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Our Greatest Barrier

John 7:1-31

Josh Hair

12.8.24

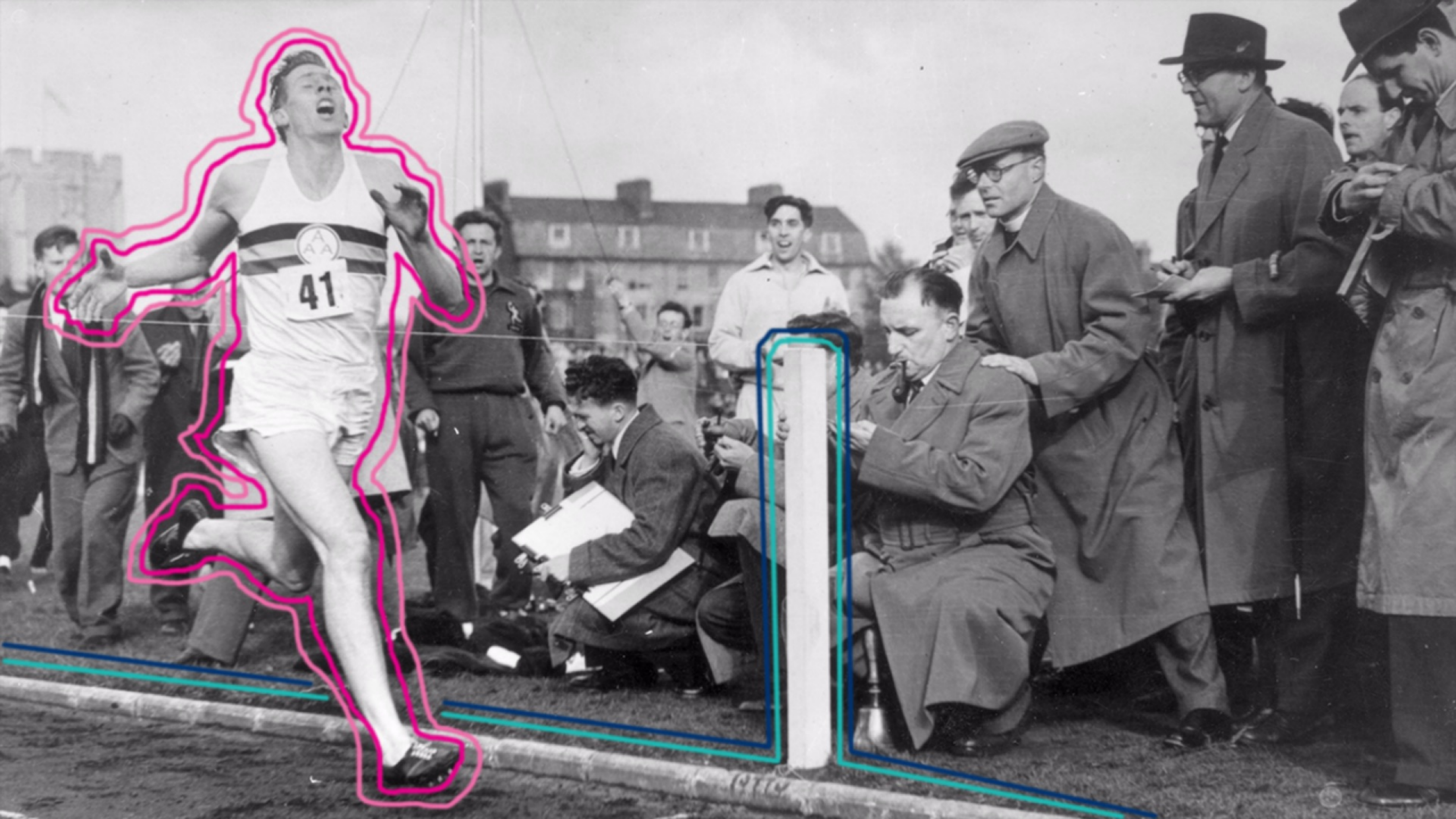
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Main Idea

**The greatest barrier to knowing
the truth of Jesus is rooted in our
heart, not our head.**

It is our self-righteousness!

