

# John 7:1-24 || Believe

May 26, 2024 – La Mirada Christian Church

Believe. That's the title of our series through John and it wasn't difficult to come up with that title. We're only 6 chapters in and John has talked about believing – those who have, haven't, and will one day believe - 36 times. The word and idea of belief occurs over 80 times in John more than any other gospel or book of the New Testament for that matter, John stated his mission at the opening "that all might believe through Him." (John 1:7) and as he closed his gospel he reminded us why he wrote it down, "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31)

We've been learning about who are true disciples and who are false disciples. John opened up with the sad truth in chapter one saying, that Jesus came to his own but his own did not receive him. That He was in the world but the world did not know him.

For many chapters we have seen that the Jewish leaders did not receive Jesus as the Son of God. And then at the end of chapter 6 – disciples of some kind – "turned back and no longer walked with Him" because Jesus had difficult and even offensive words that were hard to receive. That whittled the group down and when Jesus turns to the 12 and asks if they'll be leaving too, Peter says, where would we go?

*"...YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE, AND WE HAVE BELIEVED, AND HAVE COME TO KNOW, THAT YOU ARE THE HOLY ONE OF GOD."*

*John 6:68-69*

Belief is simple – and yet it's challenging. It can look clear – those who don't and those who do – but really it's a deeper heart issue and has nothing to do with appearances. So, things are heating up and Jesus is pressing in.

So we pick up in Galilee with Jesus and a thinned out group of disciples

***AFTER THIS JESUS WENT ABOUT IN GALILEE. HE WOULD NOT GO ABOUT IN JUDEA, BECAUSE THE JEWS [Ioudaioi] WERE SEEKING TO KILL HIM.***

*John 7:1*

This short sentence covers about 6 months of Jesus' ministry in Galilee from April to October. The other three gospels go into some detail about this time and what Jesus did and taught – a chronological Bible is a great resource by the way to read more about what Jesus did.

"After this" is after the feeding of the 5000, walking on water and his speech to the crowd of false and true disciples saying He's the bread of life. Going about in Galilee is where we've been with Jesus up in the northern areas Capernaum, Cana, and John gives us the reason Jesus is staying up in the Galilee area – He's on Israel's most Wanted – the Jews and the

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word here is “Ioudaioi” which is referring specifically to Jewish religious leaders – they are “seeking to kill” Jesus. We’ll review why they are so bent to kill him in a few verses.

Let’s get set up with the when and where then we’ll get to the why and what next.

*[MAP]*

Here's where Jesus and the disciples are up in the north where you can see on this map of the area Galilee in the north, below that area is Samaria, then below that is the region of Judea. In the middle of Judea is Jerusalem and the Temple.

Chapter 7 opens with the where - Galilee - and the what – he “went about” – walking around and we know from the other gospels he’s teaching parables, healing, casting out demons, and the transfiguration takes place. That’s a lot in one sentence. Again, I encourage you to read these accounts in Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

Where and what covered, we also know the when – it’s been 6 months because Passover was in April and he’s returned from Jerusalem, walked around teaching and healing in Galilee and now...[NEXT SLIDE]

*THE JEWS' FEAST OF BOOTHS WAS AT HAND.*

*John 7:2*

Your Bible might read Feast of Tabernacles, of shelters, in-gathering, or even tent-pitching. In Hebrew this is known as Sukkot.

The reason we know it’s been six months is because we know when this feast takes place – it’s always in the fall and is the last of 7 feasts. These 7 feasts have been in place for 1200 years were given by God when He delivered His people from slavery.

The night before the final plague where God will kill the firstborn of all creation who do not live under the cover of the blood of a lamb – God explains what will happen and He gives His people a reminder forever of their new, true, identity...

do you know what the first thing He gave His people the night before that deliverance was?  
[NEXT SLIDE]

*A CALENDAR! GOD’S CALENDAR TO BE EXACT – FILLED WITH FESTIVALS*

These festivals are all described in Leviticus chapter 23. Jesus grew up observing them with his family every year. So, understanding them will help us see the timeline Jesus was on.

