

**John 7:1-10**  
April 12, 1987  
**Rome Georgia**  
**June 22, 2014**

Opening Illus: **Nepal's Living goddess who still has to do her homework** (see story at end of message)  
Follow up with the verses from chapter 6 – True Deity of Christ

Then read **7:1-10**

There are **many voices that seek to control our lives today**. Suggestions are made and opportunities are presented that are BOTH APPEALING AND FLATTERING.

Above all else, Jesus was first and foremost, unconditionally committed to **OBEYING God's plan for His life**.

There were many philosophies and many theories on life in Jesus day. Many claimed to have the answers to the dilemmas of life. Many clamored to have their views heard and approved by man. **These voices were not always from some "outside" group, but sometimes from unlikely sources such as friends and families**. Men then as men now were deluged with suggestions and plans for their lives and Jesus was no exception to this.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING ORDERS (OR THE DANGER OF TAKING ADVICE.)**

Subject: Christ at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Theme: **Service to God is to be done in God's time and in God's way**.

Proposition: Are you fighting the battles God wants you to fight? Are you doing what He wants you to do? Do you feel like you've been placed out of the limelight? Don't worry, God has not forgotten you.

- I. **Voices that urged Him onward / Jn. 7:**
- II. **Voices that bid Him stay / Mt. 16:22.**
- III. **But only one Voice that led Him on the narrow way.**

**\*JOHN 7:1-2 READ\*\*\*\***

**Time:** The period in Jn. 6 occurred around the time of **the 2nd Passover that John records for us**. In **chapter 7**, we read that the events related occur at the time of the "The Feast Of Tabernacles." The Passover, being in April, and the Feast of Tabernacles being in October, a **period of roughly 6 months has elapsed**.

According to Josephus, this feast was regarded by the Jew as their "Holiest and greatest feast." It also bore the name of, the "Feast Of Ingathering" and it was a time of thanksgiving for the harvest. It was a time for all who gathered to REMEMBER and REJOICE in the blessings of God. To help them recall God's goodness to them in the wilderness, they lived in booths made of tree branches for the 7 days that the feast lasted. The feast also signified the fact of God's dwelling with His people.

Jesus was ministering in Galilee at this time. We read in **Chapter 5** about the healing of the invalid man in Jerusalem and the Jew's desire to slay Him. He went from Judea after this across the sea of Galilee into the land of Galilee where we find Him teaching in **6-7**. After the falling away of many of His disciples (cf. **6:66**) Jesus continued to minister to those He knew best. It was an opportunity to be able to minister away from some of the conflict that was brewing about His teachings. Also, as **verse 1** tells us, the **Jews (the leaders)** in Judea **sought to kill Him**.

During this 6 month period there are no specific miracles that are mentioned. It was a time of teaching about God and not of demonstrating His power.

(walking=*periepatein* denoted generally the going about of a teacher with his disciples, hence, to "dispute" or "to discourse." Expos. I.761.

His brothers grew restless as they waited to see what he would do, and they began to urge Him to go to Judea.

## I. VOICES THAT URGED HIM ONWARD / Jn. 7:

v. 3-4 goes on to tell us, however, that his brothers urged Him to go to Judea.

They were anxious for Christ to resume His position in the spotlight. **They had not at this time believed on Him v. 5**, and their concern was that He was wasting His time in the boondocks. If He was who He claimed to be, why did He not go where the action was. He should go to the religious capitol and do some miracles and prove whatever point it was that He wanted to make.

Here in Galilee, many of His disciples had deserted Him, (6:66), in Judea there were many who desired to see Him and anxiously awaited His return. Go to Judea...**"that thy disciples may also see thy works which thou doest."**

**READ V.4** "If = since" Expos.

Always there were those around Christ who desired for Him to **DO** something to **PROVE** something. In **Jn. 6:30** the Jews said **show us a sign "that we may see and believe."**

But Jesus was not in the entertainment business. **He didn't DO for the sake of DOING**. He didn't set up a tent in the middle of town and advertise the miracles that He would do in order to draw a crowd. He simply lived each day in obedience to the will of the Father, and if that included a healing or a feeding or a resurrection, then and only then were miracles wrought.

