

## **JOHN #9: John 7:14-44**

### **Jesus at the Feast**

#### **“His Doctrine & Righteous Judgment”**

- I. Backdrop: From this point forward, Jesus never voluntarily spent his free time in Judea anymore since the Jews there wanted to kill him. He spent his free time up in Galilee with those who were receiving his word and growing in him. However, as a Jewish man under the law, Jesus was required by the law to go to Jerusalem for the major feast days of Israel. In John 7, the feast of Tabernacles was at hand. Jesus' brothers were telling Jesus to go up to Jerusalem and prove himself to his disciples and the world. They said this because they themselves did not yet believe in Jesus. Jesus revealed that his time and the world's timing are not the same. He revealed that the world does not hate its own; but that the world hates him, because he openly testifies of their evil works. Jesus then tells them to go to the feast, but that he is not going to go just yet to the feast. We see Jesus delaying but then going up secretly to the feast. At the feast many are talking about Jesus. There is much controversy and buzz regarding Jesus. There are many differing opinions. Jesus waits until about the middle of the feast to finally reveal himself in the temple and begin to teach.
- II. Overview: Jesus speaks of his doctrine, and how one can know if he truly speaks for God. The Jews accuse him of having a devil. Jesus then defends his miracle of healing the man with infirmity on the sabbath by exposing the Jews hypocrisy and rebukes them for judging according to appearance (as it suits them). People start wondering if he truly is the Christ, but are struggling with their knowledge of him. Jesus cries out for people to realize that they know him and that only he knows the Father. The Pharisees send officers to arrest him. Jesus foretells them that he will leave them and they will not be able to come where he is going. Lastly, Jesus cries out for anyone who is thirsty to come to him and drink. And he bears witness to the promise of the Holy Ghost that will dwell within those who believe on him and bring forth rivers of living water. In the end, we will see much division amongst the people as a result of Jesus. Some will think he is a good man. Some will think he is the Prophet. Some will think he is even the Christ, but others will claim he is a deceiver, or even worse, one filled with the devil. Ultimately we see that Jesus did not come to bring peace, but division. (Luke 12:51; Gen 1:3-4)

### III. Outline:

#### A. Jesus' DOCTRINE (7:14-19):

- \* Jesus begins teaching in the middle of the feast (about 3-4 days in) and the Jews are AMAZED at how he knows what he knows having never been to their seminaries.
- 1. Jesus responds: His DOCTRINE is not his, but his that sent him.
  - a. The Father is the SOURCE of all things.
  - b. Jesus did not make up his own doctrine/instruction; but he only taught what the Father gave him to teach/reveal.
- 2. He gives the key to knowing true doctrine:
  - a. If any man will DO HIS WILL.
    - i. Those who DO the will of the Father, will know the truth.
    - ii. Wanting to know the truth is not enough to know truth, you must be willing to DO GOD's will.
    - iii. This is how we know what is truth versus what is error.
- 3. 2 types of people that teach DOCTRINE:
  - a. Those who seek their own glory. These people make up their own doctrine.
  - b. Those who seek the glory of the ONE that sent them. These ones (and specifically Christ) speak the truth, and there is no unrighteousness in them.
  - c. Not even seeking Jesus because of the power of the miracle.
- 4. Jesus accuses them (righteous judgment):
  - a. Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keepeth the law?
  - b. Why do you go about to kill me. (They want to kill Jesus because they think he broke the law of Moses by healing a man on the sabbath; yet none of them keeps all the law. James 2:10)

#### B. Jesus' DEED (7:20-24)

- \* The people accuse him of having a devil because as far as they know, no one wants to kill Jesus (but they don't know the murderous hearts of their leaders).
- 1. Jesus responds: I have done ONE WORK and you all marvel!
  - a. He's referring to the healing of the man with the infirmity by the pool of Bethesda back in John 5.
  - b. If only 1 miracle has already caused so much controversy, imaging how much MORE controversy is coming...
- 2. Moses gave circumcision under the law (actually was from the fathers)
  - a. They circumcise male children on the sabbath

