

John 7:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.

Analysis

Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. The timing 'about the midst' (ēdē tēs heortēs mesousēs) indicates mid-festival, approximately the fourth day of the seven-day feast. Jesus's public appearance contrasts with His secret arrival (verse 10). 'Went up into the temple' (anebē eis to hieron) places Him in Judaism's spiritual center. The verb 'taught' (edidasken) indicates authoritative instruction, not casual conversation. Jesus's public teaching in the temple demonstrates boldness despite authorities' murderous intent (verse 1). His timing was strategic—mid-feast when crowds were assembled but opening-day chaos had subsided. Reformed theology sees Jesus controlling His revelation and teaching at the optimal moment for maximum impact. His courage contrasts with the people's fear (verse 13). Faithful ministry requires boldness to proclaim truth despite opposition.

Historical Context

The temple was Judaism's central institution, where teaching occurred in courtyards and colonnades. Rabbi would gather students and crowds for instruction. Jesus taught there regularly during festivals (John 8:2, 10:23, Mark 12:35). His temple teaching represented direct engagement with religious establishment on their home ground. The authorities couldn't easily arrest Him surrounded by crowds, especially during festival when Roman authorities watched for disturbances. Jesus's mid-feast appearance maximized teaching opportunity while minimizing premature arrest. First-century teachers sought temple venues

for credibility and audience. Jesus's boldness despite death threats demonstrates His divine mission conviction. Early Christian preaching similarly occurred in prominent public spaces—synagogues, marketplaces, forums—not hidden corners.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus's bold temple teaching despite danger teach about faithful ministry in hostile contexts?
2. How do we balance wisdom (verse 10, traveling secretly) with boldness (verse 14, public teaching)?
3. Why is the temple setting significant for Jesus's teaching ministry and authority claims?

Interlinear Text

Ἦδη	δὲ	τῆς	ἐορτῆς	μεσοῦσης	ἀνέβη	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	εἰς
Now	about	G3588	the feast	the midst of	went up	G3588	Jesus	into
G2235	G1161		G1859	G3322	G305		G2424	G1519
τὸ	ἱερόν	καὶ	ἐδίδασκεν					
G3588	the temple	and	taught					
	G2411	G2532	G1321					

Additional Cross-References

John 7:28 (Temple): Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.

Luke 19:47 (Temple): And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him,

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