**HIS ANSWER TO HIS BROTHERS WAS ALL THE EXPLANATION THAT WAS NEEDED AS TO WHY HE WOULD NOT GO TO JUDEA YET.**

**v.6 "MY TIME IS NOT YET COME:** TO HIS BROTHERS HE SAID:

You can go to Jerusalem anytime. You are in no danger. The world does not seek your life. You are of the world and the world does not hate it's own. **Cf. Jn. 15:18-19.** "...if ye were of the world, the world would love it's own..."

v. 8 "go ye...for my time is not yet fully come."

1. **\*Jesus was not afraid of that which awaited Him in Jerusalem.** There was no fear of death.
2. **\*There was however an abiding concern that each step that He took be a step on the narrow way that God had prescribed for Him!**
3. **\*There were yet many things which He must do before He would offer His life.** He knew that ultimately, He would in fact DIE in Jerusalem.

Already in the book of **John** we have seen the repeated efforts of men to try and force Jesus hand. But He has already told them that the only sign that they will get is the **sign of Jonah! His resurrection from the dead!** Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up. **\*\*\*2:19\*\*\***

From the very beginning of His ministry He knew where He was going and He never faltered from His course. He sought throughout His earthly sojourn to instruct His disciples as to His course, but they never quite grasped it.

**Mt. 16:21** "From that time forward Jesus **began to show unto His disciples** how that He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised again the third day."

THERE WAS NO FEAR, THERE WAS CERTAINTY! **Again and again He told His disciples of the events which were to take place and again and again they failed to grasp what He was saying.** Shortly after Jesus had told them this in **Mt. 16** Jesus took Peter and James and John up on a high mountain privately and they were witness to the transfiguration. As they came down from the mountain

**\*\*Mk. 9:9-10\*\***

**Mar 9:9** And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.

**Mar 9:10** And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.

**\*\*\*Cf. Lk. 18:31-34\*\*\*TURN HERE\*\*\*\***

**Luk 18:31** Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "**Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished.**

**Luk 18:32** **For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon.**

**Luk 18:33** **They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."**

**Luk 18:34** **But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.**

THEY DID NOT YET UNDERSTAND THAT **CHRIST WAS NOT COME TO ROUT THE ROMANS BUT TO DESTROY DEATH!** HE CAME AS A CONQUERING KING TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE.

But not in the way that THEY DESIRED, but rather in GOD'S WAY.

In all their INNOCENT IGNORANCE they resisted the idea that He would have to die!

AND SO WITH THE VOICES THAT URGED HIM ONWARD, THERE WERE ALSO

## **II. VOICES THAT BID HIM STAY / MT. 16:22.**

Those that knew Him best and loved Him most tried to sway Him from His appointed course!

**Peter, who only a short while earlier had confessed that He was "the Christ the Son of the Living God" this same Peter rebukes the Savior when Jesus begins to speak of his death.**

**\*\*\*\*\*Look back at Matthew 16:22-23\*\*\*\*\*"....thou savorest not the things that are of God, but those that are of men!"**

Peter had a "**MAN'S EYE VIEW**" and could see only so far as man's limited wisdom permits. But Christ in His infinite wisdom, knew that it was not the logic of men that controlled His actions, but the Wisdom of God!

### **VOICES THAT URGED HIM ONWARD, VOICES THAT BID HIM STAY III. BUT ONLY ONE VOICE THAT LED HIM ON THAT NARROW WAY**

**Jn.:4:34** "my food is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work"

**Jn. 5:30** "I can of my own self do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and my judgement is just, because I SEEK NOT MY OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF THE FATHER WHO HATH SENT ME."

**Ps.40:7-8** cf. **Heb. 10;7**. ..."lo I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) TO DO THY WILL OH GOD."

Even as He faced death and humiliation...**Mt. 26:42 39 THE CUP** "Not as I will, but as thou wilt."

