

JUDGING JESUS

As preached on Sunday, December 14th

Read: John 7:1-24

1. We are provided an interesting look into Jesus' family life in vv.3-9. Why do you think Jesus' brothers wanted him to go to Judea? Do you think their counsel was heartfelt or were they mocking their brother?
2. In v.6 Jesus says, "*My time is not yet here; for you any time will do.*" What does he mean? How will he know when his time has arrived? Why will "any time" do for his brothers?
3. In v.9 we're told that Jesus stayed in Galilee when everyone else left for Judea, but in v.10 we're told that Jesus left for Judea as well. What changed?
4. There seems to be quite a buzz in the crowds about Jesus. Why? What were people saying? How had they formed their opinions of Jesus?
5. We're told in v.14 that Jesus began teaching in the temple courts halfway through the festival. Why do you think he chose to do so? What was it about Jesus' teaching that so amazed the Jewish leaders?
6. In v.19 Jesus tells his listeners that not one of them keeps the Mosaic law that they are so proud of. Why does he say this? What does he mean?
7. Re-read vv.21-23. Why is Jesus comparing a boy's circumcision to the healing of a man's whole body? What is his point?
8. It seems that the religious leaders of Jesus' day were picking and choosing the laws that they would obey and enforce, even though the whole law was meant to be obeyed. In what ways do we, as the Church in the world today, do the same? What should we do instead? (be specific)