

# The Secret Scholar

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1. What did Jesus' brothers want Him to do? Why do you think they suggested this? How does fame affect families?
2. Why do you suppose the world hates Jesus? How does that hatred get shared by His disciples (Christians)? Was Jesus being deceptive about His intentions regarding the feast?
3. Why do you think that Jesus went in secret? Why were people afraid to talk of Him openly? Discuss peer pressure and its impact on Christians.
4. What was so impressive about the teaching of Jesus (v. 15)? How important is doctrine? Where do you get yours?
5. How does glory-seeking affect the church (v. 18)?
6. What work was Jesus being judged for? Why did He bring up the topic of circumcision? What are ways that we as believers can appear hypocritical? What are ways that we might judge from appearances rather than with righteous judgment?

<sup>1</sup>After these things Jesus walked in Galilee, for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him. <sup>2</sup>Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. <sup>3</sup>His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing." <sup>4</sup>For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup>For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

<sup>6</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. <sup>7</sup>The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup>You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." <sup>9</sup>When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.

<sup>10</sup>But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. <sup>11</sup>Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?" <sup>12</sup>And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people." <sup>13</sup>However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

<sup>14</sup>Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. <sup>15</sup>And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?"

<sup>16</sup>Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. <sup>17</sup>If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. <sup>18</sup>He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. <sup>19</sup>Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?"

<sup>20</sup>The people answered and said, "You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?"

<sup>21</sup>Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one work, and you all marvel. <sup>22</sup>Moses therefore gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup>If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? <sup>24</sup>Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

## Read: John 7:25-53

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### Monday

25-27 — What did people say once they identified Jesus? What do you think the rulers knew about Him? What issue about Him confused them? Is it true that God gave no indication as to where Christ would come from?

### Tuesday

28-31 — What did they not know? Have you been sent by God as well? If so, what is your mission? Why do you think they wanted to take Him? How do you imagine the scene of their not being able to lay a hand on Him? What did some conclude concerning His signs? How has God's timing affected your life?

### Wednesday

32-36 — Where do you think Jesus was going? Why do you think He told them this? Why could they not come? What do you know about the Dispersion? Why do you think that they would suggest He was going to the Greeks? (Consider their prejudice.)

### Thursday

37-40 — Do you know what feast this was? What prompted Him to offer to quench their thirst? What does the water symbolize? What needed to be done before the Holy Spirit was to come? Who do you think "the Prophet" is? Describe how "rivers of living water" applies to your life.

### Friday

41-46 — Where did they think the Christ would come from? What are some verses from the Old Testament that talk about the Christ? Why did they bring Him? What do you find to be unique about Jesus and His ministry?

### Saturday

47-53 — How did the Pharisees respond? Who did they consider to be the authority? Who questioned the judging of Jesus? What did the man do in John 3? What response did Nicodemus get from his peers? What was their prejudice concerning Galilee? What types of prejudices do religious leaders have in our present culture? How can we avoid them?

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