



—
***Believe it
or Not***

John 7-12
—

Today's Worship Service

PRAISE

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. (Psalm 29:2)

Welcome & Announcements

Call To Worship

["Behold Our God"](#)

["How Great Thou Art"](#)

Pastor Mike Matheson

[Isaiah 40:9-12](#)

Altrogge, Baird

Hine

RENEWAL

As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12)

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Grace

["It is Well With My Soul"](#)

Pastor Cole Griffin

Pastor Cole Griffin

Bliss, Spafford

PROCLAMATION

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. (Psalm 25:4)

Reading of the Word

Reader: This is God's Word for us today.

All: Thanks be to God.

[John 7:1-31](#)

Preaching of the Word

Pastor Mike Matheson

RESPONSE

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. (Psalm 63:3)

["God So Loved"](#)

["Center My Life"](#)

Benediction

Bergthold, Cash

Land, Ivey

Pastor Mike Matheson

John 7:1-31

Jesus at the Feast of Booths

[1] After this Jesus went about in Galilee.

He would not go about in Judea, because the

Jews were seeking to kill him. [2] Now the

Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. [3] So his

brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to

Judea, that your disciples also may see the

works you are doing. [4] For no one works in

secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do

these things, show yourself to the world." [5]

For not even his brothers believed in him. [6]

Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come,

but your time is always here. [7] The world

cannot hate you, but it hates me because I

testify about it that its works are evil. [8] You

go up to the feast. I am not going up to this

feast, for my time has not yet fully come." [9]

After saying this, he remained in Galilee.

[10] But after his brothers had gone up to the

feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in

private. [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. While 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.

[14] About the middle of the feast 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?" [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. [19] Has not Moses

given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the

law. Why do you seek to kill me?" [20] The

crowd answered, "You have a demon! Who is

seeking to kill you?" [21] Jesus answered them,

"I did one work, and you all marvel at it. [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? [24] Do not

judge by appearances, but judge with right

judgment."

Can This Be the Christ?

[25] Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore

said, "Is not this the man whom they seek

to kill? [26] And here he is, speaking openly,

and they say nothing to him! Can it be that

the authorities really know that this is the

Christ? [27] But we know where this man

comes from, and when the Christ appears, no

one will know where he comes from." [28] So

Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple,

"You know me, and you know where I come

from. But I have not come of my own accord.

He who sent me is true, and him you do not

know. [29] I know him, for I come from him,

and he sent me." [30] So they were seeking to

arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him,

because his hour had not yet come. [31] Yet

many of the people believed in him. They said,

"When the Christ appears, will he do more

signs than this man has done?" (ESV)

Sermon Notes

Preacher: Pastor Mike Matheson

Sermon: Why is it So Hard to Believe?

Scripture: [John 7:1-31](#)

Date: September 13, 2020

For more information on this topic look into:

John: A 12-Week Study. (Knowing the Bible series) by Justin Buzzard

John 1-12 For You (God's Word for You) by Josh Moody

ESV Scripture Journal

As a way of uniting together and encouraging one another to grow in Christ, we are encouraging you to memorize a verse we have selected. These verses have been chosen to help you reflect on the truths discussed in each Sunday's sermon. Consider setting aside intentional time to memorize and reflect on this verse this week on your own, with your family, your Life Group, or others:

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." John 3:36

Sermon Review Discussion Questions

These questions are for *after* the sermon and can be used for Life Group discussion, one-to-one discipleship, or personal reflection and application.

We are returning the Gospel of John this week after having worked through the first six chapters in the spring. In the first section of our study, John the Evangelist forced his readers to wrestle with the question, "Who is this Jesus?" As we work through chapters 7-12, we will continue wrestling through this question, yet will also be faced to answer the question, "Why is it so hard to believe?"