**Lk.:22:42** "not my will, but thine, be done."

**AND, HE SUBMITTED HIMSELF TOTALLY TO THE PLAN THAT GOD HAD FOR HIS LIFE. He came to be KING and KING He would be. He came to SAVE His people and SAVE He would. He came to CONQUER and more that CONQUER He would.**

**BUT NOT ON HIS TIME SCHEDULE OR PETER'S OR HIS BROTHERS BUT ON GOD'S SCHEDULE.**

**In Jn. 7** Christ already knew that death awaited Him in Judea. And He knew that it was inevitable. But He also knew that it was not yet time for that death to take place.

But a few months later, things had changed. His immediate purpose of walking on this earth as one of His own creations of flesh was drawing to it's climax.

Then there was no reason to secretly enter the city but every reason to enter it as that which He had come to be, THE KING OF PEACE. (when a king was on a peace mission, it was customary in that day for him to ride a DONKEY and NOT A HORSE!)

Then everything, right down to the detail of the provision of the donkey that He was to ride, was in readiness.

**Matt. 21:ff.**

**MATTHEW 21:1-7**

**BUT STILL THERE WERE VOICES Mt. 21:8-9**

MULTITUDES OF VOICES. CHANTING "HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID! BLESSED IS HE THAT COMETH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD! HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

If Jesus had been self-seeking, He probably would have tried to capitalize on the enthusiasm of this crowd. Everything appeared to be going His way. They had seen the miracles, they believed He was the King that was to come, (cf. **6:14-15**)

He had popular opinion on His side. Gallup polled Him tops!

He could have organized, He could have marched. But He didn't. **HE CHOSE RATHER TO TRUST IN THE DIVINE DIRECTIVES OF HIS FATHER AND TO FOLLOW HIS PLAN.**

**HE KNEW THAT BEFORE HE COULD ACCEPT THE CROWN, HE HAD TO GO TO THE CROSS!**

AND ALL THE VOICES OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO EVER LIVED COULD NOT SWAY HIM FROM HIS OBEDIENCE TO THE PLAN THAT GOD HAD FOR HIM.

It made no sense to His brethren or His closest disciples or to the throngs that surrounded Him, but it was the only sensible thing to do! "OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN"

**IN JN. 7 THE TIME WAS NOT RIGHT. BUT ELSEWHERE WE READ:**

**\*\*Mt. 26:18, 45 "My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at thy house with my disciples."**

**\*\*Jn.:12:23** The **hour is come** that the Son of Man should be glorified."

**\*\*Jn. 13:1** " ...when Jesus knew that **His hour was come** that He should depart out of this world unto the father..."

**WHOSE TIME? GOD'S TIME! AND BECAUSE OF THIS, WE HAVE A REDEEMER TODAY WHO HAS CONQUERED DEATH AND OFFERS LIFE FREELY TO ALL WHO WILL BUT RECEIVE HIM!!!**

HIS OBEDIENCE ALLOWED HIM TO GLORIFY GOD, RATHER THAN HIMSELF!

**Jn. 17:1** " Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son may glorify thee."

HOW WE NEED THIS LESSON FROM OUR SAVIOR TODAY!

One of Jesus unbelieving brothers that in **Jn. 7** urged Him to glorify Himself learned years later the truth that Jesus lived by..

**JAMES 4:10** "HUMBLE YOURSELVES IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD, AND HE SHALL LIFT YOU UP."

**THE TRUE ROAD TO GLORY IS NOT IN BRINGING GLORY TO OURSELVES, BUT IN BRINGING GLORY TO THE FATHER THROUGH HUMILITY AND OBEDIENCE."**

**Phil. 2:5-11** ....**READ**

**Php 2:5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

**Php 2:6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

**Php 2:7** but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.

**Php 2:8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

**Php 2:9** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

**Php 2:10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

**Php 2:11** and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

THE SUFFERING, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS WAS THE PLAN FROM THE OUTSET. THERE WAS NO "ALTERING" OF GOD'S PLANS! ALL WENT ACCORDING TO HIS SOVEREIGN WORKINGS. THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN WAS SLAIN FOR ALL OF MANKIND THAT ALL MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.

