

JOHN 7:14-36
DEBATING JESUS!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 7 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

In our last study we learned the timeframe of these events here in John chapter 7. It was the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths. This feast took place in late September or early October.

Keep in mind that the rest of the Gospel of John is going to cover those last six months or so of Jesus' ministry here on earth before His crucifixion.

The Feast of Passover is some six months or so away at this point!

And the half-brothers of Jesus are mocking Him and trying to get Him to go to Jerusalem for this feast. And the response that Jesus gave to His half-brothers is this, “**. . . ‘My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. . . . You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come.’**” John 7:6, 8.

The life of Jesus was surrendered to God the Father, and He waited until the time had come for Him to go to the feast. You see, He never said to His half-brothers that He was not going to go. He just told them, “*Not yet!*”

As we come to our verses here in John chapter 7 this morning, we are going to see three different groups of people, who were in Jerusalem for this feast, begin debating about who Jesus is, His character.

And make no mistake about it, the debating about Jesus did not end in the first century. It continues on today. Let me share this example with you.

We are told,

At the center of the Christian faith stands a perplexing event - a human named Jesus of Nazareth becomes a living embodiment of God. Over the centuries many Christians have raised questions about this moment: How did such a transformation occur? How can a man be fully human and fully divine at the same time? How did Jesus become God? . . .

In his new book, *How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee* . . . maverick historian of early Christianity Bart Ehrman *argues that the earliest followers of Jesus did not embrace a vision of Jesus as God*, and he demonstrates through a *careful reading of numerous Christian texts that Jesus did not claim this for himself*. Only *when some of Jesus' followers had visions of Jesus resurrected from the dead following his crucifixion, contends Ehrman, did they start to think that this Galilean prophet had become God*.

“If the early Christians did not believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead, they would not have thought that he was any different from any other unfortunate prophet who ended up on the wrong side of the law and was executed for his troubles,” Ehrman writes.

Ehrman sets early Christian history and writings in their Hellenistic and Jewish contexts to illustrate the ways that ancient cultures understood divine and human realms intersecting. He then explores the development of views from the Second through Fourth centuries about Jesus' becoming God, examining the afterlife of these doctrines. . . .

“While Ehrman offers a creative and accessible account of the origins of Jesus’ divinity in Christian belief, at the end of the day, we think that his overall case is about as convincing as reports of the mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel, sitting in a Chik-Fil-A restaurant, wearing a Texan-style cowboy hat, while reading Donald Trump’s memoir - which is to say, not convincing at all,” writes Bird.

- bit.ly/3plIOYw

What was this debate about?

The deity of Jesus. One says that it was made up and that Jesus never claimed to be God.

The other says that the other writer is wrong, there is no evidence to support what he says about Jesus never claiming to be God or that the early church did not believe that fact, the deity of Jesus!

So how do we know what is true and what is false?

There are many scholars out there with all kinds of ideas, so who is right?

Those are great questions and I think you all know the answer about who is right!

It is – ***GOD!***

That means what God has told us in His Word is truth, we can trust it. In fact, Jesus prayed the night before His crucifixion and said, “**Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**” John 17:17.

Let me say this. If you get into a debate with someone over Jesus or immoral lifestyles, or whatever, don’t give them your opinion. Don’t say, “*Well, I feel . . .*”

Do you know what you should say?

It is what Jesus said, “**It is written!**”

In other words, this is what the Bible has to say, and I believe it. And you may not believe the Bible is the Word of God but show me that it isn't!

Listen to what we are told in Isaiah 40:7-8, **“The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”**

How true that is as skeptics have come and gone but the Bible still remains.

H. L. Hastings put it this way,

Infidels for eighteen hundred years have been refuting and overthrowing this book, and yet it stands today as solid as a rock. Its circulation increases, and it is more loved and cherished and read today than ever before.

Infidels with all their assaults, make about as much impression on this book as a man with a tack hammer would on the Pyramids of Egypt.