Here are the appointments on God’s calendar and I’ve arranged them for this year 2024 so you can see when each event takes place beginning in April with Passover

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**April 22 – Passover** – John talked about this in ch 2 when Jesus made a whip and cleared out the temple, in chapter 5 when Jesus healed the lame man on the Sabbath, and in chapter 6 when he fed the crowd the Passover was near

after Passover begins a 7 day observance called

April 23-29 **Unleavened Bread** the third day after Passover is

April 24 – **First Fruits** when the people would lift up the first of their harvest and thank God for it

Once you start reading the Bible with God’s calendar in mind you’ll notice things you hadn’t seen before. In writing his gospel, John in making sure we notice the connection between Jesus and these appointed times. The miracle of multiplying bread? That takes place during the feast when bread grains are harvested - barley and wheat unleavened bread was eaten and this is when Jesus says – I’m the Bread of Life

Counting 50 days from first fruits is **Shavuot** when the people celebrated God giving the law at Sinai and they brought a wave offering of two loaves of bread to the temple this would later be the day the Holy Spirit is poured out – this year it will be on

**June 12 – Shavuot/Pentecost** (50 days after First Fruits)

after this comes the fall observances -

**October 3 – Yom Teruah/Rosh Hashana** when the trumpet is sounded and the people are called to be on alert then 10 days later is

October 12 – Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement – the holiest day of the year when all are called to repentance the final feast is

**October 17 – Sukkot/Feast of Tabernacles**

Three of the 7 appointed times are called pilgrimage feasts because God commanded His people to go to the Temple in Jerusalem – these are the bolded for you to notice on the screen...

Passover, Shavuot (Pentecost) and

Feast of Booths/tabernacles – I’m going to refer to this by the Hebrew word “Sukkot”

Sukkot had two purposes 1<sup>st</sup> to remember their wandering in the wilderness that God provided for His people as they traveled and lived in sukkah – temporary homes - before they came into the promised land. During this time God dwelt among them in a tabernacle that would travel with them for 40 years. the Greek word

2<sup>nd</sup> to rejoice before the Lord after harvest season – barley, wheat, grape, olive and fruits by now would have been collected and time would turn toward winter.

Tabernacles was the most joyful of the pilgrim feasts. Traditions were added to the feasts that included pouring out water as a remembrance of the water from the rock that sustained Israel in the wilderness, and a candle-lighting ceremony that commemorated God’s presence with Israel through the pillar of cloud and fire. Jesus will use these

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traditions to point the people to himself as the water for the thirsty and the light for the lost but that comes later...

To this day Sukkot is a happy partying time in Israel. Families build temporary shelters and live in them during the 8 day festival. The Harvest is in, the dry summer months are over, everyone is hopeful and expectant. The Temple Institute describes Sukkot like this,

*The “rejoicing before G-d” was manifest in the singing and music performed by the Levites in the Holy Temple throughout the festival. Though the Levites sang and played every day of the year, on Sukkot it was especially felt...*

Now that we have the backdrop of where Jesus is (Galilee) and what time of year it is – right before Sukkot we can understand this next part in John’s account better:

***SO HIS BROTHERS SAID TO HIM, “LEAVE HERE AND GO TO JUDEA, THAT YOUR DISCIPLES ALSO MAY SEE THE WORKS YOU ARE DOING. FOR NO ONE WORKS IN SECRET IF HE SEEKS TO BE KNOWN OPENLY. IF YOU DO THESE THINGS, SHOW YOURSELF TO THE WORLD.”***

*John 7:3-4*

Hey, it’s that time of year we should leave for Sukkot – seems like a normal idea. In fact, there would have been lots of men heading toward Jerusalem since it was required for all men to go. And while his brothers are right to want to leave for Jerusalem, they are wrong in their understanding still. They had a worldly understanding of Jesus.

Jesus’ brothers are his half-brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judah. We last heard about them in John 2 after Jesus turns the water into wine.

They have a plan for their brother – this place is not where the real action is, leave here and go into Judea. Besides – it’s going to be packed down there! That’s the biggest party of the year –

They want him to go prove himself in Judea. If you are the Messiah, you cannot stay up here in Galilee. This is a great time for publicity. Don’t hide your light under a bushel! The people are thinking about and hoping for the Messiah right now with Sukkot at hand.

this is the perfect time to reveal himself as the Messiah.

If you are doing the works of the Messiah, go show yourself to the world! Now this sounds like belief. It sounds like they think Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus needs to get this ball rolling.