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After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.² Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand.

John 7:1-31. ESV



³So his brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. ⁴For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.”

John 7:1-31 ESV

⁵For not even his brothers believed in him.

John 7:1-31 ESV

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⁶Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. ⁷The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.

John 7:1-31.ESV



⁸You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come.”
⁹After saying this, he remained in Galilee.

John 7:1-31 ESV

¹⁰But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private.

John 7:1-31 ESV

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Barrier of Self-Righteousness

1. Expressed in selfishness

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²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Matthew 16:24-25 ESV

²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 16:24-25 ESV

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For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:10 ESV

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¹¹The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, “Where is he?” ¹²And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, “He is a good man,” others said, “No, he is leading the people astray.”

John 7:1-31 ESV

¹³Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him. ¹⁴About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching.

John 7:1-31 ESV



¹⁵The Jews therefore marveled, saying, “How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?”

John 7:1-31 ESV

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Barrier of Self-Righteousness

1. Expressed in selfishness

2. Expressed in pride

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¹⁶So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. ¹⁷If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

John 7:1-31 ESV



¹⁸The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.

John 7:1-31.ESV

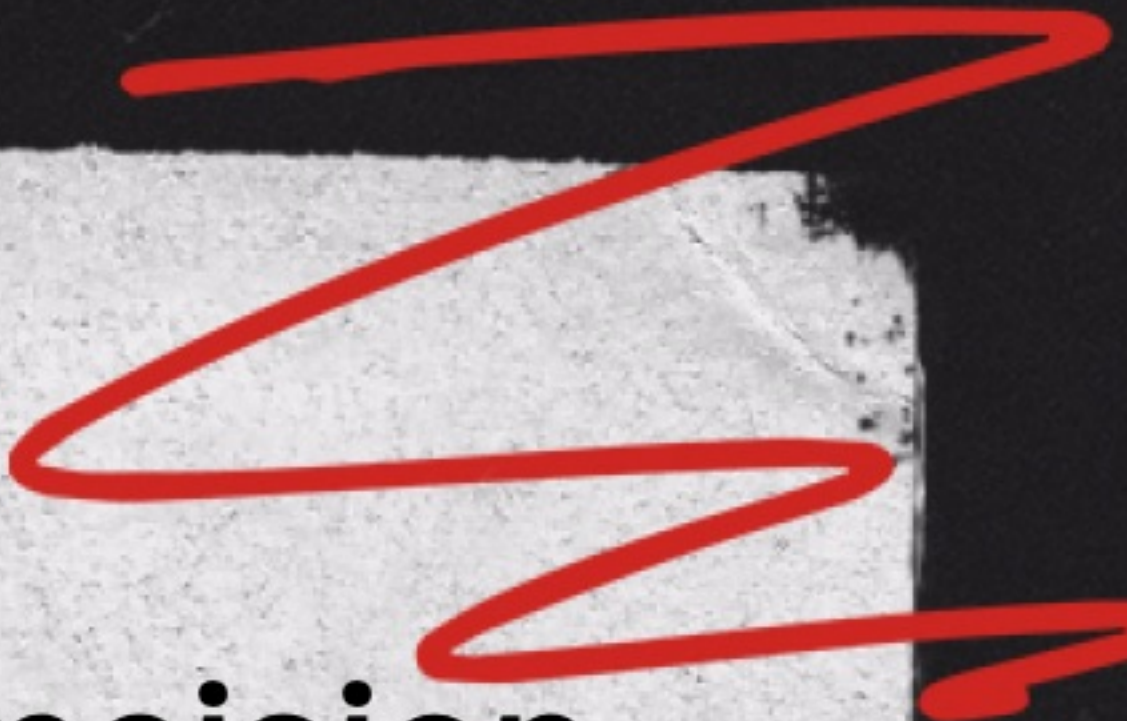


¹⁹Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?” ²⁰The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?”

