

“Who is Jesus?”: Teacher of Truth – Part 1
John 7:14-24

John 7:14 ¶ About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching.

John 7:15 The Jews therefore marveled, saying, “How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?”

John 7:16 So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.

John 7:17 If 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 7:18 The 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 7:19 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?”

John 7:20 The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?”

John 7:21 Jesus answered them, “I did one work, and you all marvel at it.

John 7:22 Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath.

John 7:23 If 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?

John 7:24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”

Introduction:

- Summary of John’s intent and purpose (John 20:30-31)
 - **John 20:30-31**, “**30** Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”
 - **Tozer**, “To ‘accept Christ’ . . . we accept His friends as our friends, His enemies as our enemies, His ways as our ways, His rejection as our rejection, His cross as our cross, His life as our life and His future as our future” (Gems from Tozer, p. 51).

- Context: Feast of Booths (tabernacles)
- Coming out of John 7:1-13

The Teacher’s Context (v.14)

- A) Feast of Booths
 - a. His timing
 - b. His obedience
- B) Temple
 - a. Public
 - b. Providentially controlled

The Teacher’s Authority (vv.15-18)

- A) Challenged (v.15)
 - a. Lack of Education
 - b. Handling the Scriptures
- B) From God (v.16)
 - a. Rabbinic tradition of teaching was based on precedent (what was handed down)
 - b. Knowing this, Christ does not break this. He simply says that the discerning will know that He is the one scripture has always pointed to. His teaching is only new in the sense that correct interpretation to scripture is given. He doesn’t write something new.
 - c. In their view, they did not see Christ as anything but crazy. Christ aligns Himself with God.
- C) Discerned by the Sheep (v.17)
 - a. **John 6:44**, “**44** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.” (not understood by logical debate or intellectual assent – it is a moral choice)

- b. **John 10:7-11**, “7 So Jesus again said to them, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”*
- c. Jesus makes it impossible to stand on the outside and judge these things. The truth must be participated in.
- i. **Calvin**, *“One man will say that he prays for the dead, because, distrusting his own judgment, he cannot venture to condemn the false doctrines invented by wicked men about purgatory; and yet he will freely allow himself to commit fornication. Another will say that he has not so much acuteness as to be able to distinguish between the pure doctrine of Christ and the spurious contrivances of men, but yet he will have acuteness enough to steal or commit perjury. In short, all those doubters, who cover themselves with a veil of doubt in all those matters which are at present the subject of controversy, display a manifest contempt of God on subjects that are not at all obscure.”*
 - ii. We must NOT avoid knowledge for fear of error. God will give discernment and we must do His will. Knowing more will yield doing more of His will, if we are true believers.

D) Goal: God’s Glory (**v.18**)

- a. Cannot exalt man and God
- b. Only God is worthy because of who He is

The Teacher’s Message (vv.19-24)

- A) Rebuke (**v.19**)
 - a. Hypocrisy
 - b. Practice
- B) Christ-centric (**vv.20-21**)
 - a. Did not appear dangerous enough to kill
 - b. Considered crazy
 - c. Central to the message
- C) Judgment (**vv.21-24**)
 - a. By this it is meant the right kind of assessment and discernment
 - b. It does not matter if you’re right if your premise is wrong; then all you’ve done is proven your wrong premise.
 - c. Be Consistent in assessment
 - i. Good apologetic: On the Sabbath it was acceptable to work if it was life or death, or the law had to be fulfilled on that day (i.e. circumcision)
 - ii. Only the sheep will connect Christ’s work as life or death (“whole body well”)
 - iii. Being good and a liar are mutually exclusive – yet, I hear this about people today! We are not consistent. We even deceive ourselves as pastors believing the end justifies the means.
 - iv. If Jesus is who He says He is, then WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE!
 - v. If Jesus is who He says He is, then WHAT HE DOES IS TRUE, AND WE MUST BE OKAY WITH THAT...HE IS THE POTTER!
 - d. Appearances vs. Reality
 - i. If not based on truth, it doesn’t matter.
 - ii. Circumcision is good, Christ’s work better.
 - iii. You must determine if Christ be true, not if He will make you look good.

Conclusion:

- The Bottom Line as we head into the New Year is that because Jesus is the “speech of God” (logos), being God Himself, He must be listened to.
- We listen to Him by reading scripture, engaging in prayer and not forsaking the assembly of the saints, putting ourselves under the proclamation of God’s Word (not man’s ideals).
- Make this your resolution: I will listen to and obey what Christ has to say!
 - As simple as this sounds, can you fathom how radically different your life would be if you actually did this more consistently than ever before?
 - Remember...BE A DOER, NOT A HEARER ONLY!
 - PRAY FOR GOD’S WORD TO DWELL RICHLY!