

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

20) Our Times Are In His Hands

'After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." For even His brothers did not believe in Him'

(John 7:1-5)

Jesus's ministry in Galilee was now over but He remained there because the Judeans sought to kill Him

- ✓ **Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him until after the resurrection**
- ✓ **Since He did most of His miraculous works in Galilee, it gave the religious leaders in Jerusalem**
- ✓ **another reason to say that He wasn't the Messiah**
- ✓ **Also, many Galilean disciples turned away from Him (6:66)**
- ✓ **'You're wasting your time here – go to Jerusalem'. 'If you are really the Christ, why would you want to remain in obscurity? Now is your chance to get known. Go to the capital city and perform miracles there'**
- ✓ **'Show yourself to the world' is the philosophy of people of the world**

'Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready"' (John 7:6)

Jesus was not an opportunist and did not live according to the whims and wishes of the people, but according to his Father's will and timetable

But for those not submitted to the Father, they do what they want when they want

In the Father's time the whole world would know about Him

But first the cross, then the preaching of the gospel, then the coming in glory

***'Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory'
(Matt.24:30)***

**His coming in glory is also His coming in judgment
If He did what His brethren asked. None would be saved. The entire human race would be condemned**

***'Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen'
(Rev.1:7)***

“The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come.” When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee’

(John 7:7-9)

‘There is no danger of your incurring the world’s hatred because you are in the world and of the world’

'But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?"'

(John 7:10-11)

- ✓ **After his brothers left, Jesus went to Jerusalem**
- ✓ **He had to fulfill the law, Deut.16:16**
- ✓ **But He went in secret and at His Father's time**
- ✓ **Jesus' enemies were watching for Him to arrest Him, but it was not His time**
- ✓ **This was the last time He would see Galilee until after the resurrection**

'And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people." However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews'
(John 7:12-13)

Some said He was a good man, others that He used His good deeds to deceive

Those who favoured Him were intimidated by the leaders from showing their support

The Jewish hierarchy did not arrest Him openly because of His popularity with the crowds

'Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?"'

(John 7:14-15)

**The people marveled that He knew the Scriptures so well, having never attended a rabbinical school
Some concluded He must be teaching His own ideas**

'Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus'

(Acts 4:13)

'But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ'

(Gal.1:11-12)

The difference between contemporary teachers and Jesus was:

They said, 'Thus says the LORD'

Jesus said, 'I say unto you'

If they could have condemned Jesus on some false doctrine or wrong understanding of Scripture, they would have. Since they could not, they attack His credentials

'Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?"'

(John 7:16-19)

Only those with a right heart and attitude will know that it is from God. That attitude is one of humility and willingness to obey

***'The humble He guides in justice,
And the humble He teaches His way'***
(Psa.25:9)

'At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes"'
(Matt.11:25)

The real reason for people not believing Jesus is a heart problem

Those who seek their own glory do not really want to know God's will, so they will twist the truth to suit their purpose. They will look for arguments rather than answers

The Pharisees sought the praise of men. One not sent from God seeks his own glory

If they really loved the law, why did they seek to kill Him, when the law commands we should not murder? There was no logic in this

'The people answered and said, "You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?" Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one work, and you all marvel. Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment"'

(John 7:20-24)

The people were unaware of the intention of the rulers to kill Jesus. They thought demons had given Him a persecution complex

The only mention of demons in John's gospel is when Jesus was accused of having one!

The only miracle of Jesus they were interested in is the healing of a man on the Sabbath

Because circumcision had to be on the 8th day after birth it was permitted on the Sabbath. A little operation like circumcision was permitted on the Sabbath but not healing of lame man

'Now some of them from Jerusalem said, "Is this not He whom they seek to kill? But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ? However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from"'

(John 7:25-27)

The locals, however, knew that the authorities wanted to kill Him

Why hadn't they arrested Him? Because the crowd were still divided

'Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, "You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me." Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. And many of the people believed in Him, and said, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?"'

(John 7:28-31)

***Malachi 3:1 says that God's messenger will come *suddenly to the temple*. This led to their tradition that the Messiah would come out of nowhere to show Himself to Israel**

***They thought: a) no one would know where the Messiah came from; b) They knew Jesus was from Nazareth**

***They were wrong on both counts: 1) The Scripture, in contrast to their tradition, foretold the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; 2) Jesus asserts His true origin – He was sent from God**

***His enemies then wanted to take Him, but could not because His hour had not yet come. God was in control, not them**

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