- i. Supposed to circumcise the baby boy on the 8th day after his birth. So when it falls on a sabbath day, they still do the circumcision.
  - b. Are they really justified in being angry at Jesus because he made a hopeless man WHOLE on the sabbath day?
    - i. They can cut off some flesh and cause a baby to scream and bleed; but restoring a man's life by healing him is unacceptable...?
3. Jesus REBUKES and CHARGES THEM:
- a. JUDGE NOT according to the APPEARANCE.
  - b. But JUDGE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT!
- \* Note: There is WRONG judgment; and there is RIGHTEOUS judgment. We as humans (that are created in the image of God) must judge. We must learn to judge words, deeds, actions, motives, etc. This modern concept that we as Christians should never judge is absolute folly and childishness. Jesus just commanded people to JUDGE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT. The thing we must not do is judge hypocritically or unjustly. We must not be partial in our judgments. Judging ourselves one way and others another, etc. But it is IMPERATIVE that we learn to judge properly. We are commanded to PROVE ALL THINGS (judge/test) and to HOLD FAST that which is good.

C. Jesus' IDENTITY/ORIGIN (7:25-31):

- \* People are amazed at his BOLDNESS to publicly expose and rebuke the Jewish leaders for their clear hypocrisy. There are rumors going around that the leaders want to kill him. But Jesus has just publicly shut their mouths and the leaders stand attention with nothing to say to him. Jesus was mighty in boldness and authority. The people start wondering if the leaders think that Jesus truly is the Christ; but the people are struggling with the fact that Jesus is just a commoner carpenter from Nazareth. They "know" Jesus and where he comes from (or so they think), but nobody will know where the Messiah comes from (or so they think).
1. Jesus cries out in the temple concerning both his HUMAN IDENTITY & ORIGIN and his DIVINE IDENTITY & ORIGIN:
- a. Human: You KNOW ME and you KNOW where I am from:
    - i. Jesus wants them to stop speculating about what they don't know, and focus on what they truly do know in the earthly realm. If they can be humble enough to seek out the truth in the earthly realm, then they can one day understand the heavenly. Remember what he told Nicodemus in 3:12

- ii. If they sought out the truth in what they thought they knew about Jesus as a man, then this would have led them to the discoveries that men like Matthew and Luke discovered which would have led them to understand his divine origin.
    - b. Dual Nature: "I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not."
      - i. Jesus is a man; but he is not only a man. He is also deity.
      - ii. He is sent from God who is absolute truth (no error in his doctrine).
      - iii. The Jews may know Jesus and his origin on a human level, but they don't know his true FATHER in heaven. They don't know God.
    - c. Heavenly Nature: "But I know him: for I am from him, and he hath sent me."
      - i. Jesus is the only one who truly knows the Father, because he is from the Father. He is the Word of the Father made flesh.
      - ii. He was sent by the Father, made flesh, so that man (which is flesh) might be converted and become the sons and daughters of God.
  - 2. The Jews want to arrest him and kill him, but it's not yet his hour.
    - a. Nobody can do something on earth, unless God has opened the door in heaven for it to be done.
  - 3. Many of the people believed on him when they heard him speak because of his mighty powerful miracles.
- D. Jesus' MOVEMENT (7:32-36)
- \* The chief priests and Pharisees can't stand that people are starting to believe that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah). They immediately send officers to arrest him.
  - 1. Jesus reveals: Just a little while longer he will be with them, and then he will go back to him that sent him.
    - a. These chief priests and Pharisees can't stand having Jesus around. He is disturbing all their services and order of how they think things should be. He is stealing their glory away. He is stealing their sheep. People are starting to love Jesus and honour him more than them. They just wish they could make him disappear. Sadly for them, soon he will disappear and go back to where he came from.
  - 2. He continues: They will then seek him, but they shall not find him.
    - a. Now is their chance to humble themselves and receive him. Now is their chance to respond to his words and works. The time will come when it is too late to find him. (See Isaiah 55:6-11)

