**The Gospel of John:**

**Everything is Going According to Plan**

*John 7:1-13*

**Context**

The sovereignty and providence of God extends to all things—nations, governments, people, events, circumstances, etc. All that happens in life is done according His divine time frame.

**2 Chronicles 20:6**—*and he [Jehoshaphat] said, “O Lord, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You.*

**1 Chronicles 29:11-12**—*Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.****12****Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.*

**Psalm 47:2, 8**—*For the Lord Most High is to be feared, A great King over all the earth….God reigns over the nations, God sits on His holy throne.*

God’s providential hand is especially seen in the events in the life of Christ. His divine miraculous birth, dead, resurrection, and ascension back to His Father was all done exactly according to plan.

**Galatians 4:4**—*But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law*

**Romans 5:6**—*For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

**1 Timothy 2:6**—*who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.*

**1 Timothy 6:14-15**—*that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,****15****which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords*

**John 6:66-71**—After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee, for He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. **2**Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. **3**Therefore His brothers said to Him, “Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. **4**For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be *known* publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” **5**For not even His brothers were believing in Him. **6**So Jesus said to them, “My time is not yet here, but your time is always opportune. **7**The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil. **8**Go up to the feast yourselves; I do not go up to this feast because My time has not yet fully come.” **9**Having said these things to them, He stayed in Galilee. **10**But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not publicly, but as if, in secret. **11**So the Jews were seeking Him at the feast and were saying, “Where is He?” **12**There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, “He is a good man”; others were saying, “No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray.” **13**Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews.

2 distinct time frames

1. **The Wrong Time frame, vv1-9**
2. Jesus remained in Galilee until His time to depart to Judea  
   1. *After these things*—this is in reference to the prior chapter occurring around Passover (April)
   2. The Feast of Tabernacles (v2) occurs in October and is celebrated in Jerusalem. All adult males were required to attend.
   3. The Apostle John records nothing (except—”*walking in Galilee*”) during this interval time. The other Gospel accounts do: miracles, healings, casting out demons, feeding the 4,000
3. Jesus’ primary focus at this point is teaching His disciples

(**Matthew** **16:13-27; 17:19-23; 18:1-35**)

* 1. He spoke of His impending rejection, crucifixion and resurrection

**Matthew 16:21**—*From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.*

* 1. He showed three disciples His divine glory at the transfiguration

**Matthew 17:1-2**—*Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves.****2****And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.*

* 1. The fact that He spends months with His disciples and days with the crowds is noteworthy

The Christian church [*humanly speaking*—emphasis mine] is in large measure the legacy of those eleven men (plus Matthias [Acts 1:26] and Paul [1 Corinthians 9:1]), who faithfully disciple their followers who disciple others and so on, down through the centuries to our own day.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Matthew 28:19**—*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit*

**2 Timothy 2:2**—*The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

1. The Jews were seeking to kill Him

**John 5:18**—*For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.*

* 1. He was “*unwilling to walk*” because it was the wrong time
  2. It was not as though He was unwilling to die. He came to die  
       
     **John 12:27**—“*Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”*

1. His brothers make a request during the Feast of Booths

**Matthew 13:55-56**—*Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?****56****And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”* 

* 1. They must have thought that this event would be the platform to persuade others to embrace Him (Jewish leaders, Judeans, Galileans who may have fallen away (v66)
  2. They themselves are not believers in Jesus as the Messiah, v 5
  3. Their challenge includes a mocking unbelief: *If you do these things, show yourself to the world (4b)*

**Matthew 27:40***—…*and saying, “You who *are going to* destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

***Matthew 4:3, 6****—And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”…****6****and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written...*

1. Jesus does not capitulate, **vv6-9**
   1. His time had not come…
   2. His time would come at the next feast in the spring (Passover)
2. Their time was always opportune
   1. They would not face hostility
   2. The world could not hate them (**John 15:19**)
3. **The Right Time frame, vv10-13**
4. Jesus does go up to the feast, but not publicly
5. He showed up in the middle of the feast, **v14**
6. He hit the road at a quiet time
7. He traveled through Samaria (**Luke 9:51-56;** undetected)
8. All of that likely prevented premature confrontations
9. The Jews were seeking Him out  
    **v. 11**—So the Jews were seeking Him at the feast and were saying, “Where is He?”
10. These were the religious leaders, not the crowd
11. Again, confirming the wisdom of Jesus’ choice
12. The crowd’s response
13. He’s a good man
14. He leads the people astray
15. Both responses are wrong
    1. Good men do not claim to be God (**John 5:18, 8:24, 28, 58; 10:33**)
    2. Deceivers don’t perform miracles (**John 10:25; 37-38; 14:10-11**)
16. Regardless of their thoughts, they weren’t speaking openly
17. They knew the leaders wanted to kill Him
18. There were waiting for some official word as to who Jesus was
19. They did not want to publicly contradict their leaders
20. Excommunication was a consequence

**John 9:22**—*His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.* 

**John 16:2**—*[Jesus speaking] They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.*

**CENTRAL POINT:** Jesus always performed

God’s will exactly as the Father wished.

1. The Macarthur NT Commentary: John 1-11, John Macarthur, p. 279. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)