When the French monarch proposed the persecution of the Christians in his dominion, and old statesmen and warrior said to him, “Sire, the Church of God is an anvil that has worn out many hammers.”

So the hammers of infidels have been pecking away at this book for ages, but the hammers are worn out, and the anvil still endures.

If this book had not been the book of God, men would have destroyed it long ago. Emperors and popes, kings and priests, princes and rulers have all tried their hand at it; they die and the book still lives.

- H. L. Hastings, *The Greatest Book in the World*, pp. 17-18

How true that is! God's Word will stand, don't worry about that. Just use the Sword of the Spirit, the Bible as you go out into the world. Again, don't give them your opinion, give them the Word of God - "**It is written!**"

This morning we are going to look at three different groups of people who were debating about Jesus and that is our outline this morning. It goes like this,

THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS – JOHN 7:14-19

THE PEOPLE WHO CAME TO JERUSALEM – JOHN 7:20-24

THE JEWS FROM JERUSALEM – JOHN 7:25-29

THE RESULTS – JOHN 7:30-36

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 7, beginning in verse 14 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic – ***DEBATING JESUS!***

JOHN 7

VERSES 14-19

As some read this, they feel that Jesus did not come to the feast until "**about the middle of the feast**" but I don't believe that is true.

First of all, there is the issue of what the Law required of male Jews, the feasts that they were required to go to.

Those feasts were – the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths, the feast that is going on here in John chapter 7.

So when John tells us that Jesus went to the Temple to teach “**about the middle of the feast**” he is not saying that Jesus did not attend the feast days prior to this third or fourth day. It is just that He did not make Himself known until this time because now His time had come!

And as He goes into the Temple and teaches the Jewish religious leaders were amazed because He taught with authority, He expounded on what the Scriptures were saying.

They did not teach with authority, the Jewish religious leaders. They always quoted others to make their point instead of letting the Scriptures speak.

Let me show you what I mean.

Ray Stedman wrote,

What a marvelous teacher Jesus must have been! How many times I have wished I could have heard his words as he spoke so insightfully and so powerfully that even his enemies marveled at his ability!

Here is revealed the authority of Jesus: He did not speak like the other teachers of Israel. The text reads, “How is it this man has learning?” but actually it literally says, “How does this man know his letters so well?” The “letters” refer to the Scriptures.

What Jesus was doing was teaching from the Scriptures. He was taking these ancient prophecies and other passages and expounding them and explaining them. But he did not do it like the rabbis did.

In that day (and this is true still today), every Jewish rabbi began his teaching with words such as, “the sages say,” or, “the Talmud teaches,” or, “the Mishnah explains so and so.”

But Jesus never quoted an authority other than the Scriptures. He would say, as we have repeatedly recorded here in John's gospel, "Truly, truly, I say unto you . . ."

When he talked like that, people listened. They were captured by what he said.

- <https://bit.ly/3pmcRj7>

We see this played out for us in Matthew 5:43-45, "**You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.**"

Notice that Jesus did not quote a rabbi, but he said, "**But I say to you. . .**"

He spoke with authority because He is the Word, He is Almighty God and for these Jewish religious leaders, it blew their minds!

Why were they so troubled by the way Jesus spoke?

Here is the problem they had. They knew He never studied under one of the Jewish religious leaders, the Rabbis.

And during the time of Jesus there were some 30 seminaries in and around Jerusalem. But these Jewish religious leaders knew Jesus never attended any of them, He was not taught by their master, Gamaliel. (Acts 22:3)

And like I have said, when He did speak, He spoke with authority. And for these Rabbis, that troubled them and the reason it did was that the Rabbis of Jesus day would never speak with authority but always quoted other Rabbis as they taught. But not Jesus, He spoke with authority, and what made the difference?

The difference was that Jesus spoke in accordance with the Word of God and they didn't!

