

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to John 7

We are in the portion of John's gospel where Jesus went up to Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles – the Feast of Tents – to bring division to the people.

And the reason that He is bringing division to the people – is because He is bringing them the truth.

And the truth brings division.

The world doesn't want to hear the truth -

That is why sometimes when we share the gospel to our loved ones – they stop speaking to us – or they say, “I don't want to hear that” or they even resort to name calling.

And we even saw it in our study last week – that, this is exactly what they did to Jesus

So, in our text this morning – Jesus is going to continue to bring more truth to those that were in attendance at the temple and us as well.

And in the process, bring even more division

Let's pray...

Once again, Jesus is teaching in the temple complex –

And His audience is made up the locals from Jerusalem, the pilgrims that have come to Jerusalem to observe the Feast – and the religious rulers.

[Jhn 7:25-36 NKJV] 25 Now some of them from Jerusalem said, "Is this not He whom they seek to kill? 26 "But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ?

In our study last week, presented a truth to the crowd – that He was sent from God to teach the doctrine of God –

He was not teaching the doctrine of man – like the rabbis did.

You see, the rabbis when they taught the scriptures in the synagogue – they would simply quote other rabbis, “Rabbi Gamaliel says this and this”

But Jesus taught with boldness and authority.

He sought the glory the glory of God.

And this is why the people marveled –

And the He made the contrast between His teaching and those of the religious rulers –

Go back to verse 19,

[Jhn 7:19 NKJV] 19 "Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?"

And the people answered – “You have a demon Jesus” no one wants to kill you. That’s cray talk.

But notice, John is distinguishing the people from verse 19 and the people from verse 25.

Because here in verse 25, John specifically points out that these were the locals that lived in Jerusalem year round.

The crowd in verse 19, they didn’t know that the religious rulers wanted to kill Jesus.

But those in Jerusalem – they knew – they had received word that they wanted to kill Jesus since He healed the lame man on the Sabbath.

So in verse 25, the locals – they are saying

“Hey, I thought the religious rulers wanted Jesus dead. Why is it that they are allowing Him to continue to speak??? Maybe they know that He is indeed the Messiah?

They have mistaken the silence and the inaction of the religious rulers to mean that they were for Jesus.

27 "However, we know where this Man is from; but when the Christ comes, no one knows where He is from."

So in the previous two verses, we see that their perception of the religious rulers was wrong – here in verse 27, we see that they were also clueless when it came to what the Word of God says concerning the coming Messiah.

They think they know Jesus – to them, He is just a carpenter from Nazareth.

He is the son of Mary and Joseph

We know Jesus (at least they think they know Jesus) – but the Christ, the Messiah – no one knows where He is from.

Turn to Micah 5

[Mic 5:2 NKJV] 2 "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 clearly tells us that that the Messiah was going to come from Bethlehem Ephrathah – which by the way, Bethlehem means “the House of Bread” and Ephrathah means “fruitfulness’ or abundance”

And from our studies a few weeks back – Jesus had already made the announcement that He is the Bread of Life.

Not only did Micah say He would come from Bethlehem, he also said that the Messiah would come from eternity past.

So, if the people knew their bibles, they would have known the origins of the Messiah.

How sad is it that they didn't know – and the wiseguys, gentiles knew – (Matt 2)

28 Then Jesus **cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, "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. 29 "But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me."**

There have been a lot of questions that the people have been asking.

Some just wanted to know where He was (7:11)

Some were trying to figure out whether He was good or evil (7:12)

Some were trying to figure out how Jesus knew so much (7:15)

Some were confused about Jesus' claim that someone was trying to kill Him (7:20)

Some were wondering if the leaders secretly knew He was the Messiah (7:26)

The one thing the people didn't question and thought they knew was the issue of where He was from (7:27)

It's at this point that Jesus raises His voice and addresses everyone – not only those that were gathered to hear Him but the multitude that had gathered at the temple.

"You think you know Me, you don't know Me"

“AH yes - you THINK you know Me & where I’m from.

You have Me all figured out; that I’m just some backwoods upstart from a despised little town far from here.”

“You assume I’ve got some personal agenda & you’re too smart to be fooled by Me.”

“Well, I have an agenda alright – but it’s not Mine.

It’s the Fathers who sent Me. And while I know Him well, you guys don’t have a clue!”

Church, I can almost get the idea that Jesus doesn’t mind us asking a lot of questions, but when we think we know something that we really don’t know, that’s when He tries to get our attention.

