LifeGroup Study

Crashing Sukkot : Grumbling Around God

Sermon Summary

The Feast of Sukkot/Tabernacles was how Israel remembered the wilderness years, when God lived among them and provided day by day. Families built small shelters and crowded into Jerusalem to celebrate a God who had dwelt with them. So when Jesus stands up to teach in the temple at this very festival, the irony is sharp: the God they are celebrating is in their midst, and they don't recognize him. Instead, they stand in judgement over him, and they miss him precisely because they aren't interested in doing God's will, the very thing that would have opened their eyes.

Key Verse

John 7:24 (NIV)
"Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly."

SERMON NOTES

www.creeksidechurch.ca/sermon-notes/crashing-sukkot-grumbling-around-god/

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What did you find interesting or have questions about from the sermon?
2. John uses the wilderness grumbling word for their muttering (John 7:12). What grumble is running in the background of your life right now, and how is it coloring what you see?
3. Read John 7:6. Jesus lives by the Father's clock; his brothers can go any time because they carry no divine mission. Where are you feeling pressure to force something – a decision, a door, a timeline – that God has not opened yet? What is driving the urgency?
4. Read John 7:7. Jesus is hated because truthful testimony exposes, not because he is abrasive. When have you felt pushback for telling the truth, and when have you been disliked just for being abrasive? How do you tell the difference, honestly?
5. Read John 7:17. Obedience comes before full understanding. Where are you waiting for a complete explanation before you will obey? What would obeying first look like?
6. Read John 7:18. Jesus says the test of a teacher is whose glory they seek. In a world of influencers, and hot takes how do you tell who is pointing to the Father and who is collecting a following? Who do you listen to, and why?
7. Read John 7:24. Appearances said: unlettered Galilean, Sabbath-breaker. Reality said: the Sent One doing the Father's work. Who – or what situation – have you judged by appearances lately? What would judging correctly, with humility and truth, look like there?
8. Read John 7:27–29. "We know where this man comes from," the Jerusalemites say – and that familiarity becomes their barrier. They know the earthly facts and miss the Sender entirely. What do you "know" about Jesus that might actually be keeping you from knowing him: a Sunday-school version, a cultural version, a version that never challenges you?
9. Read John 7:31. Belief and opposition grow side by side. Following Jesus does not require a friendly environment. Where is your faith actually growing right now, even in a hostile or confusing season? What signs of life do you see?

CLOSING PRAYER

Go around the circle and let each person name one grumble or unmet expectation in a single sentence – no explaining, no fixing. After each one, the group prays together, "Jesus, we trade this grumble for humility." The leader closes by thanking God that he dwells in our midst, even when we cannot see him clearly.