured out.
remembering and rejoicing over Gods wonderful supply.

The people would celebrate the God who rescued them.
Because now they were not satisfied.
They were under the yoke of Roman occupation.
They were under the burden of Pharisaical laws.
They were struggling with the noose of poverty,
Looking for a messiah
That could satisfy them with water again.

So the news that Jesus might appear at the Feast
Brought on the debate.

I. IS THIS THE MESSIAH OR NOT?

At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? ²⁶Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Christ John 7:25-26

The first debate is centered on his character
Could this be the man who can satisfy us, heal us?

Vs. 12 He is a good man

Than other said

Vs.13 No, he deceives the people.

Can't be both.

Must be one or the other.

Then when Jesus began to teach.
The debate shifted to his doctrine.
Vs. 20 Did he teach the truth or was he **demon possessed?**
The human heart searches for truth.

Our Thursday's men's book study told the story of some dignitaries at a London banquet who were asked "If you could be someone else, who would you like to be?" Winston Churchill answered, he didn't hesitate. He just said: "If I could not be who I am, I would most like to be."-he looked at his wife and said; "Lady Churchill's second husband."
That old boy made some points that night.

We all like to be loved and affirmed.
character and doctrine go together.
The Jews were amazed that Jesus taught
without any approved rabbinical credentials.
How did this man get such learning without having studied? John 7:15
By whose authority did he teach?

Jesus simply taught with authority,
the scribes and Pharisees taught from Authorities.
What a difference there is.

It doesn't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep.

Jesus observed they were not sheep
They didn't know the shepherd.

Jesus said his doctrine came from the Father.

John 7:28

**Yes you think you know me and where I came from !GNB
but really, you do not.**

They didn't know him because they didn't know the Father.

The Pharisees and Scribes who should have known the scriptures
Could have sent the people straight to the truth,
But they didn't.

**He who sent me is however, is truthful. You did not know Him, but I know Him,
because I come from Him and He sent me." John 7:28-29**

He was now zeroing in on their pride.
The Jewish leaders prided themselves in knowing the true God.
The God of Israel.
But Jesus boldly asserts

**You do not know him, but I know him because I am from him and he sent me."
John 7:28-29**

Jesus knew God's plan
He knew God's purpose
And he was completely satisfied with his life.

You can't find that kind of satisfaction in the world.

You and I may be misunderstood when we live our Christian lives,
But believe me the Holy Spirit is still at work.
Even in that same crowd of disturbed unsatisfied Pharisees
was a man named Nicodemus
He began to be interested in Jesus.
He eventually professed faith in Christ.
And went on defending and standing up for Jesus.
And they Attacked Nicodemus.

Are you a lowly and despised Galilean too? John 7:72

Friend you and I may be completely out of sync with the world
And yet completely at peace with God.

II. THERE IS SATISFACTION IN CHRIST.

**31 Many from the crowd committed themselves in faith to him, saying, "Will the
Messiah, when he comes, provide better or more convincing evidence than this?"
John 7:31msg**

What happens is that the people who trusted in Christ
Began to share openly what they had experienced,
And the healing they had received.

When you and I become a Christian we can't keep it inside.
That's part of the proof of our faith.
But the rulers were upset.

**32 The Pharisees, alarmed at this seditious undertow going through the crowd,
teamed up with the high priests and sent their police to arrest him. John 7:32MSG**

ES Jones calls the Pharisees half baked.
 Strong on the side of the Law,
 Weak on the side of Love.—half baked
 Strong on receiving,
 But short on sharing.
 Strong in worship,
 Short on commitment.
 We all know people like that.
 Who push us off our template.
 In the Sunshine on Sunday and Shady deals all week long.