And think about it, if they could have condemned Jesus on some false doctrine or wrong understanding of Scripture, they would have. Since they could not, they attack the credentials of Jesus. ***“These words are spoken in the true bigotry and prejudice of so-called ‘learning.’”***

(Alford)

What Jesus spoke were the words that He received from the Father and thus, if they would just listen to what He was saying they would see what He spoke came right out of the Old Testament.

It was not contrary to it, but it shed light on those Scriptures, it opened them up even more.

And how true that is, even today as the religious establishment loves to come down upon those who are teaching with authority. Not our own authority do we teach, but the authority of God according to His Word!

And the problem is that we often see people negate what we have to say because we don't have all those fancy degrees after our names. Guess what? They said the same thing of the disciples of Jesus back then.

Listen carefully to what the Sanhedrin or the Jewish religious Supreme Court you might say, said regarding Peter and John when they arrested them.

Luke tells us, **“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled . . .”** Acts 4:13a.

You see, they did not go to Old Rabbi University but there was something that these religious leaders noticed in Peter and John and their conclusion was that **“... they realized that they had been with Jesus.”** Acts 4:13b.

I love the way The Living Bible puts this verse, it says, **“When the Council saw the boldness of Peter and John and could see that they were obviously uneducated non-professionals, they were amazed and realized what being with Jesus had done for them!”**

You see, spend time with Jesus and you too will be amazed as you spend time with Him and see what He will do for you as He teaches you and speaks to you of the things of God!

What we also see today is that people say that they are speaking with the authority of God and yet, what they say goes contrary to what God’s Word has to say.

Let me be clear on this. If that is true, if what they say contradicts God’s Word, they are not speaking with the authority of God, but the lies of the Devil! That is just the reality folks!

I can’t tell you how many times I have heard people tell me, ***“The Lord told me . . .”*** And then they tell me what the Lord said, and it is obvious that the Lord did not speak to them because what they have said is contrary to what the Word of God has said.

I know, some may be offended by that statement of mine, that I don’t believe the Lord spoke to them.

But let’s think about that for a minute. If what they said is contrary to the Word of God, are you saying that they are right, and the Word of God is wrong? Now I am sure no one would say that. I hope not.

But maybe you are thinking, ***“God is bigger than His Word and thus, He can tell us anything He wants!”*** Yes, I have heard that as well!

Let’s be careful with that line of reasoning because if we go down that path, where do we stop?

Here's the thing. In Psalm 138:2 we are told, "**I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.**"

Look at what David is telling us here. David is saying that God places His Word above His name.

What that means is this. God's name speaks of His character, the sum-total of all that He is. You see, you can tell a person's character by how faithful they are to their word.

In other words, God's Word is as good as He is.

Thus, God shows us by doing what He says. Let us never place the Word of God second to anything, for it is the Word of God that leads us to the giver of life, Jesus Christ.

It strengthens us, gives us hope, it corrects us, and-so-on. It is as Paul tells Timothy, "**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**" II Timothy 3:16-17.

And notice now how Jesus handles their mocking of Him.

Keep in mind that these Jewish religious leaders wanted to honor God the Father in all that they did. And Jesus tells them that if you want to honor the Father, then understand that the Words that He spoke to them came from the Father!

In fact, Jesus challenges them to check it out for themselves to see if what He was telling them was true or not! But they were not interested in the truth!

Also, these religious leaders wanted the attention, the chief seats at gatherings, they wanted people to notice them and yet, Jesus says that He is not here to glorify Himself, but the Father who is in Heaven. A stark contrast between the two!

And I love what Jesus does here. He just said that He was righteous or without sin in John 7:18, **“no unrighteousness is in Him.”**

And now He says to these Jewish religious leaders, **“Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keeps the law?”**

Busted!

Keep in mind that the Pharisees were proud in that they believed they kept the Law and yet Jesus tells them they are wrong. That had to hurt!

You see, it is not just a matter of an outward action but a matter of the heart. Jesus said if you lust after a woman in your heart, you have already committed adultery!

