

## Sermon Discussion Questions for February 28, 2016

John 7:1-9; "Jesus Is Patient"

Introduction: When is the last time you were impatient with something or someone? What was the result?

Context: *Now the feast of Booths was at hand . . . (vs. 2)*

- One of three Jewish annual festivals [Unleavened Bread, Weeks, Booths] for which all Jewish males were required to travel to Jerusalem to attend (also called Tabernacles or Ingathering)
- Ex. 23:16; 34:22; Lev. 23:33-36, 39-43; Numb. 29:12-38; Deut. 16:13-15
- Celebration of God's faithfulness and provision in the post-exodus wilderness
- SPIRITUAL LESSON (that needs constant repeating): God is a sovereign and merciful Provider
- APPLICATION QUESTION: What do we as Christians do habitually and faithfully to remind us that God is a sovereign, merciful Provider?

A. The Expectations of Jesus' brothers (vs. 3-5): For not even his brothers believed in him; *show yourself to the world . . .*

B. The Patience of Christ (our text)

- <sup>1</sup>*He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him*
- <sup>6</sup>*My time has not yet come*
- <sup>8</sup>*You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not fully come.*  
Question: Where in the Gospels do we ever see Jesus frantic, fearful, or in a rush? Why am I sometimes (or often) frantic, fearful, and in a rush?

C. Three views of time

- empty secularism: *your time is always here (Jesus to his unbelieving brothers, vs. 6)*
- frenetic activism: Christians with the attitude: "I've got to make this happen; I have to have it now; why can't others get with the (my) program?"
- tranquil determinism: *You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come (vs. 8)*

D. The call of the Christian to be patient (knowing the law will not make us patient)

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. <i>Psalm 37:7</i>      | e. <i>I Thessalonians 5:14</i> |
| b. <i>Romans 12:12</i>    | f. <i>II Timothy 4:2</i>       |
| c. <i>Ephesians 4:2</i>   | g. <i>Hebrews 6:12</i>         |
| d. <i>Colossians 3:12</i> |                                |

E. Attitudinal causes of impatience

- a spirit of entitlement
- a culture of speedy pragmatism/gratification
- a fleshly demandingness

F. Root causes of impatience

- \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- \_\_\_\_\_

G. The "root remedy" to these "root causes" > repent and believe the gospel!