



## **Why Some People Hate Jesus** **John 7:1-13**

*The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil (John 7:7—KJV).*

*The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil (John 7:7—NASB).*

*The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify against it that its works are evil (John 7:7—NRSV).*

From Jesus' discussion with His brothers, who did not believe in Him, we learn the second and perhaps major reason the religious leaders in Judea wanted to kill Jesus. Jesus bore witness (testified) that their works were evil. The Pharisees enacted rules and regulations that reinterpreted and replaced the Law of God in the Scriptures. Whereas the Law of God required love for God and others, the Pharisees even reinterpreted the Law of Love so they would not need to help their parents if they became financially needy. When Jesus healed the sick on the Sabbath, He revealed their selfishness. They did not love, know, or honor God, but they accused Jesus of evil for making himself equal to God. When they used religious accusations and debate to direct attention away from the fact that their deeds were evil, Jesus unmasked them. When they said they wanted to kill Jesus for blasphemy, they really wanted to keep Jesus from exposing their hypocrisy. In much the same way, the works of the Sadducees, who also wanted to kill Jesus, were evil. As priests, the Sadducees collaborated with the Romans to maintain political power and wealth. The last thing they wanted was a Messiah to come and disturb their power over the people and the wealth they could gain from having turned the temple into a den of thieves. When Jesus cleansed the temple and exposed their corruption, they joined with the Pharisees to kill Jesus. Jesus came to take away the sin of the world; in doing so, Jesus revealed the evil works that must be turned from to turn to God.

## Thinking Further

1. Why did Jesus not wish to go to Judea?
2. Why did Jesus' brothers want Him to go to the festival?
3. Why did Jesus choose not to go to the festival with His brothers?
4. Why did the world then and the world now hate Jesus (and Christians)?
5. What did the crowds say about Jesus during the festival?