If you think evil of a person, you have murdered them!

Thus, no one can keep the Law perfectly, except Jesus of course!

And that is the point; the Law points us to our Savior because of our failure. In fact, in the first church meeting in Jerusalem that was the issue, Gentiles keeping the Law after they got saved or not, and Peter spoke up and said **“Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”** Acts 15:10-11.

And the Bible tells us that if you are going to live by the Law, seek a salvation by keeping the Law, then you will die by the Law, for the Law does not give life, only the Spirit does!

Now when Jesus said that they are seeking to kill Him, the multitudes, for the most part, did not know what the Jewish religious leaders were planning to do.

Some did as we see in verse 25 of John chapter 7, but I think many were unaware of what they were planning to do with Jesus.

Probably the crowds coming to Jerusalem did not know what the Jewish religious leaders plotted to do but the ones in Jerusalem were very aware.

And Jesus did know.

Now the reason these religious leaders wanted Jesus dead was because He healed a man on the Sabbath day back in John chapter 5 and He, being a man, said He was equal with God the Father!

And Jesus deals with this and He nails them here. He said that they are upset because He did one good deed on the Sabbath, healing this man. And yet they circumcise on the Sabbath all the time and it is not an issue for them! We will see that as we read on in John 7:22.

These religious leaders were judging Jesus by their standards and what Jesus did went against what they believed.

What is interesting is what they believed went against the Word of God and thus, they were in error, not Jesus.

If they would have looked at the Scriptures and looked at what Jesus did, they would have embraced Jesus for the Scriptures testify of Him. But instead, they rejected Him by an unrighteous judgment!

For us, it is not just reading the Scriptures but applying them to our lives. And thus, we must believe them even when we might not like them or they go against our flesh, which they will. We must obey the Lord and as we do, we will grow in Him!

But, as we have seen, ***THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS REJECTED JESUS, MOCKED JESUS!***

One writer said, *“The Jews were amazed at what He taught because He did not have any credentials from their approved rabbinical schools. But since He lacked this “proper accreditation,” His enemies said that His teachings were nothing but private opinions and not worth much.”*

Let’s look at the next group of people to come and debate about Jesus – ***THE PEOPLE WHO CAME TO JERUSALEM!***

VERSES 20-24

Here we see the response of the people who did not live in Jerusalem but were there for the Feast of Tabernacles. And they are responding to what Jesus said, “**... Why do you seek to kill Me?**” John 7:19.

And let’s look at that for a minute in light of what Jesus has previously said in this chapter.

Jesus is basically telling them, *“I stand before you sinless and yet, none of you even keep the Law. I have fulfilled the Law and you have broken the Law! In saying that, why are you seeking to kill Me? I am not guilty of breaking the Law, but you are and deserve death!”*

Now their response is interesting because they did not know that the Jewish religious leaders were plotting to kill Jesus. So they say to Jesus, “**... ‘You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?’**” John 7:20.

Now it is one thing to say that you have not heard any talk about this plot against Jesus, but they went to the wrong conclusion and said that His talk sounds like He is demon possessed! They thought that Jesus was crazy, and maybe even paranoid!

The reality was, the Jews were plotting to kill Jesus and thus, they came to the wrong conclusion, and we have to be careful here. It is easy to see a situation and come to the wrong conclusion about it.

For instance. I saw this picture on Facebook showing a dog with its teeth around the neck of a sheep. It did not look good. That evil dog. How could he do something like that! Can you imagine, a helpless, defenseless sheep and this vicious dog!

And now for the rest of the story. When you see the picture, same picture, in its full view, not just this dog grasping this sheep, you understand that the dog was not killing the sheep, not at all. In fact, the dog was rescuing the sheep from a river it had gotten into and could not get out!

You see how easy it is to come to wrong conclusions about things! Same picture just a different conclusion based on all the information and not just some, which can be misleading!