John 7:1-31.ESV

²¹ Jesus answered them, “I did one work, and you all marvel at it. ²² Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath.

John 7:1-31 ESV



²³If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? ²⁴Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

John 7:1-31 ESV

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**“Pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up
the very possibility of love, or
contentment, or even common sense.”**

C.S. Lewis



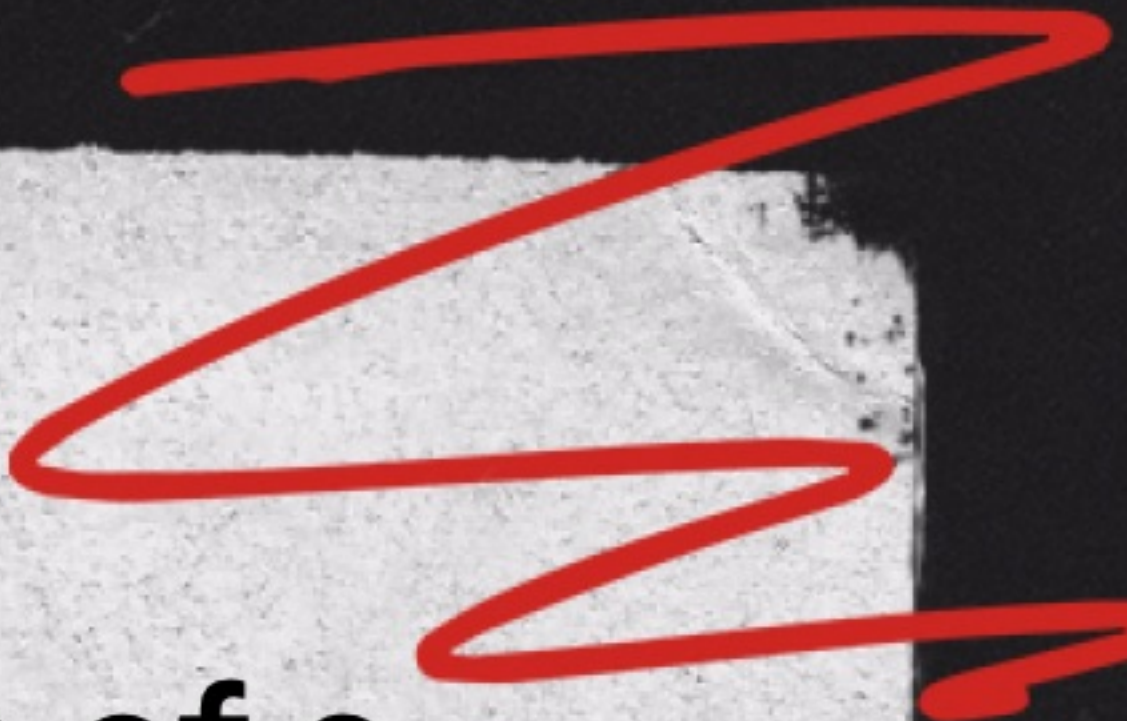
³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-8 ESV



⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Philippians 2:3-8. ESV



⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:3-8 ESV

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²⁵Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, “Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? ²⁶And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ?

John 7:1-31 ESV



²⁷But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from.” ²⁸So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, “You know me, and you know where I come from.

John 7:1-31 ESV

But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know.
²⁹I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me.” ³⁰So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.

John 7:1-31 ESV



³¹Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, “When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?”

John 7:1-31 ESV

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²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

³For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.

Romans 4:2-3 ESV

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¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

John 17:17 ESV

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QUESTIONS

1. Do you desire God's glory?
2. Is your will to do God's will?

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