

He Is the Messiah

John 7:1-52

by Don Falkos

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Jesus' brothers didn't believe in him. They taunted him, "You should go to Jerusalem to show off your miraculous powers."

The Feast of Tabernacles was approaching. But Jesus claimed he was going to stay in Galilee. He knew the religious leaders in Jerusalem were plotting to kill him. After his brothers left for the Feast, Jesus went too, secretly. When he arrived, he kept a low profile so as not to be noticed. There was a lot of whispered talk about Jesus, some supportive, some not. Yet no one spoke out publicly about Jesus for fear of the religious leaders.

Halfway through the celebration and again on the final day of the festival, Jesus went into the Temple and began teaching. The people marveled at what he said, and were amazed that he was speaking publicly while under threat of death.

Jesus told them, "My message is not my own; it comes from God who sent me. If you are thirsty, come to me and drink of the living water."

Many believed in Jesus. Some said, "Clearly he is the Prophet we've been expecting. He is the Messiah." Others disagreed.

The religious leaders sent guards to arrest Jesus. They became enthralled by what he had to say. They went back without him. The religious leaders asked, "Where is he? Why didn't you bring him in?"

The guards said, "We've never heard anyone talk like this man."

"So that's it. You've been led astray by this charlatan, just like the ignorant mob."

Then Nicodemus, who had met Jesus earlier, asked, "Is it legal to condemn a man before he has a chance to defend himself?"

They replied, "Look at the scriptures! No prophet ever comes from Galilee!"