Listen again to what Jesus said in verse 24, “**Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.**”

Wow, that is so important!

Now when people judge they mostly judge by appearance, how a situation looks, and how they feel about it. That is not always a good way to judge as we saw with the picture of the dog and the sheep.

And for me, I learned this lesson several years back. You may remember the story. Back in 2012 Trayvon Martin was killed by a man who said he was protecting the neighborhood. That his shooting of this teen was in self-defense.

And the picture they showed of Trayvon Martin was this young boy, not even 100 pounds.

The guy who did the killing said it was in self-defense and he outweighed this kid by probably more than 75 pounds, according to the picture of Trayvon.

And my wife said that this teenager was at fault. And I argued that there is no way that he could have overpowered this other guy, look at the picture!

And I was shocked by her lack of compassion and unchristian attitude!

Okay, you know where this is going. She was right.

The picture that they showed over and over again on television, the newspapers and other news sources, was not recent.

In fact, they would not even tell you how far back this picture went, all it said was “***An undated family photo of Trayvon Martin.***”

And from what I can find out, the picture they showed was when he was 12 and not 17!

What did I learn from this!

Don't argue with your wife. You would think after forty-two years of marriage I would have learned that, but not quite. And this was really a secondary lesson for me.

What I learned from that incident was not to judge by appearance because appearances can be deceiving and that is exactly what Jesus is saying here!

The news media was trying to deceive us, get us to believe that this was a little kid that was killed, and it was not. Not even close!

And for the most part, that is not a righteous judgment. When we judge things, it must not be according to how we feel or what we think, not by appearance you might say, but what God's Word says.

These people who came to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles were judging by appearance and they came to the wrong conclusion. If they would have listened to what Jesus was teaching and check it out with the Scriptures, they would have seen He spoke the truth and there is no demon in Him.

If they would have looked at the Scriptures and looked at what Jesus did, they would have embraced Jesus for the Scriptures testify of Him. But instead, they rejected Him by an unrighteous judgment!

And Jesus nails them here. He said that they are upset because He did one good deed on the Sabbath, healing this man. And yet they circumcise on the Sabbath all the time and it is not an issue for them!

Like many today, if they would have only heard the words of Jesus instead of closing Him out.

You see, first of all Moses did not institute circumcision but it was given to Abraham. And we are told that on the eighth day the male child was to be circumcised and that could fall on the Sabbath day. (Leviticus 12:3)

Thus, in their minds, it was okay to mutilate the flesh but not to heal on the Sabbath day. Jesus kept trying to get them to think through what they believed, the traditions that they had adopted as Gospel truth!

And we deal with that today.

“You have to go to church to be saved!”

“You must go through Mary to be saved!”

“Jesus paid for certain sins, but you must atone for your own sins by doing the sacraments and going to Purgatory!”

And we can go on, but you get the point. It is a works salvation and not a salvation that is based upon the completed work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary!

In I Timothy 2:5-6 we are told, “**For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**”

From the cross of Calvary Jesus cried out, “**It is finished!**” or “**Paid in full!**” (John 19:30)

All our sins were paid for by Jesus!

And how many people will negate the Scriptures and believe the traditions of men? Many people today are really no different than these Jewish religious leaders and these Jews who came to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles.

THE PEOPLE WHO CAME TO JERUSALEM MOCKED JESUS, SAID THAT HE HAD A DEMON!

But there is one more group we will look at and that is – ***THE JEWS FROM JERUSALEM!***

VERSES 25-29

I want you to notice the difference between the group of people who came to Jerusalem for this Feast and those who lived in Jerusalem.

Remember what I said as we looked at John 7:20, that some of the people did not know what the Jewish religious leaders wanted to do with Jesus, kill Him! Living outside of Jerusalem kept them out of the loop you might say.

But here, in verse 25 of John chapter 7 we are told that “**. . . some of them from Jerusalem said, ‘Is this not He whom they seek to kill?’**”

In other words, the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem made it well known that they wanted Jesus dead and the people from Jerusalem were well aware of their intentions.

