



John: Your Terms or His?

RECAP:

In John 7:1-24, Jesus enters the Feast of Tabernacles, a celebration of God's provision and presence, yet the people around Him miss what God is doing right in front of them. His brothers push Him to go public on their timeline, the crowds form mixed opinions about who He is, and the religious leaders look for ways to oppose Him. Jesus responds by making it clear that He is not operating on human agendas but on the Father's timing and authority; saying His teaching comes from God and can only be truly understood by those willing to do God's will. The passage reveals a core tension: many want something from Jesus, but few are willing to trust Him on His terms.

This exposes several ways people get it wrong - trying to force Jesus into their plans and timing, defining Him according to personal preference, reducing Him to opinion, seeking their own glory, and judging Him by human standards. Instead, the invitation is to surrender control and trust the One who sees what we cannot. Rather than adding Jesus to our agenda, we are called to bring our whole lives (*our needs, sins, doubts, and desires*) to Him and follow where He leads.

True life, identity, and purpose are found not by taking control, but by releasing it and trusting in Jesus completely.

- 5. Read John 7:10-13.** The crowd is divided in their assessment of Jesus (“good man” vs. “deceiver”). What does this division reveal about how people interpret Jesus’ identity?
- 6.** Jesus says in verse 16, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from the One who sent me.” How does this challenge the idea that Jesus is just a good moral teacher?
- 7. Read John 7:17** and **James 1:22.** How do these verses, together, show the connection between obedience and understanding?
- 8. Read John 7:21-24.** How does Jesus use the example of circumcision and Sabbath healing to expose inconsistency in the leaders’ interpretation of the law? What principle is He establishing in verse 24?

9. Where are you most tempted to take control instead of trusting Jesus - your timeline, your plans, your identity, or something else? Why is that area hard to surrender?
10. If following Jesus means letting go of your terms and trusting His, what is one specific area of your life right now where you need to bring your struggle, doubt, or need to Him?

SUPPORT/PRAYER

(15 min)

Take some time in smaller groups to share an area where God may be inviting you to surrender to Him – it might be your plans, expectations, or timelines.

Then pray for one another asking God to help you trust His good plans and give you a willing heart to do His will regardless of circumstances.