

John 7:1–9

Recognizing Jesus

Proverbs 17:17 says, “A friend loves at all times; and a brother is born for adversity.” The ancient Greek writer Hesiod noted that one should never make a companion equal to a brother. For all the time brothers spend together during childhood, many assume they would understand and recognize each other. Yet, such is not always the case.

After a lifetime spent living with him, Jesus’ brothers have difficulty recognizing his true identity. Can we learn from their experience and find a way to 1) be certain we are recognizing Jesus fully and 2) be certain we are helping others to do the same?

Read Passage

A. Galilee Encounters (John 7:1–9)

1. Why is Jesus in Galilee?

- A. Respite from his attention in Judea (John 4:1-3 and 43–45)
- B. Results from his last venture to Jerusalem (John 2:23 and 5:18)

2. What is the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles?

- A. Follows the Day of Atonement by 5 days (Lev 23:27, 34)
- B. Celebration of the fall crop harvest (Lev 23:39)
- C. Recalls the Wilderness journeys of the Exodus after God brought them out of the Land of Egypt. (Lev 23:42–43)

3. What dominates his brothers’ thinking?

- A. Declare yourself to your followers through your “works” (John 7:3–4)
 - A. Let them “observe” your actions
- B. The brothers think they know best how Jesus must operate to obtain the result they think he is seeking

4. What did we learn from this Gospel at the end of John 6?

- A. People aren't upset by Jesus' works—except on the Sabbath (John 6:26; 5:16, 18)
- B. People are upset by Jesus' words (John 6:41, 60–68; 5:18)
- C. Jesus' followers find life in those same words (John 6:68–69)

**Eternal Life provided by Jesus does not result merely
from close proximity over an extended period of time.
Rather, one must believe he is sent from God.**

Secondary Passage

“For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.” John 6:65

Faith in Jesus comes as a result of Work by God

Until we acknowledge God at work in our daily activities, we will never recognize the “Signs” God is performing in our midst!

One does not “birth” oneself, one must be birthed by God

Ultimately, we only truly recognize Jesus when we acknowledge that his actions identify him as “the Word become Flesh”