These religious people standing before Jesus prided themselves in being the one nation that knew the True God.

But Jesus pointed out that they did not know God like they thought they did.

30 Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

The religious rulers were offended at Jesus revealing to them the truth that He knew God and they didn’t.

So they tried to arrest Him.

But notice, they could not get their hands on Jesus.

Was it because Jesus had a couple of 300 lb security guards that protected Him? No

Was it because of Jesus pulled a Chuck Norris and fought them off? No

It simply wasn't the right time.

Church, we read this several times in the gospels, that they came to arrest Him, but were unable to because it wasn't His time yet.

Church, there is a peace when we trust God's plan for our lives.

I believe we are here and we are here for a purpose

God has a perfect plan for you and me.

[Isa 46:9-10 NKJV] 9 Remember the former things of old, For I [am] God, and [there is] no other; [I am] God, and [there is] none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times [things] that are not [yet] done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

And that plan is for your good and my good

[Jer 29:11 NKJV] 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

So, therefore, we need to trust God with the plan He has for us.

[Isa 12:2 NKJV] 2 Behold, God [is] my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, [is] my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.' "

Knowing the God has a plan for us should encourage us and move us to draw closer to Him so that we may be obedient to what He has called us to do.

Jesus would one day be arrested, tried, condemned, and crucified, but here in John 7, that time has not yet come.

It's still six months away.

31 And many of the people believed in Him, and said, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this [Man] has done?" 32 The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him.

So here we see more division.

Some want to kill Him

And some of the people in the crowd are starting to believe in Him -

And then you see the Sanhedrin here (Pharisees and the chief priests-tended to be Sadducees) coming together to try to arrest Jesus.

33 Then Jesus said to them, "I shall be with you a little while longer, and [then] I go to Him who sent Me. 34 "You will seek Me and not find [Me], and where I am you cannot come."

So as the people are divided among where Jesus is from – and all of a sudden, Jesus doesn't talk about where He is from anymore – now, He is talking about where He is going.

I'm only going to be with you guys a little longer, and then, I am going to Him.

But notice what Jesus tells them – You are going to seek for Me and you are not going to find Me and where I am going, you can't come.

Now, some people will ask – is Jesus excluding people from heaven? And the answer is no.

He simply stating the truth

You see, there are certain people who are not looking for Jesus.

They may be looking for an experience

They may be looking for a religious thing –

And what Jesus is saying here is that those individuals are not going to find Him because they are looking for Him in the wrong places.

Turn with me to John 14

Because Jesus tells another group the same thing – but there is a big difference.

Here in Ch 14, Jesus is speaking to His disciples.

[Jhn 14:1-4 NKJV] 1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "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. 3 "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. 4 "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

So to His followers, Jesus says you will find Me, to those who do not believe, to the religious rulers, Jesus says you will not find Me.

To His followers, to the place I am going, you will be there also – to the religious rulers, you cannot come.

What is the difference?

The heart of a person.

35 Then the Jews said among themselves, "Where does He intend to go that we shall not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? 36 "What is this thing that He said, 'You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come'?"

The religious rulers still do not get what Jesus is telling them.

Remember, they have their minds set on arresting Him.

They are thinking, “What does Jesus mean when He says we are not going to be able to find Him?

Is He going to hide out in a cave somewhere?

They wonder if Jesus is going to go and preach to those pagan Gentiles that lived outside of the land of Israel.

Now, I want to you to notice that Jesus isn’t taking the time here to explain all their questions.

For example, earlier in our study – they thought that they knew where Jesus was from. Jesus, didn’t say,” Hey guys, I am from Bethlehem – not Nazareth and if you would have paid attention at the synagogues on Saturdays, you would have realized that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem”

Jesus didn’t do that

In the same way that Jesus doesn’t explain to them where He is going by saying, “Hey guys, I am not going to hide out in caves, I am not going to Greece – I am going to heaven”

Jesus didn’t provide those details.

And the reason for this is because the problem was not an intellectual issue – it was a heart issue.

Sometimes we can sit with an individual, answer all their questions and try to provide multiple verses for them – and they still will not get it.

That is because we can't explain God – we have to allow the Holy Spirit to do it.

Now, before we get to the next few verses, I want to give more detail of what is occurring during the next few verses.

Remember, Jesus is in Jerusalem to observe the Feast of the Tabernacles.

