



# SERMON CHEAT SHEET

Divine Decision | John 7

## JESUS DIVIDES: UNDERSTANDING OUR RESPONSE TO HIM

### The Festival of Shelters: Remembering God's Provision

As we explore John 7, we find Jesus approaching the Festival of Shelters, a significant Jewish celebration that commemorates the Israelites' wanderings in the wilderness. It serves as a reminder of God's providence, highlighting how He provided for His people even in the toughest times. Just as God called the Israelites to remember their history, we, too, must reflect on our journeys. What has God seen you through? What miracles have you witnessed? As we come into this Thanksgiving season, it's vital to consider how we can express gratitude for God's continued presence in our lives.

### Divided Opinions: Who Is Jesus To You?

In the heart of the festival, we see the crowds divided over Jesus' identity. Some labeled Him a good man, while others deemed Him a deceiver. This division raises a thought-provoking question for each of us: Who do you say Jesus is? Jesus challenges us not just to ponder His identity but to respond to it actively. Your understanding of Him can influence how you live, serve, and interact with others. Are we merely indifferent bystanders, or do we actively engage with the truth of who Jesus is in our daily lives?

### The Call to Action: Doing God's Will

Jesus emphasizes that knowing God's will is not enough; we must actively do it. He contrasts knowledge with action, illustrating that it's not merely what we believe that matters but how we live it out. When we choose to do good, we'll begin to uncover deeper truths about God's will for our lives. Reflect on this: Are there areas in your life where knowledge of scripture hasn't translated into action? Let's commit this week to step out in faith and do something tangible that reflects God's love.

### Dealing with Doubt and Division

As the religious leaders discuss Jesus, they display a worrying trend of using scripture for personal gain rather than spiritual truth. This points to a crucial lesson for us: we must be careful not to weaponize God's Word against others. Particularly during family gatherings, where tensions can arise, remember to share truth in love without compromising your beliefs. How can we approach conversations with those who may not understand, especially during this holiday season, with grace and humility rather than judgment?

## LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Reflect on your spiritual journey this week; write down how you've seen God's faithfulness.
- Engage someone in conversation about who Jesus is and share your perspective with love.
- Find one way to serve in your community — putting truth into action.
- Seek to actively listen and understand differing viewpoints during family gatherings.

## PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray for wisdom and opportunities to share Jesus' love during family times this holiday season.
- Ask God to reveal areas in your life where you need to act on your faith more boldly.
- Pray for guidance in conversations, that we may speak the truth in love and grace.
- Lift up our church volunteers and leaders, asking for the right people to step forward and serve.