

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Enemies and Family

1. Were you ever dared by your brothers or sisters to do something dangerous? What happened?
2. Who are some of today's most controversial personalities?
3. How important was or is your family's support for your goals and ambitions?

John 7:1-13 (NIV)

After this, Jesus went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to take his life. [2] But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, [3] Jesus' brothers said to him, "You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. [4] No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." [5] For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

[6] Therefore Jesus told them, "The right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right. [7] The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil. [8] You go to the Feast. I am not (*yet*) going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come." [9] Having said this, he stayed in Galilee.

[10] However, after his brothers had left for the Feast, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. [11] Now at the Feast the Jews were watching for him and asking, "Where is that man?"

[12] Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man."

Others replied, "No, he deceives the people." [13] But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the Jews.

Discussion: Jesus has not been in Judea for over a year, but the Jews were still pissed off at what he did and said "John 5:18 (NLT) 18 So the Jewish leaders tried all the more to kill him. In addition to disobeying the Sabbath rules, he had spoken of God as his Father, thereby making himself equal with God." Remember Jesus healed the lame man by the pool on the Sabbath. The feast of the Tabernacles was so important the Jews normally just referred to it as the FEAST.

1. Why did the religious leaders want to kill Jesus (see 5:18)?
2. In urging Jesus to attend this feast, are the brothers being wise or worldly (w. 2-5; see 6:42,66)?
3. What rumors are circulating about Jesus in Jerusalem (vv. 12-13)? Hence, why do you think he chose to go secretly?
4. Why did Jesus stay away from Judea? (7:1)

5. What feast was near? (7:2)

6. What did Jesus' brothers tell Him to do? (7:3-4) Do you think they were being sarcastic?

7. Do you think Jesus family was initially embarrassed by his claims?

8. What attitudes about ministry and Messiah-ship do Jesus' brothers show in 7:3-5?

9. Why did Jesus' brothers tell Him to do this? (7:5)

10. How did Jesus respond to His brothers' words? (7:6-8)

11. Remember the first miracle in John? Does verse six sound familiar? Look at John 2:4 on the back. What do these phrase imply? That Jesus is following some timetable, some divine plan? How does that make you feel that the events and timing were all laid out before hand?

12. Why did Jesus say the world hated Him? (7:7)

13. What did Jesus do when His brothers had left? (7:9)

14. Why do you think Jesus waits to go to Jerusalem until after his brothers have left (John 7:10)?

15. In verse 8 Jesus say he is not going (note: some scholars believe the yet was inserted to explain what happens in verse 10. What changed his mind? Or was he trying to go without the paparazzi?

16. What were the Jews doing at the feast? (7:11)

17. What were people at the feast saying about Jesus? (7:12)

18. Why didn't the people speak publicly about Jesus? (7:13)

John 2:4 (NLT) 4 "How does that concern you and me?" Jesus asked. "My time has not yet come."

John 12:23-24 (NLT) 23 Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. 24 The truth is, a kernel of wheat must be planted in the soil. Unless it dies it will be alone—a single seed. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.

John 13:1 (NIV) It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

Philippians 2:9-11 (NIV) 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Psalms 22:27-28 (NIV) 27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, 28 for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.

At some point Jesus' brothers had a change of heart: Acts 1:14 (NIV) 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

REFLECTION:

1. Do you face any family opposition to, or ridicule of *your* faith? How do you deal with it? How does Jesus' situation help?
2. Are you loved or hated by the world (v. 7)? Why?
3. Are you more likely to be cautious in sharing your faith with your family? Why?
4. Have you ever had to work with someone who disliked or even hated you? What was it like to face that person every day? (Or what do you think it would be like?)
5. What sort of things are people today saying about Jesus?
6. How would you feel if either a family member or friend doubted you or your abilities?
7. How have you been punished or put down for speaking the truth?

8. How would you feel if you knew that someone hated you?
9. What would you do if you knew that someone hated you?
10. In what different ways do people react to unwelcome truth?
11. When have you been afraid to openly share your beliefs about Jesus?
12. In what way is the world today evil?
13. How will you encourage either a family member or friend today?
14. In what area of your life do you need to ask God to help you boldly speak the truth?

PRAYERS