

Studies in the Life of Christ

NT Survey Lesson 23--John 7

Introduction: In this chapter the threat of death becomes a clear reality for the Lord. Surrounded by hostility among his family as well as from the Jews, the Lord planned His movements carefully with a view to God's own plan for His death. However, Jesus did not shun to boldly declare God's will to the very ones who sought His death.

Lesson aim: To show Jesus' boldness in the face of opposition.

The brothers chide Jesus--John 7:1-13

1. What did Jesus' brothers urge Him to do? What attitude prompted their chiding statements?
2. How might we explain their unbelief? Did they remain in this condition? Why or why not?
3. What was Jesus' answer to their urgings?
4. Describe the thinking of the multitudes toward Jesus at this point in time.

Jesus defends his conduct--John 7:14-24

1. What did the Jews observe about Jesus' knowledge? Where did Jesus get His knowledge or teaching?
2. What attitude did Jesus say one must have to know whether one speaks the truth or not?
3. How does a true teacher and false teacher differ?
4. How did the enemies of Jesus prove that they really did not want to do the will of the Father?
5. What event primarily seems to have triggered their opposition to Jesus? How did Jesus justify His conduct on that occasion?
6. What kind of judgment did Jesus prohibit? Encourage?

Mixed reactions to Jesus' teaching--John 7:25-53

1. Describe the confusion of many in Jerusalem because of the actions of the Pharisees and because of misconceptions about the coming of the Christ.
2. How did Jesus answer their misconceptions about knowing from where He came? Who did Jesus say they did not know?
3. What conclusion had many reached about Jesus based on the signs He performed? How did the Pharisees react?
4. What warning did Jesus issue about His presence among men? Where did Jesus plan to go?
5. It is said that at the Feast of Tabernacles great libations of water were poured out in religious ritual. What appeal did Jesus make? Of what was Jesus speaking?
6. Describe the differing conclusions people were reaching about Jesus and why they reached them.
7. What did the temple officers testify about Jesus? How did the Pharisees seek to intimidate the officers into submission to their views?
8. Who at this point came to Jesus' defense? Was he ridiculed for doing so? What key prejudicial point clinched the argument that Jesus was not the Christ?