They sound like they have the plan all figured out and it sounds reasonable and even inspiring “so that your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. - don’t hide

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out up here - For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known publicly. If you do these things, show Yourself to the world.”

but for all their talk, their motives were off. Does Jesus need to go to the feast? Yes, Jesus obeys every law and it was required. They could have played on that truth, “hey, it’s the law of Moses. We better head to Jerusalem.”

After what happened in chapter 6 maybe they noticed that Jesus was losing disciples. If you’re on the right path, shouldn’t you be gaining followers? So, they think if he heads to Jerusalem for this big feast, maybe He could gain back some of them and save the family name.

They may have been embarrassed over Jesus’ recent teaching that people had to eat His flesh and drink His blood to have eternal life. Their advice was based on their failure to grasp Jesus’ divine origin and ultimate mission.

Doesn’t their advice sound familiar? It should. We’ve heard it before.

When Satan tempts Jesus to jump off the top of the temple and let the angels carry Him to safety so everyone see and bow before Him as the Son of God (Matt. 4:5-7; Luke 4:5-8).

If you’re the son of God do this...If you’re the messiah show us...if you truly do these things...go show yourself...so their “advice” is actually a temptation. It’s not that they didn’t believe in his miracles – but his brothers, verse 5

*FOR NOT EVEN HIS BROTHERS BELIEVED IN HIM.*

*John 7:5*

That’s John’s mission. That’s the point. We can believe in the miracles – but we need to believe in Him – who He actually is. The miracles were a sign pointing to that reality – but his own brothers wanted Jesus to get to Jerusalem in a public place to be acknowledged before they’d really believe in Him.

How do we recognize unbelief in our own lives? We use Jesus to get what we want – even if it sounds good. this is not belief, it’s manipulation.

Going now made human sense. He’d have been part of the crowds of family and friends all head there. He’d done that before – famously when he was 12 and his parents lost him in the crowds at the Passover feast.

For now, it is not his time yet. Jesus is committed to the Father’s timing. Jesus has resolved himself to keep his Father’s will.

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Jesus rejects his brother's agenda and in particular their timing and he says:

*“MY **TIME** HAS NOT YET COME, BUT YOUR **TIME** IS ALWAYS HERE. THE WORLD CANNOT HATE YOU, BUT IT HATES ME BECAUSE I TESTIFY ABOUT IT THAT ITS WORKS ARE EVIL. YOU GO UP TO THE FEAST. I AM NOT GOING UP TO THIS FEAST, FOR MY **TIME** HAS NOT YET FULLY COME.” AFTER SAYING THIS, HE REMAINED IN GALILEE.*

*John 7:6-9*

The Greek language has several words for time. “aion” refers to long periods of time – we say it's been going on for ages or eons. This is abstract time - “God's time” – not His timing – but God's time. It describes a lifetime or an eternity.

“chronos”, is another word. It is chronological time order - time measured in minutes and seconds. Like the ticking of the hands on a clock that you can hear.

Our word hour comes from another Greek word for time “hora” – Jesus tells his mother that his “hour” has not yet come before he turns the water into wine and performs his first miracle.

Time in this verse though, is “Kairos” – a specific point in time. precise right moment, the opportune and proper time.

This is the only instance in where Jesus used this particular word in relation to his ministry. Why now when responding to his brothers? When he said “My time is not yet come”, He is saying something like “I plan to come, but it will be at the exact best time”

You can go any time – not me. I'm on a different timetable.

And he restates this in verse 8 – you go. I'm not going to the feast – not yet – I'm waiting for the exact right time.

But sandwiched between his talk about timing is something they hadn't even brought up – hate. In verse one Jesus had already said that the Jewish leaders wanted to kill him – that's hate.

The world cannot hate you...why? You don't testify about its evil works. This lesson must have hit home strongly for James, “this world can't hate you...” why? You're friends with the world that's why. James writes,

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*DON'T YOU KNOW THAT TO BE A FRIEND OF THE WORLD IS TO HATE GOD? SO ANYONE WHO CHOOSES TO BE THE WORLD'S FRIEND BECOMES GOD'S ENEMY.*

*James 4:4*

I'll pause here and encourage you to read the books written by Jesus' brothers James as well as Jude. Read them in light of this account and I promise you'll be blessed and inspired.

Before they accepted Jesus as the son of God think back to what they had been trying to get him to do – go show yourself – if you're really who you say you are – his own brothers at this point in their belief journey have more in common with Satan than Jesus – they are not on God's time – observing his calendar of feasts sure, that's them being legalistic in observing God's holy days – they are not on God's true time instead they're still serving their own worldly ideas and superficial judgment about Jesus. Honestly, trying to look spiritual and mission minded but they're really still stuck in their own vision.