In John 7:1 we are told, “**After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him.**”

Jesus was fully aware of what the Jewish religious leaders wanted to do to Him, and so were the people living in Jerusalem.

And what we see here is that these Jews from Jerusalem were confused by what they saw.

They saw Jesus teaching boldly and they saw the Jewish religious leaders who wanted Jesus dead, and they did nothing. They did not arrest Him!

And they are wondering if they are missing something, maybe He is the Christ, the Messiah?

But then they say, “**However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from.**” John 7:27.

You see, some may have saw Him grow-up, knew Him as a boy, and it conflicted with their idea of the Messiah who in their mind, would appear suddenly on the scene.

Where did they come up with this idea of not knowing where the Messiah came from, that He was just going to appear?

First, from Isaiah 53:8, where they misinterpret what Isaiah is saying, “**He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.**”

Please understand that when it says, “**who will declare His generation?**” it is speaking of the fact that the Messiah died childless. There was no one to **declare His generation**. Not that He was to come suddenly in His First Coming.

Also, in Malachi 3:1 we are told, “**Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,’ Says the Lord of hosts.**”

Trypho, the Jewish opponent of the second-century Christian apologist Justin Martyr, said to Justin, “*But Christ - if He has indeed been born, and exists anywhere - is unknown, and does not even know Himself, and has no power until Elias come to anoint Him, and make Him manifest to all.*” (Dialogue with Trypho 8)

Because of those misinterpretations, they came to the wrong conclusion.

First of all, look at Isaiah 50:7-9 as we see the confidence that the Messiah possessed. He knew what He was sent to do and because of that, He came forth with boldness!

We are told here in Isaiah, “**For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed. He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. Surely the Lord God will help Me; Who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up.**”

Here in Isaiah the Lord has been talking to the Jewish people about deliverance, salvation in regard to their Babylonian captivity. And He will speak about that over the next several chapters of Isaiah.

And this salvation is not going to come about by man or any group of people. Not at all. This salvation is going to be complete, and it is found in One Man, Jesus Christ, the Messiah!

Jesus knew what He was to do, and He set His face towards finishing the work the Father sent Him to do, nothing was going to move Him off that course.

We see that spoken to us in Luke 9:51, **“Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.”**

About 6 months from the cross at this point and Jesus was focused on completing His mission, doing the will of the Father!

And please understand that the Messiah was not going to come on the scene instantaneously, but we see His birth and all that He was to do God has told us in the Old Testament Scriptures.

In Micah 5:2 we are told, **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”**

Micah is telling us that Almighty God, the Eternal God, was going to be born in Bethlehem and specifically the one in Judah!

So, born in Bethlehem, of the tribe of Judah, through the lineage of David, that was the Messiah.

They knew much about the Messiah, but tradition clouded their view of the Messiah, and many have that same problem today!

Now the crowds may have been confused but Jesus wasn't. He knew where He came from and He knew the mission He was on, to save man from his sin and to reconcile man to God.

And this is truly a radical statement by Jesus, telling them that they may know He was from Nazareth, but He actually came from above, from the Father, making Him more than just a man, but God!

Again, they are debating about this man named Jesus. They just could not reconcile in their mind that Jesus, this One who grew up in Nazareth, was the Messiah. It went against what they were taught but not what the Scriptures taught.

Listen again to how Jesus responded to them. He said, “**. . . ‘You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me.’**” John 7:28-29.

Jesus spoke openly to them. They knew who He claimed to be, Almighty God who came to save them from their sins! And yet, they rejected that, mocked the claims and thought He was demon possessed or just crazy!

How did these Jews respond to that statement by Jesus?

That is our last point – ***THE RESULTS!*** Let’s read on and see.

VERSES 30-36

When you look at what Jesus said to the Jewish religious leaders it was like throwing gasoline on a fire. To say that they were upset with Jesus is putting it mildly!

