

Sermon Outline

The Gospel According to John, Part 13 (John 7:1-31)

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Main Idea: This week Kevin continues our series in the Gospel of John. In today's sermon, we look at "Jesus Among Skeptics" and the growing opposition towards the Savior. While the tenor of the passage is confrontational and will lead ultimately to the Cross, "many people" continue to believe in Jesus.

Sermon Outline:

1. The world is skeptical of Jesus because he confronts evil (v 1-13)
2. The self-righteous are skeptical of Jesus because he confronts their hypocrisy (v 14-34)
3. How Jesus responds to unbelief
 - a. Jesus doesn't dismiss unbelief, he addresses it
 - b. Jesus speaks to the heart of unbelief, not just the intellect

Key Text/Quotes:

"Jesus said to them, 'My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. You go up to the feast, I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come.' After saying this, he remained in Galilee." John 7:6-9

"What Jesus is saying here in John 7 is that the reason many people reject him—even hate him—is that the moral order he's seeking to restore goes against the things they do. To some degree, that's true for all of us. Someone once asked how he dealt with all the contradictions in the Bible. He answered, 'My greatest struggle with the Bible is not that it contradicts itself, but that it contradicts me.'" Kevin

Fellowship Starters:

1. Read John 7:1-31 and open in prayer.
2. Take some time to share reflections on how Jesus "confronted" you when he led you to the point of confessing your sins, believing in him, and receiving forgiveness and life in his name. Can you identify specific areas in which you were previously "opposed" to God and his righteousness, even hating him for it, but now embrace God's commands and Christ's sacrifice on our behalf? Glory to God!
3. What does "self-righteous hypocrisy" look like in followers of Jesus? What are some common actions or attitudes among Christians that would seem more fitting for Pharisees?
4. The word "unbelief" can be confusing for some Christians. A true believer will never and can never "not believe." But certainly, our hearts and minds can "doubt" truths that are clearly taught in Scripture. Do you think that's OK? Take some time to discuss your answers. Along the way, share examples of how you have used Scripture to overcome doubts and fortify your faith.
5. Close your time in prayer together.

