

III- There is a classic puzzle

It is a dark night and there is a family of 5 that needs to cross a bridge suspended over a deep valley. The only light available was a lamp which could only burn for 30 minutes. Up to two members can cross each time. Different members take different amount of time to cross and the time they take must be at the pace of the slower one. The time taken for each member is as shown:

- (G)Grandpa - 12 mins
- (F)Father - 8 mins
- (M)Mother - 6 mins
- (S)Sister - 3 mins
- (B)Brother - 1 min

Point- Jesus in this part of his ministry, challenges those who are observing his ministry to look deeper, to look beneath the surface, to figure out the conundrum, the puzzle of when the law is applicable, and when it is not? Are we willing to look beneath the surface to see who Jesus is?

Six months has passed, tried to get him to get his followers back

"As in 2:1, Jesus' brothers most likely refers to the sons of Mary and Joseph, all younger than Jesus himself. At this point they are unbelievers (v. 5), a point attested by the Synoptics (cf. Mk. 3:21, 31–35 par.), and a small indication of John's care in avoiding anachronism: he does not at this point assume their subsequent conversion.

Jesus' brothers want Jesus to put on a display; John's readers already know that such a display would pander to corrupt motives (6:14, 15, 26ff.) and in any case would not ensure genuine faith (2:23–25; 4:48). The brothers want Jesus to show himself to the world, but in John's most characteristic sense of that word (cf. notes on 1:9) the 'world' is precisely that which cannot receive him without ceasing to be the 'world'. In one sense, Jesus has no intention of showing himself to the 'world' (cf. note on 14:22). And yet in another sense, the reader who presses on to the rest of this Gospel discovers that it is in Jerusalem where Jesus reveals himself most dramatically—not in the

spectacular miracles the brothers want but in the ignominy of the cross, the very cross by which Jesus draws all men to himself (12:32) and becomes the Saviour of the world (4:42)." D. A. Carson

He went up on his own agenda (that of his Fathers), who is his father?

ill-Whose on First, The famous sketch by Abbot and Costello shows perfect comic timing,
Point- God also has perfect timing, we can call this "Divine Appointments."

Jesus brothers know nothing of divine appointments, "Their alignment with 'the world' means they know nothing of God's agenda. They do not listen to his word, do not recognise it when it comes, and cannot perceive the Word incarnate before them. They are divorced from God's kairos, his divine appointments, and so any time will do. All appointments that ignore God's kairos are in the eternal scheme of things equally insignificant"- D. A. Carson

also

"Mary bore other children, with Joseph as their natural father (Matt. 13:55-56; Mark 6:1-6); so Jesus would have been their half brother. It seems incredible that His brothers could have lived with Him all those years and not realised the uniqueness of His person. Certainly, they knew about His miracles (see John 7:3-4) since everybody else did. Having been in the closest contact with Him, they had the best opportunity to watch Him and test Him; yet they were still unbelievers."- Warren W. Wiersbe

Thus we can see "the world does not define the actions of Jesus, only the Father."

It is interesting to note that failure to follow God's timing can bring disastrous results, in Joshua chapter 9, the people of Gibeon lie and fool the Hebrew nation into believing they live far away from the "promised land", Joshua unwisely believes them, and makes a pact, without waiting for God's instructions,

"So the Israelites examined their food, but they did not consult the Lord. Then Joshua made a peace treaty with them and guaranteed their safety, and the leaders of the community ratified their agreement with a binding oath."- Joshua 9:14

How often have we done something outside of God's will? The word of the Teacher, (most likely Solomon) in Ecclesiastes tell us there is a time for everything.

Are we waiting properly upon God to bring things to pass and to give instruction into our lives?

He comes to the feast.

"The institution of the Feast was associated in the Old Testament with the ingathering of harvest of grapes and olives. The Feast ran for seven days, 15–21 Tishri, the Jewish lunar month that falls in September–October. A special festival assembly took place on the eighth day, 22 Tishri (Lv. 23:36;)" - D. A. Carson

"Following the Feast of Trumpets and the solemn Day of Atonement, Tabernacles was a festive time for the people. The temple area was illumined by large candlesticks that reminded the people of the guiding pillar of fire; and each day the priests would carry water from the Pool of Siloam and pour it out from a golden vessel, reminding the Jews of the miraculous provision of water from the rock."-Warren W. Wiersbe

also to note

"23:16 Feast of Tabernacles (Feast of Ingathering)

"Celebrate the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field."

The Feast of Ingathering is more generally known as the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:34). It was instituted to remind the Israelites that their fathers dwelt in tents or booths in the wilderness (Leviticus 23:43), and to be an annual thanksgiving after all the crops of the land were gathered for the year (Leviticus 23:39). The feast was held in the seventh month, Tizri or Ethanim, corresponding to our October, and lasted for eight days, during which the people dwelt

in booths made of the branches of palm, willow, and other trees (Leviticus 23:39–43). On each day there were offered in sacrifice two rams, fourteen lambs, and a kid for a burnt-offering.