But why were they so upset?

Because Jesus, being a man claimed to be God and it short-circuited their hard drive, it fried the mother board of their minds, it was too much for them to handle.

And yet, if they only looked carefully at the Scriptures, they would have seen that the Messiah was God Himself indwelling a human body, the Incarnation!

Remember in Matthew 22:41-46 where we are told, **“While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, ‘What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?’ They said to Him, ‘The Son of David.’ He said to them, ‘How then does David in the Spirit call Him “Lord,” saying: “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool’”? If David then calls Him “Lord,” how is He his Son?’ And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.”**

Keep in mind that the questions Jesus is asking these Pharisees was not to put them down but to draw out their faith. To help them to see that He is the Messiah and to do that the question He asks them has to do with what David said about the Messiah.

He asks them regarding the Messiah, **“Whose Son is He?”**

These religious leaders, these Pharisees did not even have to use a lifeline to get help with this one, that is how easy it was. They tell Jesus, **“The Son of David.”**

Don’t miss the point that was being made here. This was the title for the Messiah. You see, they felt the Messiah was going to be just a man, like Moses, not God. They understood that the Christ was going to be **“The Son of David.”**

But Jesus is going to show them their error because the Christ is not going to be just from the seed of David, but He is also going to be the Son of God!

Now, since they got this part of the question right it should be obvious how to answer the next one.

Jesus asks them, “**... How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying ‘The LORD said to my Lord’ ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’**”
If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” Matthew 22:43-44

Make no mistake about it, this is also a very simple question to answer. Jesus was saying, *“You boys are right, the Christ is to be the Son of David. Good answer. But if He is the Son of David then how can David call Him ‘Lord?’”*

And Jesus quotes out of Psalm 110:1, a Psalm of David who wrote by the power, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Mark 12:36 tells us that very fact, **“For David himself said by the Holy Spirit ...”** And in that Psalm David calls his Son, **“Lord”** which is not kosher! You see, a father would never call his son lord, but a son would call his father lord or Adonai.

Now here’s the thing. Jesus is stretching them, getting them to think about what they just said and what the Scriptures are saying. Again, the religious leaders knew that in the patriarchal society that they were living in a father would always be treated with respect and honor, no matter how old the son was. The father would never, ever call the son lord or Adonai. Thus, as they listened, Jesus asked them, ***“How can this be? How can David call his son Lord?”***

What a great question that is and what Jesus wanted them to see is that the Messiah, the Son of David was to be much more than just the Son of David, He was to be the Son of God.

Remember what Paul said in Romans 1:3-4, **“concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”**

The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“[The Gospel] regarding His Son, Who as to the flesh (His human nature) was descended from David, And [as to His divine nature] according to the Spirit of holiness was openly designated the Son of God in power [in a striking, triumphant and miraculous manner] by His resurrection from the dead, even Jesus Christ our Lord (the Messiah, the Anointed One).”**

You see, not only the Son of David but the Son of God and thus, David rightly called Him Lord, called the Messiah Lord because He was more than just his son, He is Almighty God!

There are the facts, the truth is right before them and all they have to do is look at what their own Scriptures had said, and they would see this truth about the Messiah, about Jesus.

Keep in mind that this information about the Messiah was in their Scriptures. So how did they miss this for all those years? Because of their religious traditions that kept them from the truth. Be careful with religious traditions that are not anchored in the Word of God for they will not draw you closer to God, but they will move you farther away from Him!

Listen to the response they gave to Jesus regarding this easy question that He asked them. **“And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.”** Matthew 22:46.

How sad, instead of hearing and thinking about what Jesus had said to them, they were silent! Why were they silent? Because it went against what they believed to be true, even though their own Scriptures clearly spoke this truth. What they held onto was challenged and instead of investigating further, they were silent. They were not interested in the truth.

