4. When Jesus Speaks…He provokes a response

**Welcome** (10 mins)

How do you feel about marmite? Are you a lover or a hater? (Extra time Q - Do you have any other weird and wonderful food loves?)

**Worship** (10min)

[By the grace of God](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZr8218__Jg)**, Tim Hughes**

Listen or sing along, leave time for open prayer before moving on to the Word.

**Word** (30 min)

**Intro:**

This is set at the Feast of Tabernacles. Originally a harvest celebration, by Jesus’s time it had also taken on the significance of remembering God’s provision for the people of Israel during the wilderness wandering. A priest would draw water from the pool of Siloam, and with lots of celebration, pour it into a bowl next to the altar. The last day was the ‘greatest day of the feast’.

We see in 7:3-5 Jesus’ brothers had encouraged him to go to the feast to reveal himself, but in v 6-9 Jesus says that his time had not yet come. But v 14 tells us that Jesus went up in his own time half way through the feast.

**Read** John 7: 37-49

**Q)** V 37: Why did Jesus say this? Discuss.

Earlier in John, Jesus talks about water. Look up these passages: John 4:10, 13-14 and 6:35

**Q)** How are these similar?

**Q)** Vr 38: What is this referring to? Discuss.

Jesus’s speech caused a major reaction. Discuss the different responses and compare to responses today.

Vr: 40 – Prophet – a good, godly man.

Vr 41a – Messiah - the real deal, the one I’ve been waiting for.

Vr41b – A phoney or false prophet, something doesn’t make sense.

**Q)** Who do you know personally who might respond to Jesus in any of these ways?

Their expectation of the Messiah was that he would come from Bethlehem (which in fact he did!). Some thought he would be a priest, others a military leader. Everyone had their own expectations.

The religious leaders had already sent the temple guards to arrest him in verse 32.

**Q)** In verses 45-46, what was the temple guards respond? Why?

**Q)** How did the Pharisees respond to the guards?

**Q)** What is *our* response to Jesus’s words in verses 37-39?

**Q)** How do you come and drink deep? When did you last do this?

**Witness** (10 min)

Pray for our families, friends, communities, workplaces, schools, that they will experience God’s rivers of living waters.

Pray for the Branch as we had over to the builders next week. May God bless all the work and continue to guide all involved.