3. He declares: And where I am, thither ye cannot come.
    - a. Love this wording: where “I am”. Obviously he is referring to when he goes back to heaven. But I love how he says where “I am”. It’s not so much about heaven as it is about where the “I am” is (Father & Son).
    - b. They are not welcome in heaven with their murderous envious hateful hearts. (See Revelation 21:8 & 22:15). Not all are welcome or wanted in heaven. You can’t come to God “just as you are.”
  4. They start murmuring:
    - a. Where is he going to go?
    - b. Will he go to the dispersed among the Gentiles?
    - c. Will he teach the Gentiles?.

\* Note: Jesus is most clearly speaking of going back to heaven to be with his Father. But what is ironic, is that because of the Jews unbelief and rejection of Christ, Jesus will ultimately go (in Spirit through the work of the apostles and the gospel) to BOTH the dispersed Jews among the Gentiles and then ultimately to the Gentiles! So even they are wrong in what Jesus said. Unknowingly, in a spiritual sense, what they are speculating will come true! See Romans 11.
- E. Jesus’ LAST CALL (7:37-39):
- \* This was the final feast of the year for Israel (Tabernacles). This occurred in their 7th month which fell in autumn. This feast was a 7 or 8 day feast (it’s hard to determine which). On the final day of the feast, Jesus cries out as a sort of last call to the people of Israel during this feast.
1. Jesus cries: “If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.”
    - a. Who else can say such things except the Christ?
      - i. In this chapter there are many different opinions about Jesus; but unless he was a complete deceiver or completely deceived himself, no normal teacher, preacher, or prophet could claim such things. He truly must be the Christ (God manifest in the flesh).
    - b. “Let him come unto ME!” You could see how some people thought Jesus was so arrogant. He’s telling people that HE is the solution to all their spiritual issues. He is the ONE they must come to.
  2. “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”
    - a. This is truly profound on many levels. If you drink from Jesus:
      - i. Not only will he eternally satisfy your thirst.

- ii. But he will place the SOURCE of living waters inside your belly that can then flow out of you to help quench other's thirst.
  - (a) He's referring to the indwelling Spirit of God that will be given to those who believe in him after he is RISEN (glorified).
- \* Note: In the OT, when the Israelites were thirsty in the desert, where did Moses take them? He took them to the rock. Then he smote the rock with his staff and out of the rock came rivers of living water to satisfy the entire congregation of Israel. What a spiritual picture! Christ is the Rock. The law (Moses) is the school master to bring us to Christ. Christ took the curse of the law for us (smitten by the staff) and out of him being smitten has now flowed forth the eternal Spirit which can quench all of humanities spiritual thirst.

F. The DIVISION caused by Jesus (7:40-44)

- \* It's amazing to see the many different opinions and conclusions men have come to throughout this chapter. Below is a list of all of the things said:
  1. He is a good man. (vs 12)
  2. He deceiveth the people. (vs 12)
  3. He has a devil. (vs 20)
  4. Of a truth, he is the Prophet. (vs 40)
  5. He is the Christ. (vs 41)
  6. Shall Christ come out of Galilee? Didn't the scriptures say that Christ comes of the seed of David out of the town of Bethlehem? (vs 41-42)
- \* "So there was a division among the people because of him." In the end of this scripture we see how Jesus Christ, his doctrine, his works, and how he operated caused much division amongst people. But we also see that Jesus is the Lord, and at every step of the way he is both obedient to his Father, and in charge of the situation. The chief priests and Pharisees tried to arrest him, but they could not, as his hour was not yet come. Jesus will fulfill all that the Father has given him to do and no one will stop him. He will preach the absolute pure truth from above, and only those who are sick of their sin, themselves, and the vanities of this life will come to HIM to drink. He is the FOUNTAIN of LIVING WATERS. But unfortunately, as Jeremiah prophesied, most of Israel will forsake and reject him. (Jeremiah 17:13)