And I always find it amazing and sad that when people are confronted with the truth, when they are being challenged to examine what they believe, they become silent and negate what has been said. Or they attack the person who said those things because they have nothing to stand on.

You see, the reason that they are no longer interested is because it goes against what they have believed to be true, even though the evidence for what they believe has been shown as wrong to them.

And that is what we see here in John chapter 7, some refused to believe, they wanted Jesus dead.

But others did hear what Jesus said and they believed what He was saying, who He is!

And it is always exciting to see those who believe.

Listen to how The Living Bible puts John 7:31, **“Many among the crowds at the Temple believed on him. ‘After all,’ they said, ‘what miracles do you expect the Messiah to do that this man hasn’t done?’”**

The people were wondering if Jesus could be the Messiah after all He has done. The crowds were turning.

One writer gives of the perspective of all they saw and heard. He wrote,

If Jesus isn’t the Messiah, then when Messiah comes, will he . . .

Do more miracles than Jesus?

Teach with more insight and authority than Jesus?

Love more remarkably than Jesus?

Suffer with more courage than Jesus?

Atone for more sinners than Jesus?

Raise from the dead with more triumph than Jesus?

Ascend to heaven in greater glory than Jesus?

Present a greater Gospel than Jesus?

Change more lives than Jesus?

Free more addictions than Jesus?

Comfort more grief-stricken hearts than Jesus?

*Heal more broken hearts than Jesus?
 Restore more marriages than Jesus?
 Triumph over more tyrants than Jesus?
 Gain more followers than Jesus?*

- David Guzik

And yet, for some, they were still wondering? I guess if you don't want to believe, then it doesn't matter what you are told, what you see, you will reject it or come up with some reason not to believe!

And then we see these Pharisees, the guardians of the Jewish traditions. And to say that they didn't like what Jesus was saying, they did not like the attention that Jesus was getting is putting it mildly! They are so mad at Jesus that they sent out the guards to arrest Him.

How sad. Instead of bringing people to God they drove people away from God and now when God is in their midst, they want to arrest Him, remove Him from the people He came to help.

And many religious leaders do the same today. Instead of bringing people to God they have them jumping through all kinds of hoops instead of giving the invitation that Jesus gave to **"COME!"**

Now, when Jesus speaks of Him going back to the Father He is speaking of His death, resurrection and ascension back to the place of glory in heaven with the Father.

An interesting verse regarding this is given to us in Hosea 5:15, "**I will return again to My place Till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.**"

Jesus became flesh, dwelt among us, but then He returned to heaven.

Why? How long?

Until the Jewish people acknowledge their offense, singular, which is their rejection of Jesus. It is then, when they call upon Him as a nation that Jesus will return at the end of the Tribulation Period, His Second Coming.

We see this in Zechariah 12:10 **“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”**

And in Revelation 1:7 we are told, **“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.”**

As Jesus speaks to these religious leaders He tells them, **“You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come.”** John 7:34.

Why did Jesus say that?

Because they refused to receive Him. When Jesus spoke to His disciples He told them, **“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”** John 14:1-4.

Do you see the difference between the heart of unbelief that can’t see and the heart of belief that can?

The heart of unbelief will keep you out of heaven, but the heart of belief will usher you in!

Now they tried to figure out what Jesus was saying, and they just didn't get it. They thought Jesus was going to flee the area, save Himself, go into hiding. Not at all. He came to do the will of the Father and He will complete the work that is before Him.

People can debate about Jesus all they want, but the truth of the matter is the information is there before them of who Jesus is and what we need to do to be saved! You can accept it or reject it; both have consequences to them.

If you reject Jesus, you will ultimately be sent to the Lake of Fire where you will spend an eternity in outer darkness. You rejected the Light of the world, and you will spend eternity in darkness!

But if you seek Him, you will find Him because He is not hiding from anyone. He wants you to enter into a relationship with Him. And that is done by repenting of your sins and asking Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life and you will spend eternity with Him in His Kingdom!