

THE GOSPEL

— *according to* —

JOHN

*Scripture Reading*

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JOHN 7:1–52

# *John 7 occurs during* **The Feast of Booths**

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- It was a week-long holiday occurring in early Fall. See Leviticus 23:33-36, 39-43.
- All the travelers would come to the temple and set up booths (or shelters) a bit like jury-rigged tents.
- This reenactment reminded them of their days in the desert immediately after God brought them out of Egypt.
- The holiday climaxed with water-pouring and torch-lighting ceremonies, remembering how, in the desert, God provided water for Israel and led them by a pillar of fire.

# *John 7 records*

## Seven Perspectives on Jesus

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1. Jesus is a showman seeking popularity (7:3-5).
2. Jesus is a good man (7:12).
3. Jesus is a deceiver, maybe even a demon-possessed nut-job (7:12, 20, 47).
4. Jesus is a great teacher, maybe even the prophet whom Moses promised (7:15, 40, 46).
5. Jesus might be the Messiah (7:26-27, 31, 41).
6. Jesus, the man from Galilee, is definitely not the Messiah (7:27, 41-42, 52)!
7. Jesus is God the Son who can fix all that's wrong in creation (7:16-18, 28-29, 33-34, 37-39).

## THE MAIN POINT OF JOHN 7

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*With Jesus, there's no middle ground. He divides the world. Either he's the Messiah sent from God, deserving your total devotion, or he's not and should be abandoned.*

On the last day of the feast, the great day,  
Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone  
thirsts, let him come to me and drink.  
Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture  
has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers  
of living water.’”

— *John 7:37-38*