

# John 7 - The Secret of Knowing Truth

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## **This was taking place during the feast of Booths**

Joh 7:2 ESV Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand.

## The people were divided because of Jesus

- Vs 1 Jewish leaders were looking for a way to kill him
- Vs 2 his own brothers did not believe in him
- Vs 7 the world hated him - because he told them their deeds were evil
- Vs 11 the leaders were watching for him
- Vs 12 some of the people said, "he is a good man"
- Vs 12 others said, "no he deceives the people"
- Vs 13 people were afraid to say anything about him, they feared the leaders
- Vs 15 they were amazed at his teaching since he had not gone to THEIR schools
- Vs 20 they said he was demon possessed
- Vs 30 they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him - his time had not yet come
- Vs 31 many in the crowd believed in him
- Vs 32 Chief priests and Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him
- Pick it up in Vs 40

John 7:40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, "**Surely this man is the Prophet.**" 41 Others said, "**He is the Messiah.**" Still others asked, "**How can the Messiah come from Galilee?**" 42 Does not Scripture say that the **Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem**, the town where David lived?" 43 ***Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.***

## There is no place for neutrality with Jesus (some will believe, some will not)

Mat 10:32-38 ESV So everyone who **acknowledges me before men**, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever **denies me before men**, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. 34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. **I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.** 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother **more than me** is **not worthy of me**, and whoever loves son or daughter **more than me** is **not worthy of me.** 38 And whoever does not **take his cross and follow me** is **not worthy of me.**

- **Acknowledges** -- to assent, that is, covenant, acknowledge:
- **Denies** -- to contradict, that is, disavow, reject, abnegate:

## What hinders man from acknowledging that what he teaches is from God?

From this chapter

- **Jealousy?** - (Jewish leaders looking to kill him)
- **Familiarity?** - (his brothers did not believe him)
- **He told the truth - perhaps they were offended?** - He shared the truth about their evil deeds
- **Intimidation from others?** - people feared what the leaders/others would say

- **A sense of superiority of knowledge?** - He did not go to their schools - therefore he had nothing of worth to say (the words of Jesus do not fit with our modern society, our culture, our so-called science or knowledge)
- **Groupthink?** - When Nicodemus stood out of the mix and spoke up about Jesus, they dismissed him and said, "You will notice none of the Pharisees believe in him" - (as if that makes it right)
- **Hypocrisy and unrighteous judgement?** (they condemned Jesus for healing a man on the sabbath, but the same people would circumcise a child on the Sabbath)
- **Not getting all the info or facts?** - they knew Messiah would come from Bethlehem, but assumed Jesus was from Galilee...no one seemed to think to ask him where he was born
- **Arguing scripture?** - Vs 41-4 "How can the Messiah come from Galilee? 42 Does not Scripture say that the **Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem**, the town where David lived?"

### The secret to knowing whether or not His teachings are from God

14 Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. 15 The Jews there were amazed and asked, "**How did this man get such learning without having been taught?**" 16 Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. **It comes from the one who sent me.** 17 **Anyone** who **chooses** to **do** the will of God **will find** out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. 18 Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

- They did not receive Him because he did not go to their schools - as if it were the only place to gain knowledge of truth
- Jesus' teaching comes from the Father (the Father is the one who sent Him)

### The secret

- **ANYONE** - this is a universal truth - open to any and all people
- **CHOOSES** - knowing truth is moved from an intellectual function to a moral issue of the heart - It is about a CHOICE
  - **CHOOSES** - to determine (as an active voice option vs a subjective impulse; choose or prefer; to wish, be inclined to (sometimes adverbially gladly); impersonally for the future tense, to be about to; by Hebraism to delight in: - desire, be disposed (forward), intend, love, please
  - When you CHOOSE to DO THE WILL OF GOD - suddenly your view of the word of God changes
- **WILL FIND OUT** - be aware (of), feel, have knowledge, perceive, be resolved, be sure, understand
  - Joh 6:45 ESV It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me--

There is a divine transaction that takes place when the person CHOOSES TO DO the will of God...something about the teachings of Jesus comes alive in your heart.

### **We pray so that our will can be aligned with His**

- Mat 6:10 ESV Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

### **We can experience it** (the word and the will interact)

- Psa 40:8 ESV I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

### **Jesus was committed to the will of the Father, even to the point of death**

- Luk 22:42 ESV saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

### **An attitude that says - my heart is fully set to do your will**

- Psa 119:30-37 ESV I have **chosen** the way of faithfulness; **I set your rules before me.** 31 **I cling** to your testimonies, O LORD; let me not be put to shame! 32 **I will run in the way of your commandments** when you enlarge my heart! 33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and **I will keep it to the end.** 34 Give me understanding, **that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.** 35 Lead me in the path of your commandments, for **I delight in it.** 36 **Incline my heart to your testimonies,** and not to selfish gain! 37 Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.

## The last and greatest day of the festival

### **Feast of Booths or Tabernacles - lasted 8 days**

- On each day they drew water from the pool of Siloam --- **RECITING** Isa 12:2-4 ESV "Behold, **God is my salvation;** I will **trust,** and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and **he has become my salvation."** 3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4 And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, **call upon his name,** make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.
- They would go up the steps and to the altar and pour the water out as a reminder of the rock that gave water in the wilderness
- On the last day, they did not do the water procession - symbolizing that God has brought them to this land that is well watered, flows with milk and honey
- On that day that they sang Psa 118:22-26 ESV The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. 23 This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. 25 **Save us,** we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success! 26 **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!** We bless you from the house of the LORD.

### **During the ceremony the young Rabbi that everyone was confused about stood up and shouted...I AM WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR...I AM THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL - COME TO ME - I WILL GIVE YOU RIVERS OF LIVING WATER FROM WITHIN**

- 37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let **anyone** who is thirsty **come to me** and drink. 38 Whoever **believes** in me, as Scripture has said, **rivers of living water will flow from within them."** 39 By this he meant the **Spirit,** whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

**So many missed the opportunity - their hearts were not set to do the will of God...and they continued to seek to kill Him...what about us...let us pray that our hearts are set to do His will, then there will be no confusion about his teaching...we will in a sense be taught of God**