

John 7:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come.

Analysis

Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come. Jesus instructs His brothers to attend Tabernacles without Him. The command 'go ye up' (*humeis anabēte*) grants permission while making clear His own plans differ. The statement 'I go not up yet' (*egō oupō anabainō*) uses 'not yet' rather than absolute negation—He will attend, but not immediately or publicly with them. Some manuscripts read 'I go not up' (*oupō* becomes *ouk*), creating apparent contradiction with verse 10, but 'not yet' is better attested and resolves the difficulty. The explanation 'my time is not yet full come' (*ho emos kairos oupō peplērōtai*) uses perfect passive—the time hasn't been filled or completed. This echoes verse 6's teaching about divine timing. Jesus won't be pressured by family, crowds, or expectations to act before God's appointed moment. Reformed theology emphasizes Christ's sovereign control even when facing pressure.

Historical Context

Jesus's refusal to go publicly at His brothers' urging demonstrates His independence from human counsel. Throughout His ministry, Jesus rejected attempts to control His timing or methods—resisting Satan's temptations, refusing the crowd's attempt to make Him king (John 6:15), and controlling His movements despite danger (John 8:59, 10:39). His delayed arrival in verses 10-14 shows sovereign timing—He attends mid-feast, teaching in the temple when impact will be greatest. First-century Jewish custom expected families to travel together to festivals; Jesus's separate arrival would seem unusual. But His mission

transcended family customs and social expectations. The early church learned this principle—ministry timing and methods must be dictated by God's leading, not human wisdom or cultural pressure.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do we discern God's timing when facing pressure from family or culture to act immediately?
2. What is the difference between strategic timing and fear or procrastination?
3. How does Jesus's example of resisting human pressure guide pastoral and evangelistic ministry?

Interlinear Text

ὑμεῖς	άναβαίνω	εἰς	τὴν	έορτὴν	ταύτην	ἐγὼ	οὗπω
ye	Go	unto	G3588	feast	G3778	I	not
G5210	G305	G1519		G1859		G1473	G3768
άναβαίνω	εἰς	τὴν	έορτὴν	ταύτην·	ὅτι	ό	καιρὸς
Go	unto	G3588	feast	G3778	for	G3588	time
G305	G1519		G1859		G3754		G2540
ἐμὸς	οὗπω	πεπλήρωται					ό
my	not	full come					
G1699	G3768	G4137					

Additional Cross-References

John 7:6 (Parallel theme): Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready.

John 8:20 (Parallel theme): These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.

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