

God With Us

A Study of John's Gospel: "Jesus in the Temple"

John 7:14-24

"The Jews therefore marveled saying, *How is it that this man has learning, when He has never studied?*" – John 7:15

I. The Character of His Teaching

- a. Jesus never studied at the rabbinic schools, so His command of the O.T. amazed the crowds.
- b. There were mixed opinions among the Jewish crowds about who Jesus was. *And some said, He is a good man; others said, He deceives the people.*
- c. Jesus taught with authority, while the scribes and Pharisees taught *from* authorities. They mainly quoted from the writings of famous rabbis.
- d. They failed to see Jesus for who He really was, because they saw Him from a natural position.
- e. We only know you as *this*. How can you be *that*?
- f. His identity with the Father gave Him access to the Father's knowledge, that knowledge is truth.
- g. God chooses to reveal Himself to His people through their obedience.

II. Receiving Christ: Willing to Do the Will of God (v. 17) modality

- a. How can we know that Jesus is God's spokesman?
- b. Our will must be brought into alignment with the will of God.
- c. Only by submitting to God with complete willingness to do His will are we in a position to know Jesus as the Son of God.
- d. "Receiving Jesus" means receiving Jesus for who He really is—Savior, Lord, Marriage Counselor, Vocational Counselor, Therapist, Financial Planner, Wardrobe Consultant, etc.
- e. If we try to pick and choose the things about Jesus, we find convenient to receive, rejecting the rest, is not to receive Jesus as He really is.
- f. From the biblical standpoint it is unthinkable that a person could claim to have "received Jesus" and yet have no desire to learn and obey His sayings.
- g. Jesus is saying you must want your whole life to be shaped by the will of God in order to even recognize Jesus.
- h. The great obstacle to recognizing the truth of Christ is not scarce resources, but deep rebellion against the authority of God. (Read John 8:43-44)
- i. Our will must be brought into alignment with the will of God. Something must happen deep down in the root of our will to remove the rebellion against God that we all have by nature.
- j. Unfortunately, this is not a "one-time alignment", but a daily alignment.

III. Lessons to be Learned

- a. How do we know that Jesus' teachings are truth? *By obeying what He tells us to do.*
- b. We must put His Word to the test. Which means to apply it to our lives and daily circumstances.
- c. *By doing.*
- d. Jesus is not saying, *"Try it you might like it."* Jesus never suggested a shallow "taste test" but rather a deep personal commitment to His truth. *Come taste and see that the Lord is good.*
- e. There must be a lingering and lasting desire to know Him season to season.
- f. The Word of God must be made manifest. Antibiotics are prescribed to be ingested over a designated time period, the results (healing and recovery) are manifested over time.
- g. God's Word is made manifest in His people by faith. The results of faith are manifested over time.
- h. Beloved, it takes time to know Jesus. The beginning of the relationship begins with a confession, "I believe You are the Son of God." Followed by a continued daily confession, "Teach me Lord."