

LESSON 7
RELIGIOUS BUT FAR FROM GOD
JOHN 7:1—8:59



1 What famous people have you met?

2 When were you near someone important or famous but didn't realize it (you learned about it later)?



Read John 7:1—8:59 and the following notes:

- ☐ 7:3–5 ☐ 7:13 ☐ 7:19 ☐ 7:26 ☐ 7:46–49 ☐ 7:50–52 ☐ 7:51 ☐ 8:32
☐ 8:34, 35

3 What clues can you find that indicate the following people were religious but far from faith in God: the brothers of Jesus, the crowd in Jerusalem, the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders?

4 What doubts did the crowds have about Jesus?

5 What do you think was happening spiritually with Nicodemus?

6 Some people believed in Jesus but were afraid to speak up. What reasons do people give today for not speaking up for Christ?



7 How are people religious today yet still far from God?

The Jewish leaders were very religious but not very spiritual. They focused on sin and missed forgiveness, focused on the Sabbath and missed the Lord of the Sabbath, focused on their earthly heritage and missed their heavenly heritage, focused on Jesus' words and missed his message. These people thought they were close to God himself, but they missed him. It is easy for us to do the same. We can be busy about many church activities, even read the Scriptures and pray daily, and still have hearts far from God. We can be close to Jesus and yet miss him completely.

8 What keeps you busy at home? at work? at church?



9 Which, if any, of these activities can absorb so much of your attention that it can cause you to miss Christ?

10 What can you do to be more aware of Christ?

11 How can too much religious activity dull you spiritually?

12 What can you do to avoid developing a callous, religious mind-set?

13 What do you need to do this week to let Jesus renew your mind, heart, and spirit? What will help you get close to him again?



14 What can you do in church this Sunday to see Jesus clearly?

- A** What evidence for Jesus' deity does John appeal to in these verses?
- B** Why did the world hate Jesus? How does the world respond to you?
- C** If you were to ask your neighbors, "Who is Jesus Christ?" what responses would you get? How can you tell them of Christ's true identity?
- D** Where did Jesus come from? Where did people think he came from? How did this affect how they felt about him?
- E** What does it mean to be spiritually thirsty? How has the Holy Spirit quenched your spiritual thirst?
- F** What do you think Jesus wrote in the dirt when he confronted the accusers of the adulterous woman? Why did the older men leave first? How did Jesus respond to the woman and her sin? With whom do you identify in the story?
- G** How is Jesus the light of your life?
- H** How has Jesus set you free?
- I** What was so important about being Abraham's descendants? Who are Abraham's true descendants?
- J** Why did the Jews want to stone Jesus?

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