Discussion Questions

1. How would you answer the following question: "Who is the Jesus portrayed in John's Gospel?" What are the important details that must be included in your answer? Which of those details do you think are the hardest for some to accept and believe?
2. How do Jesus' brothers respond to him and his ministry ([John 7:1-9](#))? Why do you think they advised him to "go public" with his works? Are you surprised Jesus didn't take their advice? Why or why not? How does Jesus define faith differently from them?
3. Why do you think Jesus went to the feast in private ([7:10-13](#))? How might this have revealed people's true perspective of Jesus? What does it say when someone believes privately yet acts differently in public? How does hidden belief differ from true faith?
4. From where does Jesus claim his authority comes ([7:14-24](#))? How confident would you be if called upon to distinguish Jesus' teaching from the Father's teaching in Scripture? Why must Jesus' authenticity be accompanied by his authority?
5. Why do you think the Jewish people struggled to embrace Jesus and his teaching ([7:25-31](#))? What does it say if the Messiah that has come doesn't match up with your expectations? How can we make sure our hearts are focused on who Jesus truly is?

Announcements

[MOPS & Momsnext](#)

Begins Tuesday, Sept 15, 6:15pm

A group for moms (& moms to be!) of kids birth - school age. Join us for a time to connect with other moms.



[AWANA - Begins September 16th!](#)

New temporary start time:
6:45pm - 8:00pm.



Registration for AWANA this fall is now open on the church website. We are asking families to pre-register to help us best prepare for how many children to expect.

[Sunday Morning Childcare](#)

Childcare is available for children 12-48 months of age. You must RSVP each week online as there is limited space in the classrooms.



[Student Ministries Blaze](#) **Begins September 16th!**

Jr High: 6:30pm - 8pm

Sr. High: 7pm - 8:30pm

Please note, students will not be able to arrive early or stay late.

To help us gauge how many students to expect, please let us know if you intend to attend Blaze this year.

graceinracine.com/students/



Fall Classes - Begin September 20

Our classes are designed to help you know and follow Christ more faithfully by developing a deeper understanding of God and his Word. Visit graceinracine.com/classes to view video introductions of each class and register.



Tuesdays at 7:00pm

Growing in Christ for a Lifetime with Pastor Ryan Boyer

Sundays at 8:00am

Proverbs with Matt Hagemann

Sundays at 11:00am

Making Him Known with Clint Klepp
Navigating 2020: Social Issues and Unrest with Patrick Tetzlaff

[Life Group Sign-ups September 20](#)

If you are not currently in a Life Group, this will be a great time to get into a group! You can sign up online graceinracine.com/lifegroups. We will then place you in a group that fits your needs.



[Women's Gathering](#)

Saturday, October 3, 9-11am

Topic: Testing Your Faith

Women's Gatherings are a great way to get to know more women at Grace! Please RSVP to help us know how many to expect:

graceinracine.com/womens-ministry



Welcome to Grace Church!



It's great to have you here today and we'd love to connect with you! Visit graceinracine.com/connectcard or scan this QR code to let us know you visited, ask questions, submit prayer requests, or indicate an area of Grace Church that is of interest to you.

Friendly Reminders:

- Those 5 years of age and up must wear a face-covering when attending Sunday worship services.
- Please maintain social distancing.
- After service, please exit the building and use outside spaces to visit while still maintaining distancing.
- If sharing a pew with another family please ensure 6 ft between your two families.
- Offering boxes are located outside the main sanctuary doors and in the balcony.
- The seating outside the sanctuary window is reserved for parents with infants and young children.
- The church staff is available by appointment, phone, and video conferencing during the week.
- Thanks for your understanding and patience!

With Thanks

Dick Ganzel's family would like to thank all of you at Grace Church who have reached out to us with your condolences and expressions of love.

A big THANKS to everyone who gave items, cards of encouragement, and who is praying for April. I really appreciate all the love in action!

-Karen Sytsma for Radiate

Please pray for healing and recovery for those hospitalized or recently discharged: Kay Cooper

Our heartfelt love, sympathy, and prayers to Joe & Sherri Kobriger on the passing of Joe's mother, June Kobriger.

Last Week: Sanctuary Attendance: 170 // Livestream Attendance: 148 households

Giving: Last Week: \$39,544 YTD: \$1,074,277 +/- Budget: \$4,408