A few years ago Frankfort, Kentucky wanted to build a water fountain in a public square. The argument became heated in the legislature and at the governor's mansion a decision was made to ask three contractors to bid on the project. The first contractor was from Western Kentucky. When asked what his bid was he replied, "\$3,000." "\$1,000 for labor, \$1,000 for materials, and \$1,000 for me." The next contractor was from Eastern Kentucky. When asked to break down his bid he said: its "\$6,000. \$2,000 for labor, \$2,000 for materials, and \$2,000 for me." The last contractor was from Frankfort who usually got all of the bids for the capital. When asked to give his bid, he replied, "\$9,000." Then they asked him to break it down. He closed the doors and said, "\$3,000 for YOU, \$3,000 for me, and we give the bid to the guy from Western Kentucky!" Tim Carpenter, Sermon Illustrations

Friends we are living in a world of
 Christians without a Christ-like mindset.
 On Sunday : Yes, God's will is for me.
 But weekdays its: Everybody is doing it.

The danger of letting this confusion go on is
 We loose our way.
 We move from truth-- to living for acceptance.
 From serving God-- to serving self.
 Lust takes over and begins to be spelled LUST
 And self left to its pride-- finds death.

The sad thing is even at this stage,
 When someone shows us our error or need
 We move to get rid of them.

The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him. John 7:32

But it was Jesus who arrested them.

Finally the Temple guards

"Went back to the chief preist and Pharisees, who ask them. "Why didn't you bring him in?" John 7:45

They said: No one ever spoke the way this man does. John 7:46

Can we fault these guards for not doing their job?
 These guards were thirsty too.
 They were empty,
 Unsatisfied with their lives.

Smarter than the Pharisees and scribes
 Because if Jesus was their only chance
 They didn't want to miss it.

Then Jesus moved to tell them the key

III. KEY TO SATISFYING LIFE

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” John 7:37

The Feast of Tabernacles was about to close
 And on this special seventh day,
 The Priests would march seven times
 Around the altar chanting Psalm 118:25
Oh Lord, save us. O Lord, grant us success

This would be the last time they would draw the water from the pool and pour out.
 When it was being done Jesus cried out

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” John 7:37

Gatorade may be the “thirst aid for that deep down body thirst.”
 ”Christ is the thirst aid for the deep down soul thirst.”
 The wounded soul when we drink from him,
 Finds the balm of Gilead.
 That is the key.
 Jesus is the living water.
 And when we drink from Him,
 Out of our lives will flow rivers of living water.
 The satisfied life is found in what comes out of our lives.

Growing up on the farm,
 I always liked to go down to our river bottom and
 Walk along the river.
 It was always full of life.
 Squirrels, and rabbits.
 Carp and gars
 Ducks and turtles.
 Beaver, and deer.
 It was always a surprise what you would see.
 We would irrigate our crops out of those waters.

Rivers don't keep the status quo.
 The river keeps things alive,
 But the rivers change things!

Every 6 years the James River would flood our bottom land
 And it would clean out the old dead trees.
 It would change its course.
 Cut directly across our land with 6 foot of water
 But it was bringing progress,
 Nutrients that enriched the soil.

And water to satisfy the thirst of the land.
 Rivers always push us forward.
 To rebuild a new and different soil.
 By giving its precious water
 Next year would be a bumper crop.

We become rivers of life
 When we give of ourselves to others.
 A surgeon's joy comes when bones are set and hips are mended.
 A teacher's joy comes when minds are taught, and character is developed.
 A coach's joy come when disciplines are applied, and lives are equipped.
 A parent's joy comes when children are independent, and families are secure.
 A Christians joy come when lives are saved, and souls are mature in Christ
Our of our hearts will flow rivers of living water.

We are so changed that when we tell others of the sins
 From which we have been saved,
 They wonder not at our sins, but at our Savior, our redemer.
 There are no skeletons in the Christian's closet
 We have been set free and satisfied in the blood of the lamb.
 Because we are made whole.

O, Today friends isn't that why we're here.
 To find the true satisfaction in life
 Christ's body was broken for us,
 His blood was shed for us.
 That we might be able to come to the cross today
 Kneel before our maker,
 Take of the Body and blood of Christ
 And claim the living water of complete satisfaction.
 Rivers can't be held back!
 And neither can we under the power of the Holy Spirit.

LET US PRAY:

Father God, I thank you that when we belong to you, our hearts are filled,
 And then everything belongs to us, even our past. Let our hearts overflow with the river
 of living Waters. I pray in Jesus Name. Amen.