



SPORTS IN FOCUS

Reactions to the Son of God
John 7:1-10:42

READY

- Jesus used many metaphors to help explain who He was and why He came. “I am the door. I am the Good Shepherd. I am the way. I am the light.” Which of these images is most encouraging to you? Why?

SET

Context of John 7:1-10:42

The main point of this section of John’s Gospel can be summarized as high-intensity hatred, as the smoldering dislike of Christ erupts into a blazing inferno. Chapters 7 and 8 focus on Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. The major themes associated with this feast (water and light) come to prominence in this section. The central truth is that Jesus was a divine timetable. He lived according to God’s sovereign and perfect timing and direction. Chapter 9 features the healing of the blind man. This is followed by Jesus’ discourse on being the Good Shepherd in chapter 10.

Keys to Text *Stoning*: The usual method of capital punishment in ancient Israel. People who broke specific statues of the law of Moses were put to death by stoning. It was carried out by the men in the community upon the testimony of at least two witnesses who would throw the first stones. *Jewish Religious Leaders*: Referred to in John as “the Jews” in various places. This group was made up of Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes and teachers of the law.

GO

Read John 7:1-10:42

1. What did Jesus’ family (specifically his brothers) think of Him? What clues do you find here to support your answer?
2. What was the crowd’s response to Christ’s teaching (7:14-19)? How did Jesus characterize His own teaching?
3. What did the Pharisees claim about Christ (8:13-59) - that is, His identity and nature? What did Jesus in turn say about them?
4. What is significant about what Jesus shouted out on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles? (see 7:37-39)
5. Jesus claimed to be the Good Shepherd. What does that mean? How can this truth make a difference in your life?
6. What does the story of the adulterous woman (8:1-11) reveal about Christ? About forgiveness, grace, pride and repentance?
7. As the self-proclaimed “light of the word,” Jesus speaks blunt truth to the darkened hearts of sinful people. Will we hear and obey? Or, like the Pharisees, will we resist and reject the hard truth of God? In what area(s) of your life do you sense the Lord speaking uncomfortable words to you? What will you do?

SPORTS IN FOCUS *COURAGE*

Courage can be defined as fulfilling my responsibilities and standing up for convictions in spite of being afraid. Throughout history, people have loved seeing bravery and heroism in action. There is no better example of courage than Jesus’ example of sticking to his convictions and proclaiming truth though he knew his critics would respond harshly to his claims to be the Messiah.

While it takes courage to compete in sports, we also need that same courage to boldly proclaim that Christ is the only way to God. This is not proclaiming our own view of right religion but God’s revelation of truth. We don’t preach this claim because we are bigoted and exclusive but because the narrow way is God’s way and God’s only way for people to find salvation and eternal life. We proclaim a narrow gospel because Jesus said, “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved” (10:9).