The same voices that called to Jesus to lure Him from His appointed path call to us today. DO THIS AND RECEIVE THE PRAISE OF MEN AND SHUN THAT AND BE SAFE

BUT STILL TODAY THERE IS THE VOICE OF THE FATHER GIVING DIRECTION TO EACH OF HIS CHILDREN SO THAT THEY TO MIGHT GLORIFY HIM.

**Jn. 2:19-22** "When therefore Jesus was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; And they believed the scripture and the word which Jesus had said."

## VOICES

Voices that urged Him onward voices that bid Him stay  
But only one Voice that led Him on that narrow way.

His brethren spoke from earth bound hearts "to Judea thou must go  
."and Peter spoke with Satan's words "to die my Lord?, Oh No!"

The expectant crowds screamed Hosanna, in that dust filled eastern air  
as the hired help plotted harm to the The Vineyard Owner's Heir.

The bread was shared the wine was drunk by the first unto the last  
the Savior wept and prayed aloud, if perhaps this cup might pass

but not as I (nor yet these others) tis only Your will I desire  
I'll walk Your way and tread Your path and wear that crown of brier.

And as for the voices of this world, He gave no thought nor bother  
Indeed their sound could scarce be heard above the whisper of His Father.

For it was His Father's voice He heard that led His steps each day  
as He blazed the path to Calvary, that we might find The Way. *EPW 4- 11-87*

Unlike the Kamari of Katmandu, OUR TRUE AND LIVING GOD, not only is allowed outside to walk around, but . . .

Joh 6:19 So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid.

Joh 6:27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because **God the Father has set His seal on Him.**"

Joh 6:28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

Joh 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you **believe in Him whom He sent.**"

Joh 6:32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, **but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.**

Joh 6:33 **For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**"

Joh 6:38 For I have **come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**

Joh 6:40 And this is **the will of Him who sent Me**, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Joh 6:41 The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "**I am the bread which came down from heaven.**"

Joh 6:44 No one can come to Me unless **the Father who sent Me** draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:46 **Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God;** He has seen the Father.

Joh 6:50 This is **the bread which comes down from heaven**, that one may eat of it and not die.

Joh 6:51 **I am the living bread which came down from heaven.** If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

Joh 6:57 **As the living Father sent Me**, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

Joh 6:58 **This is the bread which came down from heaven**—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

Joh 6:62 *What* then if you should see the **Son of Man ascend where He was before?**

Joh 6:65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that **no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.**"

Joh 6:68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Joh 6:69 **Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**"

Older intro: Psychiatrist, and some so-called preachers, are telling us that the way to be successful in this life or in your ministry is to "think positively"

"One psychiatrist gave the following suggestions for success:



Cast aside self-doubt; focus on one goal at a time; think positively; be enthusiastic; prod your imagination; be generous; act decisively; and be persistent. He said that successful people don't rely on "luck." They push themselves to get ahead.

This is reasonably good advice - as long as it is combined with humble submission to God. Christ Himself was confident, decisive and goal-conscious....But He never let this interfere with His obedience to the Father." DB 04-03-77.

## Nepal's living goddess who still has to do homework

By **Sonia Narang** PRI's The World, Nepal

**Samita Bajracharya is a 12-year-old Nepalese girl who lives with her family, studies hard, and enjoys playing a Nepali version of the lute. But until recently she was also worshipped by people who believed she was a reincarnated goddess.**

Along a busy thoroughfare in **Lalitpur, near Kathmandu**, a passageway leads into a large, open-air courtyard. In the back corner, there's a modest home, with a red sign outside that simply reads, "**Living Goddess**".

A narrow wooden staircase leads up to the second floor, where the goddess spends much of her childhood. **She's called a Kumari, which means "young, unmarried girl".**

She's worshipped by both Hindus and Buddhists in Nepal, who believe she's a **reincarnation of the Hindu goddess Durga**.

**I got to know the mother of this Kumari - Nepal has a few of them - after several visits to her house.**

**How did it feel when her daughter, Samita, was chosen to be a Kumari**, I asked?

**"I felt both happy and sad," she says. "On one hand, I felt happy because when your daughter becomes god, having a god in the home is a delightful thing. But I also got scared because I wasn't sure if we would be able to follow all the rules."**

**There are many rules. For one, Samita's mother has to apply special makeup to her daughter's face in intricate designs. The girl isn't allowed to go outside except for festivals. On those occasions, her feet must not touch the ground. That means someone has to carry the young goddess.**

**Furthermore, the Kumari is not permitted to speak to anyone besides her family and close friends.**

The best way to find out what life is like for a child goddess is to **talk to a former Kumari. I call Samita's predecessor, Chanira Bajracharya** (no relation), and she agrees to an interview in her home.

