

# John 7:1-31

Jesus has just gone from having a following of many thousand people to only 12. Where does his ministry go from here? Will he be put-off by such a large falling away? Will he change the tone of his ministry? After preaching the most unpopular sermon in his short career, what will the Logos do?

John reminds us in 7:1 that the hostility towards Jesus by the Jews was continuing. They were not about to write Jesus off merely because his following had decreased to only 12 followers. They were still intent on putting him to death.

Jesus' brothers urge him to "go public" once more to recruit more disciples. What do you think their motivation was? Why did they want Jesus to go public? (Note 7:5 that not even they believed in him and Jesus' reply that his time had not yet come.)

7:12 makes it clear that people had different opinions about Jesus. The same can be said today. What are some opinions that people today have about Jesus?

Notice that the Jews, when they look at Jesus' teaching objectively, remark that he speaks like a very learned man. (They do not know who he is when he is teaching them.) By their own admission (although unknowingly), they claim that Jesus is a "good man" and not "leading the people astray."

It is only after Jesus claims that his teaching is from the one who sent him that the people get upset at him, claiming he has a demon.

The miracle that Jesus is talking about is the healing of the man on the Sabbath. Jesus makes the point that circumcision is allowed on the Sabbath. If circumcision is allowed as a rite of purification, how much more should the healing of the whole person be allowed on the Sabbath! (If a little healing (circumcision) is good, more must be better (the healing of the paralyzed man).)

The crowd notices that the Jews, who were seeking to kill Jesus, do not act when Jesus is revealed to them in the middle of the crowded temple court area. Why do you think the Jews did not try to kill Jesus when he taught in the middle of the temple?

In 7:27, the crowd says that they know where Jesus is from. Are they right? (Notice what Jesus says to them in 7:28-29.)

Why was the crowd unable to arrest Jesus or to lay a hand on him? (See 7:6 for extra help.)

What is it about Jesus that makes some people believe that he is the Christ? (See 7:31.)

What are the signs Jesus has done up to this point?

Notice that at the end of this passage the opinions about Jesus are sharply divided. There are those who are seeking to arrest him and those who believe in him. At the end of this passage, we see Jesus' popularity on the rise again. He again has more than 12 people who are following him.