Isn't this what Peter had also done? It's not recorded in John, but Matthew's gospel records that when Jesus begins to explain his mission – that he'd be killed and on the third day be raised Peter takes him aside and rebukes him and what does Jesus say in a truly shocking rebuke:

*“GET BEHIND ME, SATAN! YOU ARE A HINDRANCE TO ME. FOR YOU ARE NOT SETTING YOUR MIND ON THE THINGS OF GOD, BUT ON THE THINGS OF MAN.”*

*Matthew 16:23*

So, here, with his brothers, they're not rebuking Jesus, just prodding Him to do something out of step with the perfect timing and Jesus doesn't bite. Instead, he just bids them to get going. **They** won't face opposition, the world doesn't hate them – not yet at least.

John is showing Jesus' focus on doing the Father's will, not the will of His unbelieving brothers.

It's important to see that it is possible to be in close relationship to Jesus but still not truly believe. Jesus' brothers were raised with him, attended all the same festivals, heard the same teachings, seen him and heard the account from their mother – but still missed the mission.

You can go to church every week and know a lot about Jesus, but not actually believe in Him.

It's tempting to be thinking of someone else – remember what Jesus had just said, “One of you is a devil.” I doubt very much any of his brothers much less Judas thought it could be

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them. And yet, here they are speaking like Satan and Jesus is gracious and simply sends them on to the Feast ahead of him while he remained in Galilee until his brothers were on their way...verse 10

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*10 BUT AFTER HIS BROTHERS HAD GONE UP TO THE FEAST, THEN HE ALSO WENT UP, NOT PUBLICLY BUT IN PRIVATE.*

Remember that at Sukkot Jerusalem would have been packed with people – it was a loud, busy, partying, celebration and above the crowds and the noise...a good time actually for Jesus to slip in and go unnoticed. The men wore prayer shawls, fringed with blue and white twisted cords called tzitzit, willow branches are waved, the sukkot – huts are being built, wave ceremonies, sacrifices daily – 8 days bulls, rams, lambs and goat were sacrificed for a total of 70 bulls to correspond to the 70 nations and 15 rams, 105 lambs and 8 goats – then the Torah was read by the king every 7 years and also Psalms 120-135 would have been sung –

This special group of Psalms – called the Shirim haMa'a lot - the Psalms of Ascent were sung as the people would ascend up to Jerusalem and the temple.

– water and wine are poured onto the altar and all the temple lights would be lit – four enormous lamps in the court and a 75 foot high menorah in the temple – the light was so bright it was said that the glow could be seen all the way to Galilee. Sukkot was truly lit and while all this was happening...

*11 THE JEWS WERE LOOKING FOR HIM AT THE FEAST, AND SAYING, “WHERE IS HE?” 12 AND THERE WAS MUCH MUTTERING ABOUT HIM AMONG THE PEOPLE.*

The Jews in this passage refers specifically to the leaders who were “seeking to kill him” – from back in verse 1 of this chapter and mingled in with the crowd of men and women and children these leaders are listening but no one is clearly saying anything they can pick up on..

*...SOME SAID, “HE IS A GOOD MAN,” OTHERS SAID, “NO, HE IS LEADING THE PEOPLE ASTRAY.” 13 YET FOR FEAR OF THE JEWS NO ONE SPOKE OPENLY OF HIM.*

*John 7:10-13*

The Jews knew Jesus would be there – all obedient Jewish men must be there. Remember that this isn't just a one day gathering, and it wasn't just for the men – although they were required to travel – men, women, children – everyone came for Sukkot

So, while all this is happening in Jerusalem, Jesus shows up...a bold and fearless move. For the past six months he'd kept away knowing they were trying to kill him. but now,



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*14 ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE FEAST DAY – SO THE THIRD OR 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY IN WHEN THE WATER POURING CELEBRATION WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPENING - JESUS WENT UP INTO THE TEMPLE AND BEGAN TEACHING. 15 THE JEWS THEREFORE MARVELED, SAYING, “HOW IS IT THAT THIS MAN HAS LEARNING, WHEN HE HAS NEVER STUDIED?”*

*John 7:14-15*

The Jews are stunned by his courage and the content of what He's saying. They got their teaching from other Rabbis – Hillel was one of them – Paul studied under this Rabbi. And there was a great sense of pride being able to say you're studied under this Rabbi or that Rabbi – in fact, later on, Paul picks up on this tendency and calls out the church in Corinth for continuing in this kind of behavior – one says they are of Cephas another of Apollos – Paul says, knock it off – if we're of Christ then that is enough. And Jesus is speaking with authority not of some Rabbi he's studied....

