

## THE PEOPLE RESPOND TO JESUS AT THE FEAST OF BOOTHS

In John 6, Jesus performs the largest miracle that He ever did by taking the lunch of a little boy around the time of the Passover (6:4) and feeding 5,000 men with it. John 7:2 explains what happened later on at “the Feast of Booths” which occurred 6 months after the Passover. In other words, half a year has gone by in the ministry of our Lord and the Jews are still trying to figure out what to do with Him which is what we are going to talk about this morning by looking at “4 Groups that Respond to Jesus in this Passage.”

### **1). His Family (verses 1-9).**

Verse 5 says that “not even [Jesus’] brothers were believing in Him” because they did not think He was the Messiah. Acts 1:14 says that they would do so later on after the resurrection but, at this point in time, they were unconvinced despite the fact that they knew Jesus better than anyone. James, Joses, Judas, and Simon (Mark 6:3) were very familiar with the kind of man Christ was. However, it did not have a saving impact on them yet.

Discussion Question: Can you think of a modern-day example of this? Do you know anyone who has been exposed to the person of Christ but it has had no saving impact on them? Why is that?

### **2). The Crowd at the Feast (verses 10-31).**

Verse 10 says that, once this conversation with His brothers was over, Jesus went up to the Feast of Booths. When He got there, the crowd could not reach a consensus on what to do with Him. In fact, they would go on to make four different statements about His identity because they would call Him a good man (verse 12), someone who leads the people astray (verse 12), demon-possessed (verse 20), and possibly the Christ (verse 26).

Discussion Question: Are people still divided over the issue of Christ today? List some of the current ideas that are out there about Him in our society. Why is it so dangerous for someone to remain undecided about Jesus?

### **3). The Pharisees (verse 32-36).**

Verse 32 says, “The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to seize Him” because they were not divided over who Jesus was at all. They had reached a conclusion and decided that He was so dangerous that He had to be gotten rid of. Eventually, they would seek to have Him nailed to a cross but here they just wanted to place Him in jail in order to silence Him.

Discussion Question: Why were the Pharisees so opposed to Jesus? What was it about Him that made them so angry?

### **4). Nicodemus (verses 37-52).**

After the officers came back and reported that they had not arrested Jesus, the Pharisees rebuked them and called the crowd accursed because they “do not know the Law” (verse 49). Verse 50 says, “Nicodemus said to them, “Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears him and knows what he is doing, does it?” The reason he did this is because Nicodemus was standing up for Jesus in his own small way. Even though it does not say that he believed in Him yet, he was slowly being persuaded to come over to His side.

Discussion Question: What are some practical lessons that we learn from this part of the passage? Is everyone’s testimony the same? Does it take some people longer to come to Christ than others? How so?