

- I. Opening Thoughts
 - A. Even those most familiar with Jesus did not believe Him
 - B. Jesus works according to His time, not ours
 - C. “We have to be continually reminded of what we believe. No belief will automatically remain alive in the mind. It must be fed” - C.S. Lewis
- II. Scripture exegesis
 - A. Vss. 1-2
 1. John refers to John 5:18, where after the Sabbath controversy, the Jews sought to kill Jesus
 2. Jesus spent approximately 1 year in Galilee, teaching His disciples
 3. Feast of Tabernacles (or Tents, Booths) was instituted in Exodus 23:16; Leviticus 25:33-36, 39-43; Deuteronomy 16:13-15. It occurred between Sep-Oct and lasted 7 days. This part of the narrative occurred about 6-7 months after the feeding of the 5,000
 - B. Vss. 3-5
 1. Jesus' brother did not believe
 2. Obviously, Joseph had other children after Jesus was born. Matthew 13:55 lists Jesus' brothers as “James and Joseph and Simon and Judas”. James wrote the epistle that bears his name and he became the leader of the Jerusalem church; and Judas (Jude) wrote the letter bearing His name. They were his half-brothers through Joseph, not Mary.
 3. Jesus' brothers wanted Him to put on a display, which we know won't ensure genuine faith. They wanted Him to perform miracles on demand, just as the 5,000 did.
 4. Mark 3:21 – even His own family thought He has lost His mind
 5. Jesus' brothers eventually became followers of Him – Acts 1:14. They followed Him as Lord, not as a brother. How do you view the Christ you claim to follow? Do you refuse to honor Him?
 - C. Vss. 6-9
 1. “My time has not yet come” - Jesus depended on and committed Himself to God's sovereign timetable for His life (cp. John 2:4) – Acts 1:6-7; 17:26
 2. All of the plans of man are in the hands of Sovereign God – Proverbs 16:9
 3. “Your time is always here” - Because His brothers did not believe, they were of the world and therefore knew nothing of God's or His purposes. Because of unbelief, they did not listen to His word, did not recognize God's schedule, and could not perceive the incarnate Word before them. As a result, any time would do for them, preferable now – MacArthur
 4. “The world cannot hate you” – The world does not hate unbelievers because the world love its own (i.e. those who don't believe, John 15:18-19)
 5. All who reject Christ lie under the control of Satan – 1 John 5:19
 6. “I testify about it that its works are evil” – A true born-again believer who is living for God's glory should experience hatred and antagonism of the world (John 15:18-25)
 7. The Jews cannot kill Him before God's perfect timing.
 - D. Vss. 10-13
 1. It was necessary for Jesus to work privately because of the increasing opposition to His teachings.
 2. Jesus never sought fame and acclaim. Most of His works were done secretly.
 3. We have less opposition to the message of Christ, yet we refuse to spread the message of Christ. The hostility we face does not compare to the hostility Jesus faced in His day
 4. Deceiver or good man? Jesus is neither!
 5. We should never be afraid to make a public stand for Jesus outside of church. If we acknowledge Him, He will acknowledge us before the Father. If we deny Him, He will deny us (Matthew 10:32)