

John 7:5 EVEN HIS OWN BROTHERS DID NOT BELIEVE

PRELIMS. What an amazing statement in [v5]! The very ‘**blood**’ brothers of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did **not believe** in Him! And yet maybe, no so amazing when you consider the **Biblical teaching** on the human heart! “*the natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God...he is not able to understand them*” 1Cor 2:14] No matter what family, or Church you may be in, no matter what teaching you may be under, you need the **Divine touch** to make you a real and practical believer in God! The brothers of Jesus Christ were ‘So near, yet so far’ away from knowing God.

THE UNBELIEF of HIS BROTHERS

It was **not** unbelief in His **existence** (He was there in front of them); or in His **virgin birth** (His parents must have told Him); or His **miracles** (they saw them), or maybe His doctrine which they heard. They were told and taught **so much more** than any other family!

What John means is that His brothers did **not trust/confide** in Christ, for their **personal salvation**! This passage is such a **testimony** to the **spiritual blindness** of the human heart! They never said such things as ‘To whom can we go, You have the words of eternal’

Just **think** of all the wonderful **privileges** which they enjoyed and yet it did **nothing** for their **soul**! His **sinless** life! His **Godly nature/walk** - even as a child He must have ‘shone’! His **work** as a carpenter - when things went wrong at work, His response, His language! At the **death** of His father! His **prayers** at Family **worship**!

This **dispels a myth** - that if we lived in the days of Jesus, we would **definitely** believe in Jesus! The **physical presence** of Jesus can do nothing in breaking the **stony heart** of unbelief! A **new** heart!

We also learn that there is **no neutrality** regarding our view of Jesus! The brothers **did** have a **response** “*Leave here...*”[3b] ‘You should be at the Feast just now, so that people will *see the works You are doing*. You must **show Yourself to the world**’ You’re a **public figure**! John tells **why** they said this! ***For not even His brothers believed....!***

I think there may have been **tension** in the house. Maybe the brothers did not want Jesus around because of His **holiness!** Perhaps His brothers felt **inhibited** in their **freedom** to do what they wanted when He was around! **APP** You know what I mean, I am sure! I firmly believe the brothers of Jesus were still in their sins because Jesus said to them *The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me* [7]!

CHRIST'S REPLY to THEM

My time has not yet come, but your time is always here! What time? I think X is referring to the time of His death! He often said 'My time has not Yet come' regarding His death! To come go up to Jerusalem right at that moment would have been **suicidal** for Jesus.

APP You/I must not **tempt providence** any more than Jesus must not do it! We must **not presume** on God's protection or favour **while** breaking His commands! God is merciful **most** of the time but He is **not obliged** to guard and protect the **foolish** and **sinful!** Satan tried to get X to throw Himself down from the temple and quoted Scripture 'He will send His angels to guard You', but **Jesus refused!**

But for the brothers, no one knew when their time of death would be. Not even Jesus knew - it had not been revealed to Jesus when His brothers would die, although it had been revealed how He would die. They, like you/I, must **always be ready** (etoimos means **prepare** - must prepare for death) for standing before our Maker! That is **why** Jesus wanted **them** to go to the Feast - *You go up to the feast* [8]! You go and hear as much as possible of God's Word - just as believing parents want their children to go to church!

Well, they **did** go up to the Feast! We read *after His brothers had gone up to the feast* [10] Now **why** did they go up? We might all of **you** - **why** did **you** come to church today? (a) in **Obedience** to God's command to worship Him? Apply! (b) because of a guilty **conscience?** Apply! (c) or because of **habit?** Apply! (b) or because His words touched their hearts? Apply! **APP** You came to this church this morning for **some reason** - even if you are not sure yourself! We do, **do** things **automatically** - but there **is** a reason!

Now Jesus went up later *about the middle of the feast Jesus went up* [14] **Why** did He go? I believe it was as a result of **prayer** to His Father *the Son can do nothing of His own accord but only what He sees the Father doing* [5:19] *I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent me* [6:38] *I do nothing on my own authority but speak just as the Father taught Me + I always do those things that are pleasing to Him* [8:28-30]

Jesus **constantly prayed** to find the Father's will for Him. He obviously 'saw' His father going to the Feast, so He wanted to be where His Father was working! **APP** That has an important message for Xns and churches making decisions. We need to find out **where God is working** in order to be where He is! We need to be in **prayer** for the **leading** of His Holy Spirit! We must not simply go where we feel like going. God works in **mysterious** ways. Who would have thought of going to **Nineveh**? Not Jonah or anyone else but God!

WHAT HAPPENED at the FEAST

Jesus **taught!** ...*began TEACHING...How is it that this man has LEARNING?...My TEACHING is not Mine* [14-16] **APP** There is a **right** doctrine - and there is a **false** doctrine! There **are** facts. We come to **church** to hear **truth** and **facts** not hypothesis and theories!

Preachers are to preach, not themselves and their ideas but the Word of God. We teach the Bible. We accept it as the Word of God. We believe what Jesus believed - in the **historical accuracy** of Scripture *Scripture CANNOT be broken* [10:35] *as were the days of Noah, so it will be* [Mat 24:37] He believed Genesis creation account *have you not read that He who created them from the beginning* [Mat 19:4]

He told them 'You only have Me for a **short time**'! *I will be with you a LITTLE longer then I AM GOING* [33] You will want Me but *you will NOT find Me* [34] **APP** We must not **trifle** with God's **day of grace** and then think we can turn to Him at will! HAVe you ever **read** *How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing...because I have called and you refused to listen...because you have ignored all My counsel...I also will laugh at you calamity...Then they will call*

*upon Me, but I will **not answer** they will seek Me diligently but will **not find Me** [Pro 1:22-30]! Solemn reading! But it is **Truth!** God is there giving us a **warning!** Jesus was **warning** them **time is short!***

Then Jesus **preached** the **glorious gospel!** *Jesus stood up and cried out 'If **anyone thirsts** let him **come to Me** and drink' [37] Did we get that? **If anyone** hearing or reading His Words **comes** - not intends to come - but comes, will never thirst again This **offer** was made to those very **people** who wanted to **kill Him!** *Is this not the man whom they seek **to kill?** [25] **APP** No qualification except **wanting Jesus!** Do **you** want Jesus controlling your life?**

The **results:** As is the case with **every** sermon even today *there was a **division among the people over Him** [43]!* On the one hand there were those who *wanted to **arrest Him** [44]!* Still people today, even in this country who are **arrested** for preaching the gospel in the streets! Read the Christian Journals.

On the other hand *many of the people **believed in Him** [31]!* C S **Lewis** said this: Jesus was either a **madman**, or He was truly **God!** To say that He was just a very good man and a great teacher but not the Son of God which He claimed is **nonsense!** He was either God or a complete **imposter**. To say He was the best man that ever lived but what He claimed for Himself was untrue is just not consistent. We may believe or disbelieve in **various degrees** - but we are on one side or the other! There is no middle ground! *He that is not with Me is against Me!* [Mat 20:30]

Now at the beginning of the chapter we have Jesus brothers **disbelieving Him!** When we read [Acts 1:14] we find a very **precious** thing. The **believers** were all there in the Upper Room *with **one accord...devoting themselves to prayer!** Who were all there? Peter...John...James...Andrew...Philip...and Thomas* - and **who else?** Look: *...the women and Mary the mother of Jesus **and His brothers!!*** Yes, the brothers who disbelieved! Isn't that lovely? Perhaps converted at the Feast! Luke recorded for **our encouragement** that the brothers of Jesus put their trust in Him although at one time they struggled! **James** and **Jude** wrote in the Scriptures!