



## **Sermon Discussion Guide**

February 8th, 2026 | John 7:1-20;37-39 | Pastor Greg Doty

**Series // The Gospel of John: Taste and See Who I Am**

### **Summary**

Pastor Greg began his sermon by referencing Payton Manning's commercials, in which he performs different jobs and goes by many names depending on the job. Jesus was, and still is, known by many in different ways. Some say he was a prophet or a good moral teacher. However, this passage tells us three things about Jesus. First, Jesus is obedient. During the Feast of Booths, a celebration that remembered God's provision of water in the wilderness, Jesus' brothers urged him to go to Judea, where the people were gathered, to gain more popularity. Pastor Greg pointed out that, much like Satan's words to Jesus in the desert, this invitation was actually a temptation. A shortcut to glory without the cross. Jesus refuses because he is waiting for his Father's timing. Jesus acts only in obedience to God, both in his actions and in his words. This matters deeply to us because we are not obedient to God, but Jesus' obedience is credited to us when we come to him in faith and obedience. God sees us through the righteousness of Jesus, not our own works and efforts. Some respond to Jesus with rejection and hatred because his obedience to the Father exposes their own sin and the darkness of the world. While it is easy to dismiss this by saying, "The world will hate Christians anyway," we must first examine our own response to Jesus. When Jesus' obedience exposes our sin, we often respond in defensiveness or hatred rather than repentance. Lastly, Jesus is transformative. Jesus invites even those who hated and are thirsty to come to him and drink. Jesus is the true source of life that the water in the wilderness pointed to. Jesus calls people to come to him continually, where he welcomes us with forgiveness and grace while transforming our hearts.

### **Discussion Questions (Read John 7:1-20;37-39):**

**Icebreaker Question:** What was your first job and what was your worst job?

#### **Jesus is Obedient**

- Why do you think Jesus' brothers' suggestion was tempting? What kind of "shortcut" were they offering him? What are some examples of similar temptations we face today?
- How does it change the way you see your faith to know that Jesus' obedience is credited to you?
- Where are you most tempted to act on your own timing instead of waiting on God?

### **Jesus is Hated**

- When have you felt defensive or uncomfortable when confronted with sin or truth—either in Scripture or through someone else?
- Why is it tempting to trust our good works, even religious ones, instead of trusting fully in Jesus?
- Are there areas where you're relying more on your performance for God than on Jesus' obedience for you?

### **Jesus is Transformative**

- Why is Jesus' invitation to "come and drink" so powerful in the context of the Feast of Booths?
- What does it look like, practically, to keep coming back to Jesus instead of seeking satisfaction elsewhere?
- How does knowing Jesus invites even those who reject him shape the way we view grace?

### **Closing Reflection & Prayer**

- How does the promise that Jesus will "never cast out" those who come to Him bring comfort or challenge you?

**Thank God for the gift of Jesus as the Bread of Life, and ask for a deeper hunger for Him over all other things.**