

09

JOHN 7:14-31, 37-46

SENT BY THE FATHER



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

In the Gospel of John, it seems Jesus can't stop talking about water. Today we'll read about a time when Jesus attended a religious celebration (one that remembered a long-ago season of physical thirst) and was surrounded by people who were spiritually thirsty. They were utterly parched by their own unbelief. Through His sharp teaching—and even some shouting—Jesus invited them to look to the only One who could satisfy their thirsty souls. Yet, over and over again, the people who best knew God's Word struggled to see that it was God's Word made flesh who stood before them, inviting them to drink.



CENTRAL **truth**

Jesus was sent by the Father to save and satisfy the spiritually thirsty.



EXPLORE

scripture

JOHN 7:14-31,37-46

JOHN 7:14-24

14 When the festival was already half over, Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. 15 Then the Jews were amazed and said, "How is this man so learned, since he hasn't been trained?" 16 Jesus answered them, "My teaching isn't mine but is from the one who sent me. 17 If anyone wants to do his will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. 18 The one who speaks on his own seeks his own glory; but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is true, and there is no unrighteousness in him. 19 Didn't Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are

you trying to kill me?" 20 "You have a demon!" the crowd responded. "Who is trying to kill you?" 21 "I performed one work, and you are all amazed," Jesus answered. 22 "This is why Moses has given you circumcision — not that it comes from Moses but from the fathers — and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. 23 If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses won't be broken, are you angry at me because I made a man entirely well on the Sabbath? 24 Stop judging according to outward appearances; rather judge according to righteous judgment."

JOHN 7:25-31

25 Some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill? 26 Yet, look, he's speaking publicly and they're saying nothing to him. Can it be true that the authorities know he is the Messiah? 27 But we know where this man is from. When the Messiah comes, nobody will know where he is from." 28 As he was teaching in the temple, Jesus cried out, "You know me and you know where I am from.

Yet I have not come on my own, but the one who sent me is true. You don't know him; 29 I know him because I am from him, and he sent me." 30 Then they tried to seize him. Yet no one laid a hand on him because his hour had not yet come. 31 However, many from the crowd believed in him and said, "When the Messiah comes, he won't perform more signs than this man has done, will he?"

JOHN 7:37-46

37 On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him." 39 He said this about the Spirit. Those who believed in Jesus were going to receive the Spirit, for the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified. 40 When some from the crowd heard these words, they said, "This truly is the Prophet." 41 Others said, "This is the

Messiah." But some said, "Surely the Messiah doesn't come from Galilee, does he? 42 Doesn't the Scripture say that the Messiah comes from David's offspring and from the town of Bethlehem, where David lived?" 43 So the crowd was divided because of him. 44 Some of them wanted to seize him, but no one laid hands on him. 45 Then the servants came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him?" 46 The servants answered, "No man ever spoke like this!"

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JOHN 7:29

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JOHN 7:1-13

DWELL

Today's text reveals some interesting insight into Jesus's family: even His own brothers didn't believe in Him. (Don't worry—we know that changed for at least a couple of them! The books of James and Jude were written by brothers of Jesus.) Like everyone else, rather than trusting His words, they wanted Him to prove Himself with signs. They assumed He was pursuing His own glory instead of the Father's glory.



How does Jesus's family dynamic remind you of His humanity?



Why do you think Jesus didn't go up to the feast with His brothers?

MEMORIZE

Write out John 7:29 on a piece of paper, "taking a picture" of it with your eyes. Then, read the verse aloud five times. Finally, cover it up with your hand and try to say it without looking. Do this one more time before you go to bed tonight.

PRAY

Praise Jesus for truly understanding what it is like to be misunderstood and to have difficult relationships.

day 2

JOHN 7:14-24

DWELL

Those listening to Jesus were confused about how He spoke with such wisdom and authority even though He'd never had the rich training other teachers had. Jesus responded not with pride but by pointing to the One He represented: God the Father. The compliments didn't last long, because soon enough, Jesus was accused of being demon possessed. Over and over again, Jesus was misunderstood and doubted.



Why did Jesus point to the Father when people were impressed with His teaching?



How can Jesus's experiences with rejection impact the way you pray when you feel rejected?

MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of John 7:29 on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at the letters.

PRAY

Ask God to show you places where you are tempted to indulge in pridefulness rather than point to Him.

day 3

JOHN 7:25-31

DWELL

The religious leaders found themselves in a difficult situation: They hadn't arrested Jesus, and people began to think it was because they themselves believed Jesus really was who He said He was! The real reason He hadn't been arrested is clear: it was not yet the right time. (See v. 30.) Even as the religious leaders and the crowd grew in hostility towards Jesus, we can remember that God is still in complete control.



How does this passage encourage you to trust in the Lord when things seem out of control?



How might this particular scene have impacted John's original readers, who would have already known about Jesus's arrest and crucifixion?

MEMORIZE

Connect your memorization efforts to a common task, like brushing your teeth, washing your hair, or driving to school. As you complete that task each day, try to say John 7:29 from memory twice.

PRAY

What do you need to entrust to the Lord's sovereign control? Spend some time telling Him all about it and asking Him to help you trust Him.

day 4

JOHN 7:37-44

DWELL

At a feast deeply rooted in Jewish history, designed to celebrate the God who always provided for them, Jesus stood and cried out in an unforgettable way. His shout reveals His eagerness for those who were dying of spiritual thirst to look to Him to save and satisfy, just as God did generations before.



What does Jesus's tone of voice in this text reveal about Him? What does the attitude of the crowd reveal about them?



How should Jesus's eagerness for people to come to Him impact how we interact with others?

MEMORIZE

Have a friend or family member set a daily alarm. When the alarm goes off each day, ask them to reach out to you and ask you to recite as much of John 7:29 from memory as you can.

PRAY

Thank Jesus for being the kind of rescuer who shouts an invitation to all who need to be saved and long for satisfaction.

day 5

JOHN 7:45-52

DWELL

Even the temple police were impacted by Jesus's words—to the point that it prevented them from following the order to arrest Him. This text offers our second sighting of Nicodemus, the respected religious ruler whose conversation with Jesus was recorded in John 3. The religious rulers responded with criticism to the temple police, Nicodemus, and the crowd, accusing all of them of not knowing the law.



What does Nicodemus's response reveal about his developing position towards Jesus?



Why do you think these leaders continued to cling to their view of the law, even though Nicodemus and Jesus had presented legitimate arguments against their view (see vv. 21-23,51)?

MEMORIZE

Write out John 7:29 somewhere creative—maybe use a dry erase marker on your bathroom mirror or chalk on the driveway. You could even write it in the dust on the back windshield of a friend's dirty car.

PRAY

Ask God to reveal any ways that you are clinging to views of Him that aren't accurate.