During the observance of the feast, seventy bullocks were offered: thirteen on the first day, twelve on the second, eleven on the third, and so on—the number decreasing by one each day until the seventh day when only seven bullocks were offered. The eighth day was a day of peculiar solemnity, and had for its special offerings a bullock, a ram, and seven lambs for a burnt offering, and a goat for a sin offering (Numbers 29:12–38). Altogether there were 199 animals offered each year at the Feast of Tabernacles.

On the Sabbatical year (seventh year), the Feast of Tabernacles was further celebrated by a public reading of the law (Deuteronomy 31:10–13). Whether this was intended to include the whole law or only certain portions of it are a matter of debate.”-James M. Freeman

The crowd are split into three, power, local, and outside, not even allowed to hold an opinion

We see three main groups mentioned, those who are in power, mainly made of Sadducees, then there was the local people to Jerusalem, who knew of what the teachers (Sadducees) thought of Jesus, and then those who were outside the area who were obviously unaware of the tense situation that Jesus had caused with the leadership of the Jewish people.

John 7:13 says "But no one had the courage to speak favourably about him in public, for they were afraid of getting in trouble with the Jewish leaders."

Then as now, public pressure to conform forced people's views to be publicly stifled. We must always be aware of the times and the season of our lives to see what things are being pressured not to say. Many a time in the past, church bodies have failed to speak out when they should, based largely out of fear or ignorance. It is upon each one of us, to help the collective body of believers wise and courageous so we can bring the truth of God's gospel to bring life to those around.

Jesus starts to teach, Where did he get it from.

God is not an object- If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out.... The point is not that a seeker must attain a certain God-

approved level of ethical achievement before venturing an assessment as to whether or not Jesus' teaching comes from God, but that a seeker must be fundamentally committed to doing God's will. This is a faith commitment. God then fills the seeker's horizon. God's will is not simply to be thought about and assessed, as if God is the object we may politely examine, dissect and discuss, picking and choosing what we like of him. D. A. Carson

Ill- Blow up Air and light Cathedral. There exists a small but fun "light Cathedral", which is an inflatable place you walk INSIDE, only from this vantage point can its beauty be appreciated, Jesus is the same, "Divine revelation can only be assessed, as it were, from the inside. From that perspective the person who chooses to do God's will discovers that Jesus' teaching articulates it, that Jesus does not speak on his own but as the Word of God"- D. A. Carson

"Satan offered Adam and Eve knowledge, but it was knowledge based on disobedience (Gen. 3:5). Jesus offered knowledge as the result of obedience: first the yoke of responsibility, then the joy of knowing God's truth. Dr. G. Campbell Morgan said it perfectly: "When men are wholly, completely consecrated to the will of God and want to do that above everything else, then they find out that Christ's teaching is divine, that it is the teaching of God."- Warren W. Wiersbe

He teaches from his own authority, not from a derived source.

"It has often been said that Jesus taught with authority, while the scribes and Pharisees taught from authorities, quoting all the famous rabbis."-Warren W. Wiersbe

Jesus does not rely on human precedent to rest his authority, but goes straight to his authority from the Father; this is deeply counter-cultural to the day.

Jesus highlights that he thinks the Jews were not keeping the law, what are they without the law?

By an outright statement, Jesus is shining the light on the dead practices of the Jews, he is the light amongst the darkness, as John records in his prologue, the darkness (world) doesn't want to accept the light.

John 1:10-11 "He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognise him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him."

He thinks people are trying to kill him (the leaders were, but were keeping it quiet)

"The feast may have been a jubilant time for the people, but it was a difficult time for Jesus, for it marked the beginning of open and militant opposition to Him and His ministry. Ever since He had healed the paralytic on the Sabbath Day, Jesus had been targeted by the Jewish leaders who wanted to kill Him (John 7:1, 19-20, 25, 30, 32, 44; and note 8:37, 40). He remained in Galilee, where He would be safer, but He could not remain in Galilee and also observe the feast.

John 7 has three time divisions: before the feast (vv. 1-10), in the midst of the feast (vv. 11-36), and on the last day of the feast (vv. 37-52). The responses during each of those periods can be characterized by three words: disbelief, debate, and division."- Warren W. Wiersbe

Puzzle box to go deeper, can they see beyond the conundrum of being trapped by rules?

More beneath the surface, a world beneath the ocean, seeing that there is more to God, so much more, that we have an opportunity to experience a deeper world

Challenge for those who do not know Jesus

1. Pick a favourite translation (test on the internet)
2. Go and read this

Ill- SCUBA diving," a world of wonder" by the "freedom through joyful obedience."

The SCUBA apparatus allows us to see a whole new world; it allows us to spend time beneath the surface, Jesus offers the same for life. As SCUBA needs the commitment to allow it to have the effect of

showing us a new world, so Jesus can show us this new world, but we need to be committed towards him.

Let us this day commit to a world of wonder, let us accept Jesus challenge to "look beneath the surface."