

“Breakthrough!” in 2022

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 09.11.2022

Life Overflowing – John 7:1-39

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Between the end of John 6 and the beginning of John 7, there is a gap of 6 months. The events of chapter 6 took place around the time of the Passover (April) and the events of this chapter take place at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles (October). The other gospel writers fill us in on what Jesus was doing during that period. He was ministering in and around the Galilee region. He performed miracles, cast out demons, and poured Himself into discipling the twelve. But now He is heading back to Jerusalem. We are now in the final six months of Jesus’ ministry. It’s interesting to note that John dedicates 2/3rd of his gospel to the last six months of Jesus life. Why would he do that? Because it’s all about the cross. Let’s get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you from this week’s sermon?
2. How did you have to battle fear this past week? How did your vision of Jesus help you in that battle?
3. How else did the Lord bring our discussion from last week to your mind this week?

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 7:1-10

Jesus has been continually shedding light on His own identity through the Book of John. He is seen, through these signs, as the provider, sustainer, and powerful God. When we move into John 7, we don’t see a sign, but we do see Jesus making an incredibly bold statement in the midst of an incredibly important time of year in Israel. Through that invitation, we come to understand that we must be emptied out of sin in order to drink of Jesus.

1. By this point in the narrative, the disciples had witnessed Jesus turn water into wine, heal the sick, miraculously feed thousands, and walk on water (John 1-6). Knowing what they knew about Jesus’ power, why might they have wanted Him to go through Judea rather than avoid the situation?
2. What did Jesus’ brothers want Him to do? Why?

The Festival of Tabernacles was one of the three main feasts of the Jews, a week-long celebration and gathering for the Hebrew nation. In other words, it was a ready-made platform for Jesus to reveal Himself to the Jewish world if He so desired. Using that platform for political and/or personal gain seemed a good idea to Jesus’ brothers.

1. In what way could the brothers’ suggestion have seemed spiritual and right to those who were listening?
2. What did Jesus know about their motives that His brothers maybe didn’t even realize (v. 5)?
3. When have you been tempted to do something to prove a point? At home? At work? On social media? In your community? Is there anything wrong with that type of motivation? Explain.

The brothers were right: no one who is seeking public recognition keeps his or her gifts a secret. They get as many social

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media followers as they can. They try to make the best seller list. They climb the ladder. They aim to serve on staff at a megachurch. They study and mimic what other gifted people before them have done. The problem was, Jesus wasn't seeking public recognition. He was seeking to do the work the Father had sent Him to do. That's it. His brothers' focus was on Jesus, who they did or didn't believe Him to be and what they did or didn't believe He could do. Jesus' focus was different, and it impacted how, when, and where He would do things.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 7:10-24.

1. Considering what happened between the time Jesus arrived at the festival and the time He began to teach, what are some reasons why Jesus might have kept His presence a secret those few days?
2. What were the different opinions about Jesus being voiced at the Festival of Tabernacles?
3. How would you characterize Jesus' teaching: feel-good, bold, timid, other? Does the same word characterize your beliefs about who Jesus is? Why or why not?

From 7:1, we know that some of the Jews were trying to kill Jesus. Add to that Jesus' knowledge about the various opinions about who He is, as well as the large crowd present at the festival, and we see that His teaching in verses 16-24 was risky by any earthly standard. Because He is the Christ, He cannot speak about who He is in any other way. Regardless of how others will respond, Jesus must teach what comes from God.

4. How is this a contrast to the way man speaks and behaves (see verses 18-19,22-24)?
5. How was Jesus' truth-telling received by the people? Why? In today's culture, why is truth-telling so offensive?

The work Jesus mentioned in verse 21 is probably the Sabbath healing in 5:1-15. Jesus pointed out the irony of their offense at His Sabbath healing. Circumcision was to take place on the 8th day after birth. Sometimes that fell on the Sabbath, making it acceptable in their eyes to circumcise on that day. This conflict of the law should have taught them not to judge the appearance of obedience, but the heart behind the law. Who could make and teach this connection with authority? The Christ, speaking for the Father.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 7:25-39.

1. Why were the people in verses 25-27 confused?
2. What "authorities" do people look to today to know spiritual truth?
3. What truths about Himself did Jesus proclaim in these verses? In what different ways did people respond?
4. For those who believed (v. 31), how did faith and knowledge work together? What does this tell you about how people must answer the question, "Is Jesus the Christ?" today?

Only six months remained in Jesus' earthly ministry. He came from the Father and would return to Him. The truth about Jesus' origin and the miracles He performed brought some people to faith; others remained in spiritual blindness. Their ignorance about the facts of Jesus and earthly perspective left them in confusion. .

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Where you go when you are thirsty determines whether you will thirst again. There are certain things that promise to quench our thirst but, they only intensify it. We are reminded of Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well. He told her, 'Whoever drinks from this well will thirst again...' Jesus' invitation is for us to come to

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Him. Jesus wants to do more than fill you, He wants you to overflow with ‘torrents of living water.’ The work of God in our lives isn’t something that stops with us. It flows to us and then through us. We become conduits of His grace and love and mercy.

1. How does the authority, urgency, and passion with which Jesus spoke in this passage challenge you today?
2. How can this group live in such a way that makes outsiders want to know who Jesus really is?
3. Who will you share these truths with this week?

PRAYER - Thank God for Jesus the Messiah and the Holy Spirit He gives to all who trust in Him. Invite Him to give you opportunities to share with others this week the truth about Jesus..

“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” John 7:37-38