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*16 SO JESUS ANSWERED THEM, “MY TEACHING IS NOT MINE, BUT HIS WHO SENT ME. 17 IF ANYONE'S WILL IS TO DO GOD'S WILL, HE WILL KNOW WHETHER THE TEACHING IS FROM GOD OR WHETHER I AM SPEAKING ON MY OWN AUTHORITY.*

*18 THE ONE WHO SPEAKS ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY SEEKS HIS OWN GLORY; BUT THE ONE WHO SEEKS THE GLORY OF HIM WHO SENT HIM IS TRUE, AND IN HIM THERE IS NO FALSEHOOD.*

*John 7:16-18*

You know what Jesus could have said,

“In the beginning was me, and I was with God and I was God I was in the beginning with God all things were made through me and without me was not anything made that was made. I have come to my own – receive me!”

This is all true. This is all what John will later write in the opening of this gospel, won't he?

But Jesus is on the Father's time. Jesus is about bringing glory to the Father

This is how you can be a true disciple – do the Father's will – in the Father's time.

How do you know if you are a true disciple? You seek the Father's glory alone, not your own.

Sin is doing things for your own glory rather than God's glory.

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Trying to look spiritual, attending church, even hanging around Jesus – all the same things his brothers and to some degree even the Jews who were bent on killing him were doing –

Disciples love the glory of God. Disciples seek the glory of God. Disciples point to the glory of God, not ourselves.

On the surface – by appearances – Jesus looked like any other man from Galilee – he spoke with a Galilean accent – but he was not just a man.

and He's going to revisit this encounter next...and he begins by asking a question they can only answer with yes,

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*19 HAS NOT MOSES GIVEN YOU THE LAW? WHILE THEY'RE LOOKING AT ONE ANOTHER WITH A DUH – DON'T BE SO BASIC HE ADDS **YET NONE OF YOU KEEPS THE LAW. WHY DO YOU SEEK TO KILL ME?**" AND THE CROWD AMPS UP AND YELLS IN MOCKING SHOCK **"YOU HAVE A DEMON! WHO IS SEEKING TO KILL YOU?"***

*John 7:19-20*

are you crazy...paranoid? If it were today, "are you on drugs?!" You're full of it – a demon! Jesus reviews what happened the last time he was there – this happened 6 months earlier when he was in town for the 1<sup>st</sup> pilgrimage feast: Passover...this was recorded in chapter 5, Jesus heals the paralytic:

[NEXT SLIDE] verse 21

*"I DID ONE WORK, AND YOU ALL MARVEL AT IT. REMINDING THEM OF THE SABBATH MIRACLE HE DID IN JERUSALEM LAST TIME HE WAS THERE. SO JESUS WILL TRY YET AGAIN TO BREAK THROUGH THEIR DARK, STUBBORN HEARTS. **22 MOSES GAVE YOU CIRCUMCISION (NOT THAT IT IS FROM MOSES, BUT FROM THE FATHERS), AND YOU CIRCUMCISE A MAN ON THE SABBATH. 23 IF ON THE SABBATH A MAN RECEIVES CIRCUMCISION, SO THAT THE LAW OF MOSES MAY NOT BE BROKEN, ARE YOU ANGRY WITH ME BECAUSE ON THE SABBATH I MADE A MAN'S WHOLE BODY WELL?***

*John 7:21-23*

In Leviticus 12 Moses gave the law about circumcision but Jesus reminds them that actually, circumcision on the 8<sup>th</sup> day was a sign of the covenant law well before Moses.

The command was a sign of the covenant and it had to happen on the 8<sup>th</sup> day

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What were they supposed to do if the eighth day fell on the Sabbath? They would go ahead and circumcise – Circumcision, you might remember, was so important, that in Exodus, after Moses meets with YHWH at the burning bush, the LORD then seeks to put him to death for not circumcising his own sons – it's Moses' wife who steps in and saves Moses' life when she circumcises their boys.

