

September 17, 2023

"Jesus Glorifies God"
Lesson 3

John 7:14-24

Intro

Today's text is from the gospel of John, and the time is part way through Jesus' ministry. He is well known by this time, but it is not yet time for Him to complete this ministry by giving His life on the cross. Just prior to today's text, Jesus has an exchange with His brothers showing even they didn't really believe in Him. The Jewish leaders are already looking for an opportunity to kill Him, at least partially because of Jesus healing on the Sabbath. He addresses that situation in today's text.

Read John 7:14-18

1. vs. 14: From Jn 7:10 we learn that Jesus went up to this feast secretly rather than openly
After some time, Jesus does show Himself publicly and goes to the temple to teach
2. vs. 15: John doesn't record what Jesus taught, but only the reaction of His audience.
They were amazed that He could teach as He did without being trained by the Jewish scholars and leaders.
3. vs. 16: Jesus answers their question: His teaching is from the One who sent Him.
He could have just said it was from God, but this emphasized even more that Jesus wasn't acting on His own.
4. vs. 17: Jesus anticipates the protests of the current Jewish leaders
He defeats them before they even start by rightly pointing out that those who obey God will be able to tell that His teaching is from God
5. vs. 18: Jesus isn't just seeking fame
He points out that He isn't seeking His own glory or fame, but rather glorifying God.
That likely is a contrast from what the existing leaders were doing.
It further confirms the truth of Jesus' teaching

Read John 7:19-24

1. vs. 19: Jesus calls out the intent of the leaders
We know from reading the gospels that the Jewish leaders were looking for an opportunity to kill Jesus. He also calls them out for not keeping the Law perfectly.
2. vs 20: This is news to the crowd
They likely didn't know that the leaders wanted to kill Jesus. Saying He had a demon was our equivalent to saying He was crazy. They didn't see anyone trying to kill Him.
3. vs 21: Jesus answers
Here we see the real issue at hand. Just as last week's lesson, the problem is Jesus healing on the Sabbath. He knows it.
4. vs 22-23: Jesus points out their inconsistency
Circumcision was a requirement of the Law of Moses, and a real dividing line between those who were included in that covenant.

They saw no problem at all with circumcising someone on the Sabbath.

That leaves them no room to protest when Jesus heals a man's whole body on the Sabbath

5. vs. 24: Jesus shows that the real problem is their judgment

They are focused on appearance rather than truly righteous judgment

To them it would look better if Jesus just waited a day to heal people so it didn't happen on a Sabbath. Jesus was more concerned with people than appearances. That was righteous judgment.

Application: The first point Jesus made was that His purpose was to glorify God, not Himself. Jesus consistently pointed people to His Father. We should do the same. We should also be careful to attach ourselves to God and His Word rather than to those who teach it.

Jesus made a critical point about righteous judgment contrasting to judging on appearances. How often do we fixate on how something might appear rather than what is truly beneficial to an individual? It would have been easy for Jesus to tell people to come to be healed on another day. Yet He didn't. This was to make a point - that people are more important than rigidly following rules.

Prayer:

Dear Father, help us to point people to You and not seek glory or honor for ourselves. Help us also to judge with righteous judgment as Jesus did. Help us to see what is truly beneficial rather than getting stuck on appearances. Thank you for the sacrifice Jesus did make when the time was right. Thank you for forgiving our sins. In Jesus' precious name, amen.