

Jesus Causes Division (John 7:25-52)

I. Jesus Doesn't Fit Man's Assumptions (25-36)

A. Jesus Will Not Conform to the People's Ideas (25-29)

1. The People Question if Jesus Could Be the Messiah (25-27)

a. The People Marveled that Jesus wasn't silenced (25-26)

- i. Some of the people who were from Jerusalem knew the religious leaders were planning on killing Jesus
- ii. They saw Him teaching openly and boldly
- iii. They wondered why the authorities allowed it
- iv. They wondered if the religious authorities knew he was the Messiah and were letting him speak

b. The People Thought they Knew About the Messiah (27)

i. They thought they knew where Jesus came from

- There was a tradition among Jewish scholars that said the Messiah would come with mystery and people would not know the place
- This tradition developed from a misinterpretation of Isa. 53:8 and Mal. 3:1.
- They thought the Messiah would be unknown until he revealed himself. Jesus had grown up in Nazareth of Galilee and was known to many people there.

ii. They let their preconceived ideas get in the way of the truth about Christ

- We still do this today –
- The man who thinks Jesus is O.K. with his sinful lifestyle because Jesus is so loving
- The person who believes Jesus wants them to be happy no matter what the cost
- The person who believes Jesus will accept them because of the good they have done
- God's Word tells us about Jesus – when our own thoughts don't line up with God's Word, we are wrong

2. The People Misunderstand Jesus' Origin (28-29)

a. The People Thought They Knew Jesus' Origins (28)

i. The People are Ignorant of Jesus' Origin

- Jesus spoke out as he was teaching – “So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, “You know me, and you know where I come from...”
- Does this mean that Jesus was granting the fact that he was born from Mary and Joseph?
- No, he was saying, “you think you know where I am from.” The context of the verses will bear this

out as Jesus tells them they do not know his true Father.

ii. The People are Ignorant of Jesus' Father (28)

- Jesus pronounces he did not come on his own
- Jesus pronounces that the one who sent him is true – God the Father has testified to the truth of Jesus. We saw this at his baptism when the Father testified to the Son and we have also seen Jesus presenting the Father's testimony in John 5.

- Jesus also pronounces that those who are questioning him do not know the Father.

b. The People are told Specifically about Jesus' Origin (29)

- Jesus said they do not know the Father
- But Jesus himself knows the Father (the one who the people think they are worshiping)
- The reason Jesus knows him is because Jesus has come from Him
- Jesus tells them plainly about his origins – He has come from the Father

B. Jesus Divides the People With His Words (30-32)

1. Some Wanted to Arrest Jesus (30)

a. Some took great offense at Jesus' words

- i. He is implying we don't know God
- ii. He is implying that we are not worshiping God
- iii. He is making himself equal with God and that is blasphemy – a crime under Jewish Law

b. They were unable to arrest him

- i. The bible doesn't tell us specifically how but it tells us why
- ii. His hour (meaning the time of his crucifixion) had not yet come. The Father's timetable would be kept no matter what
- iii. This should give us great comfort because all things are in God's hands. Jesus would not be taken until the Father Himself said it was time.

2. Some Believed in Jesus (31)

a. There were people who believed in Jesus

b. They believed because of all the miracles Jesus did

c. They knew the Messiah would do miracles and Jesus was also doing miracles

3. The Religious Leaders Sent Officers to Arrest him (32)

a. The religious men heard the crowd murmuring

- i. They were worrying about losing their status as religious leaders

- ii. They wanted him out of the way

- b. The religious men sent Temple police to arrest him
 - i. They believed he was openly blaspheming
 - ii. They just wanted him out of the way so they could go back to the way things were
 - iii. Sometimes we want Jesus out of the way just so things can get back to normal.

C. Jesus Will Not Conform to the People's Expectations (33-36)

1. Jesus Cautions the People About His Departure (33-34)

a. Jesus Reveals His Coming Ascension (33)

- i. He tells the people He won't be with them long, He is going back to the one who sent him
- ii. Not only does Jesus tell them about where he came from but he tells them he will be going back.

b. Jesus Warns the People Because He is Leaving (34)

- i. He warns them that they will not be able to come
- ii. Only those who trust in Christ will be with Him and the Father
- iii. There will be a time when Christ will not be available to mankind – at that time, it will be too late

2. Jesus' Teaching is Misunderstood (35-36)

a. The Jews think Jesus is talking about leaving and going to the Gentile lands

- i. The "dispersion" is what they called the vast number of Jews who lived outside of Judea – among the Gentiles

b. The Jews questioned what he meant by "you cannot follow me"

- i. Why couldn't they follow him?
- ii. He is going to be with God – they are not

II. Jesus' Claims Divide the People (37-52)

A. Jesus Calls the People to Faith in Him (37-39)

1. Jesus Claims to Be the True Source of Satisfaction (37)

- a. Jesus cried out to the people on the last day of the feast. Why did he say "if you thirst come to me?"
- b. Each day of the feast the high priest drew water from the pool of Siloam and carried it in a procession back to the temple. At the Water Gate (on the south side of the inner court of the temple), three blasts were sounded on a shofar (a trumpet made out of a rams 'horn) to mark the joy of the occasion. Isaiah 12:3 ("Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation.") was also recited. At the temple the priests marched around the altar while the temple choir sang the Hallel (Pss. 113- 118). The water was then poured out as an offering to God.

2. Jesus Promises to Fulfill God's Redemption (38-39)

- a. No one can pinpoint exactly which passage in the OT Jesus is citing. However, I strongly believe He is pointing to Zech. 14:8

when he speaks about rivers of living water flowing from the belly.

- i. He says that those who believe in Him will receive the Spirit in such a measure that it will be as rivers (not just river but rivers) of living water continually flowing from him)
- ii. Zech 14:8 says, "And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be"
- iii. This passage of scripture was actually read at the festival of tabernacles and Jesus uses the language of it to show that He is the true salvation through whom the true living waters will flow to those who believe.

B. Jesus Causes Division Among the People (40-44)

- 1. Some believed He is the Messiah (40-41a)
- 2. Many doubted because they Didn't understand (41b-42)
 - a. They understood Scripture to say that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem – They thought Jesus came from Nazareth so he could not be the Messiah
 - b. They weren't aware of the actual place of his birth
 - c. This should show us there are many things we think we know about Jesus and Salvation, but we should test all things by scripture rather than relying on our own traditions or presuppositions
- 3. Many wanted Jesus arrested (43-44)
 - a. Once again no one laid a hand on him
 - b. It will only happen in God's time

C. Jesus Causes Division Among the Religious Leaders (45-52)

- 1. The Temple Police are Affected by Jesus Teaching (45-46)
- 2. The Pharisees Denounce Jesus' Teaching (47-49)
- 3. Nicodemus Desires to Give Jesus a hearing (50-51)
- 4. The Pharisees Deny all Possibility of Jesus Being the Messiah (52)