And it had to be done on the 8th day of the life of a baby boy, which means that 1/7th of the time) fall on a regular Sabbath day and on top of that since there are 7 other Sabbaths that happen during the feasts. If a boy were born 8 days before a Sabbath, he would be circumcised on the Sabbath. Jesus uses this point to prove that the law of God is not so rigid in application as Jewish authorities make it out to be. If God allows for this work of circumcision to be done on the Sabbath, he would allow for the much greater work of making an entire man well.

and this isn't the work of a demon - the devil seeks to destroy, but Jesus has made a man well.

So how can they be angry with Jesus for healing on the Sabbath? Actually, the question is who – who can be angry – and Jesus answers that in this statement:

*24 DO NOT JUDGE BY APPEARANCES, BUT JUDGE WITH RIGHT [DIK-AH-YOS] JUDGMENT."*

*John 7:24*

The hostile Jews setting out to kill him, his own brothers trying to push their timeline and agenda, and the false, deserting disciples who had left him earlier have one thing in common – they failed to judge with right judgement – from the Greek word, dikaios – meaning approved by God, righteous and just – Those who get it wrong are doomed – literally –

Jesus is telling them to judge and to do that rightly – not looking at appearances.

Eventually Jesus' brothers would come to rightly judge – looking beyond face of man they grew up with. Some Jewish leaders would also rightly judge and turn from their pride

John opened his gospel pointing to Jesus who was among other things...

*THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT [TABERNACLED] AMONG US.*

*John 1:14*

Today we must consider if we are doing what Jesus told the crowd on the middle day of sukkot -

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*“...JUDGE WITH RIGHT JUDGMENT.”*

*John 7:24*

It's fitting that Jesus appears in Jerusalem, at this feast of Tabernacles – Sukkot – to begin the end of his earthly ministry. This would be his last Sukkot. The Word who became flesh, the light of the World who dwelt – tabernacled – among us would in 6 months at the next feast day become the Passover Lamb who takes away the sins of the World.

He was the one who didn't seek his own glory but to glorify the Father spoke this prayer moments he would be betrayed and taken to the cross:

*I GLORIFIED YOU ON EARTH, HAVING ACCOMPLISHED THE WORK THAT YOU GAVE ME TO DO. AND NOW, FATHER, GLORIFY ME IN YOUR OWN PRESENCE WITH THE GLORY THAT I HAD WITH YOU BEFORE THE WORLD EXISTED.*

*John 17:4-5*

He had told his disciples that he would die in Jerusalem. Peter rejected that idea and wanted to skip ahead to the kingdom. His brothers tried to manipulate him into their own timeline. The Jews tried to kill them on their timing

the Feast of Tabernacles is a reminder that the kingdom will come – but the cross had to come first.

God gave us his calendar to keep our eyes and our hope and our community focused on His timeline.

Jesus tabernacled among us – he dwelt among us, glory would come but first - the cross

I know there are some here today longing for that glory, longing for that wholeness and completion in Christ, that day when there will be no more sorrow no more tears.

Maybe you're tempted to rush the timeline like Jesus' brothers did. As we prepare to take communion let's prepare our hearts in prayer that we would judge rightly about Jesus.

Jesus is reminding us today to rest in him, wait in Him, trust that all things will be accomplished in his time.

As we take the cup and the bread in a moment can we remember that together? Can we come and thank God for glorifying His son in the perfect time and know that we will be taken care of also in God's perfect time?

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That day on in Galilee when Jesus sat with his brothers, Jude was among them who tried to manipulate their own agenda onto. Jude didn't yet believe, but he will and inspired by the Holy Spirit he wrote this for us today:

*KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD, WAITING FOR THE MERCY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THAT LEADS TO ETERNAL LIFE. AND HAVE MERCY ON THOSE WHO DOUBT;*

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*24 NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO KEEP YOU FROM STUMBLING AND TO PRESENT YOU BLAMELESS BEFORE THE PRESENCE OF HIS GLORY WITH GREAT JOY, 25 TO THE ONLY GOD, OUR SAVIOR, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, BE GLORY, MAJESTY, DOMINION, AND AUTHORITY, BEFORE ALL TIME AND NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.*

Let's pause and pray and prepare our hearts now to remember the perfect timing of Jesus and the blessing of judging rightly about who He is.