**We sit on the floor of the dark chamber where she spent a decade praying and blessing**

I expect we'll do the interview in Nepali, but when I ask her a question, she starts speaking fluently in English. She tells me that she learned the language by reading newspapers during her Kumari days.

**"When I was a goddess, I used to peek through the holes of windows," Chanira says.**

She's now a 19-year-old business student, and looks like any ordinary teenager in her fashionable green T-shirt and black trousers. **She became a Kumari when she was just five years old.**



"Being a goddess is just like being a princess and you get everything at home," she says. "I never missed going outside, but rather enjoyed staying at home and being part of the divine life."

This divine life ended abruptly when Chanira was 15, on the day she first menstruated. Suddenly she was no longer the Kumari. She says the transition was difficult.

"When I had to step out of my house for the first time, I didn't know how to walk properly," she says. "My mom and dad, they used to hold my hands and teach me how to walk."

During her Kumari years, private tutors taught her at home. All of a sudden, she started going to school with other children.

"It was a big challenge for me," Chanira says. "All of the classmates were so afraid to talk to me because I was an ex-goddess and I was treated a little bit differently."

"They even used to say that I'm an alien. They said that to me."

Believers no longer bowed down to her or touched her feet as they'd done for years.

"I lost that respect," she says. "I never imagined that my life would be so changed in such a sudden way."

As soon as Chanira's tenure ended, local priests chose a new Kumari. Her successor, Samita, happened to be a close friend, almost like a younger sister.

"When I was a goddess, she used to come here and we were friends so she knows about the Kumari life," Chanira says.

The Kumari's life of prayer also includes homework. When I go back to the current Kumari's home, her mother allows me to enter her room and watch a private tutoring session.

For the first time, I see her as a normal girl as she sits quietly at her desk, and carefully takes notes.

**"There wasn't a tradition to educate the Kumaris in the past," her teacher Rachna Upreti says. "Their world was in the four corners of their rooms."**

But things have changed for modern-day Kumaris.

"She is really interested in the outside world," Upreti says. "Not just Nepal, but the whole world."

The Kumari's mother invites me to attend a special festival a few days later. I arrive as she's carefully applying make-up to her daughter's forehead.

She takes out ornate necklaces and armbands from a mahogany cabinet full of accessories. The Kumari grimaces as her mother fastens the heavy jewellery on her.

Soon, Shobha lifts her daughter and carries her down the steps on to a throne at the centre of the courtyard.

Hundreds of people have lined up to offer the Kumari flowers and donations, and to touch her feet. They begin inching towards her to receive her blessing and she applies a bright red dot to each visitor's forehead. Later, she sits completely still, but her eyes dart left and right as onlookers photograph her.

After it's all over, she goes back to the privacy of her own room. She picks up her favourite musical instrument, a *sarod*, and begins to practise.

As she plays the stringed instrument, she looks completely relaxed. She seems to forget about all the pressures of being a living goddess.

A few months after I visited the Kumari, I learned that her term as a living goddess had ended, and a new girl had been selected.

"From the very first day she had her period, she was locked in a dark room where no sunlight could enter," Chanira wrote to me. "No men were allowed. But she could have plenty of female friends and relatives."

Chanira stayed with her friend Samita in those days to help her adjust to a new life. On the 12th day, no longer a goddess, Samita could finally walk outside her home.

She's now making new friends at school.

"She is free to go outside," Chanira says.

"I think she is happier nowadays."

*Subscribe to the [BBC News Magazine's email newsletter](#) to get articles sent to your inbox.*

This report is by [PRI's The World](#) with support from the [International Center for Journalists](#). Listen to Sonia Narang's [radio report](#) to hear Samita Bajracharya's views on the World Cup