



When Things Go from Bad to Worse

Series: Gospel of John, #17

John 7:1-52

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Jesus faces some difficult days.

1. Challenge from unbelieving, sarcastic brothers. (1-9)
2. Teaching curious, but self-centered crowds. (14-39)
3. Avoiding attempts to seize and kill Him. (1, 30, 32, 43-53)

Some lessons for our difficult days.

1. There are times when it is best to actively avoid conflict. (6-10, 30, 40)
2. Keep speaking God's truth, even in the toughest times. (14-39)
3. Expect the full range of responses to Christian life and witness.
(3-5, 11-15, 20, 25-27, 30-32, 35-36, 40-53)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Understanding Jesus' life and ministry on earth requires realizing His suffering was not limited to the final days before the cross and His death. Nor was it infrequent. John traces the building opposition to Jesus starting in chapter 5. Here in chapter 7 it escalates. Review the three aspects of *Jesus faces some difficult days* in the outline. What do these events tell you about Jesus, also remembering He went through these things for us?

Tuesday. One of the lessons from Jesus' difficult days was that there are times when it is best to actively avoid conflict (6-10, 30, 40). When have you avoided conflict and later realized it was not the right thing to do? When have you avoided conflict and seen confirmation that it was the right thing to do? What principles on this do you learn from Jesus in this chapter?

Wednesday. A second lesson from Jesus in those difficult days is to keep on proclaiming God's truth, even in the toughest times (14-39). This is a balance to the first lesson we looked at yesterday. What does it take to keep you silent when you should not be silent? Why? How can you better follow Jesus' example?

Thursday. The last lesson we looked at on Sunday from Jesus in those difficult days was to expect the full range of responses to Christian life and witness. Review the range of responses, checking the outline sheet for references and your notes. Does this sound familiar in your own experience? If not, why not?

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to move on to chapter 8:1-30, thinking about the question "Does Jesus light up your life?" Read through this section as you prepare for our time of worship together.