

December 8, 2024

## Scandalous Christmas: The Fugitive Birth of Jesus (John 7:1-5, Mark 3:1-6, John 10:39-40)

*Warmup: Jesus is in the room: What kind of Jesus do you envision?*

READ John 7:1-5

- Identify and describe the attitudes Jesus encounters with His family.

READ Mark 3:1-6, John 10:39-40

- Why are the Pharisees upset with Jesus? What is the Sabbath?
- What are the deeper attitudes that are driving the Pharisees' dislike of Jesus?
- What do the critical attitudes of Jesus' brothers and the Pharisees reveal?

REFLECT

- Why doesn't Jesus conform to the religious social system that the Jews have in place?
- What social systems of power have you experienced?
- Do you tend to:
  - a. Conform and go along with the social system
  - b. Create an individualistic belief system and go your own way
  - c. Run the opposite direction of any structured system
  - d. Listen to the Holy Spirit and determine how to follow Jesus
- What priorities kept Jesus focused on the mission His Father gave Him?
- What was the purpose of Jesus often seeking solitude? Luke 5:15-16

*"To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."*

## RESPOND

- Like Jesus, what benefits would you gain by seeking solitude?
- In solitude you become more present to yourself, to God and then to others. Pair up with a friend and brainstorm how you can practice being present with God, in solitude, during the busy holiday season.
- Choose 1 or 2 methods and add them to your phone calendar.