All the men were required to attend to celebrate God's provisions in the wilderness: the manna, the water, the shade and warmth/light.

Now, for homework – you might want you read Numbers 29 – because Num 29, provides all the sacrifices that they were required to do during the 8 days.

70 bulls were sacrificed during the Feast.

By Jesus' time, a ceremony was added to the Feast of Tabernacles – and it had to do with water.

Every day during the feast – a priest would lead a procession of people and gather water from the pools of Siloam.

The priest would fill a golden pitcher with water and then take it back to the temple and it would be poured out over the altar.

And as this would be going on, the people would shout and sing from the Psalms.

(Ps 118:1 NKJV) Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

(Ps 118:25 NKJV) Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity.

Now, this water ceremony represented three things –

1. The water provided in the wilderness

When the people in the wilderness first ran out of water, God showed Moses a “rock” and told him to “strike it” and water would come out (Ex. 17:6)

But later on, at the end of the forty years, they faced a similar situation, but this time God’s instructions to Moses changed:

(Nu 20:8 NKJV) “Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water

However, Moses was angry with the people because they had been complaining and instead of speaking to the rock – he struck it and because he struck it and

misrepresented God to the people, God told him he was not going into the Promised Land.

Now, Paul tells us in 1 Cor 10:4 – that the rock in the wilderness was Jesus Christ
God was trying to paint a picture, and Moses had ruined it.

The Rock was a picture of Christ.

Christ was struck once for our sins, just as Moses struck the rock the first time.

We no longer need to strike the rock to receive, we simply need to speak to it, to believe in Christ.

2. A cry for rain – rain in Israel came during two seasons of the year – (sept-Oct) and then you had the latter rains in March-April

3. Even the Jews realized that this was a picture of salvation - **Is 12:3 NKJV)**

Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation

So – it is as all of this is happening, as the priests are pouring the water on the altar and the people are shouting and praising God that Jesus does what He does in verse 37.

37 On the last day, that great [day] of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

In ch. 6, Jesus had compared Himself to the manna their ancestors had eaten in the wilderness and said that He was the true bread come down from heaven.

Now, in this ritual commemorating the water their ancestors had had, Jesus says He is the One Who brings lasting satisfaction.

The offer is to anyone.

The only qualification is that we recognize our NEED

Notice that Jesus didn't say – if anyone is thirsty – a simple quench of a sensation that can be filled with a drink of water/coffee

He is speaking of a NEED – He is speaking of salvation -

The problem, is that many people confuse their thirst for God with a thirst for something else, something less.

Turn to Jer 2

[Jer 2:13 NKJV] 13 "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, [And] hewn themselves cisterns-- broken cisterns that can hold no water.

People turn away from God, the only One who can bring lasting satisfaction, & they turn to the vain things of this world, which at their best only produce a temporary distraction.

Jesus invites any & all to come to Him and know lasting satisfaction.

But that satisfaction isn't a selfish thing. It leads to a life that flows out –

38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

I want you to also notice that Jesus said, "He who believes ..."

Jesus didn't say, "He who feels this tingle down his back will have rivers of living water ..."

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is based on trust, on faith, not on feelings.

[Isa 58:11 NKJV] 11 The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

Church, we need to ask ourselves this morning – do we have water flowing out of us?

Because the problem with many Christians, is that they take in, take in, take in and nothing flows out.

The Sea of Galilee was a vibrant Sea full of life – because water came in and flowed out

The Dead Sea is a stinky body of water with no life.

You know why? It has an inlet – the Jordan River and no outlet.

It becomes stagnant – it stinks.

Church – don't be a stinking stagnant Christian

Don't be the Christian that takes, takes, takes and doesn't give.

39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet [given], because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Church, this river of living water – we don't learn this

It is not something where we can buy a book and figure it out on our own

Or we can attend a seminar on the weekend and have rivers of living water coming out of us.

This is a spiritual thing

This is the results of the Holy Spirit working in us and through us and flowing to others.

And when we are led by the Spirit and guided by the Spirit and we are obedient to what God has called us to do – even though we may be rejected, we will know it is a good thing because it is Spirit led.

Don't settle

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

A.W. Tozer wrote, “We are filled unto the fullness of God, but, of course, we cannot contain all of God because God contains us; but we can have all of God that we can contain. If we only knew it, we could enlarge our vessel. The vessel gets bigger as we go on with God.”

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

