

## **John 7:32-52**

This study continues from where we left off earlier in chapter 7. Jesus is in Jerusalem, at the Feast of the Tabernacles. The Feast ran for eight days and commemorated God's provision for his people during the wilderness wanderings. The people gathered in Jerusalem where they camped in 'tabernacles' made from branches as they remembered as they remembered Israel's forty years of camping in the wilderness. During the feast the two themes of water and of light played an important part as the people remembered God's provision of water from the rock and the 'fiery cloudy pillar' that guided them. Each day in the temple there was a special water drawing and lamp lighting rite. Jesus in his teaching in this section draws on these themes, building on Old Testament prophecies like that of Zechariah (13:1, 14:6-21).

Hostility, confusion and division continue, as well as an increasing threat to Jesus' life.

### **Exposure of the Jews v32-36**

What do the Pharisees' attitude and action show about them?

### **The promise of Jesus v37-39**

How would you put Jesus' promise here in your own words? Why is it so good?

Who is the promise for?

What is the means by which the Spirit is given (39b)?

### **The people's response v40-52**

How do the people respond to Jesus in v40-44?

How would you describe the response of the Jewish leaders to Jesus? What do these responses reveal about them?

### **Thinking it through**

What has encouraged your heart from what Jesus says here to anyone who believes in him?

How can we make sure that we value these promises?

How do you feel about the hostility to Jesus we see here? How far do you think we should expect similar reactions today? Why?